



## A Guide to Help You Prepare for Your Architect Interview at Flipkart

Technical experts, tech evangelists within their business unit & domain experts - that's the Flipkart Architect community in a nutshell for you. For us, going beyond the role & contributing to make the organization & business better is an expectation. Architects are expected to actively participate in product/platform development along with team members for as much as **60%** of their time creating modules & systems that can then be treated as a working reflection of the best practices.

### Interview Process

#### Phase 1

- Exploratory Discussion
- Technical Phone Screening

#### Phase 2

- Machine Coding
- Problem Solving
- Low-level Design
- High-level Design
- Team Fitment
- Culture Fitment Round

### PHASE 1:

#### Exploratory and Phone Screening Rounds

##### ROUND 1.1: EXPLORATORY DISCUSSION (30 MINUTES)

This is the stage when you'll be interacting with your potential Hiring Manager. As soon as your CV is shortlisted, your recruiter will set up an exploratory discussion based on your availability. The intent of this round is to understand your past experience, expectations and aspirations for the future.

This round is typically conducted over phone/Hangouts. Please ensure that you're comfortably settled in a quiet space for a fruitful discussion. You will be expected to introduce yourself, your past work experience, strengths and aspirations in this round - be concise, clear and prepared.

Take this opportunity to ask as many questions as you want in order to get a holistic picture of the role. Make sure that you clearly understand the charter, scope, kind of work involved in the role offered by us. Have a constructive and open discussion on your eligibility, aspirations and other concerns that you possibly have.

*Note: Exploratory discussion with the Hiring Manager depends on a case-to-case basis. Your recruiter will walk you through the detailed hiring process.*

##### ROUND 1.2: TECHNICAL PHONE SCREENING (60 MINUTES)

Before you come for an onsite interview, you'll have a discussion with one of your potential peers. This is a technical screening round which is primarily focused on past work experience, role-eligibility and a few problem-solving questions relevant to the role you're being interviewed for.

This is a telephonic/Hangout discussion. You can expect questions about your past experience, major projects that you've worked on depending on the role you're being evaluated for. The interviewer may deep dive into one of your projects that you have executed in the past to understand your strengths and weaknesses.

Please ensure that you are available for the call in a quiet place. Be well-versed with everything mentioned in your resume. Have a brief introduction of your experience ready. Go in-depth if interviewers ask you details about anything specific.

### PHASE 2:

#### Onsite Interview

##### ROUND 2.1: MACHINE CODING (120 MINUTES)

There are three stages in this round - Pre-coding, Coding and Post-coding.

##### PRE-CODING (15 MINUTES):

The interviewer will describe the question in detail. Feel free to ask as many questions as you need to clarify the scope and requirements with respect to the problem statement.

##### CODING (90 MINUTES):

You will be expected to write executable codes. In between, your interviewer might have 1 or 2 checkpoints. At the end of this stage, you are expected to send your code to the interviewer. Note that this stage can be for a lesser duration in certain cases.

##### POST-CODING (15 MINUTES):

You will be expected to show a detailed demo of your program. Interviewer will key in multiple test-cases and your program is supposed to provide the expected output.

*The Machine Coding round is a hands-on round. You'll be given a problem statement to which you're expected to write fully working code as a solution on your laptop. You are free to code in any programming language of your choice. However, you are strongly recommended to choose an object-oriented language that has good libraries for concurrency/parallelism.*

*You can either bring your own laptop or we can provide a laptop to you. We recommend that you bring your own laptop since model options may be limited, IDE/compiler of your choice may or may not be available in the laptop provided by us.*

##### ROUND 2.2: PROBLEM SOLVING (60 MINUTES)

You'll be given 2 or 3 problems. For each problem, you are expected to break down the problem into multiple sub-problems and solve them using your expertise in data structures and algorithms. For some parts of a problem, you will be asked to provide pseudo-codes. These problems are 'close to real-world' in nature with multiple acceptable solutions, hence, there is no 'single expected answer'.

Good knowledge of data structures is a must. The interviewer will assess you on your skill in applying multiple data structures (including Queues, Heaps, Graphs, Trees, Hash Tables, etc.) to solve the problem. You may be asked questions related to the internal implementation of these data structures.

##### SUGGESTED LEARNING RESOURCES:

LeetCode →

Hacker Rank →

##### ROUND 2.3: LOW-LEVEL DESIGN (60 MINUTES)

The problem presented to you may be a real-life fuzzy problem. We will discuss 1 or 2 real-world problems with you with a strong focus on low-level design. Knowledge of UML is not a must-have for this round. You can either use a white board or white paper to draw and explain your design for the problem.

You are expected to provide a solution to the problem with multiple components (with a focus on REST/RPC interface design, high-level entity modelling, static view modelling (class diagrams) and flow modelling. You are strongly encouraged to come up with multiple possible approaches to a problem statement, weigh pros and cons of each possible approach and take an opinionated view on the recommended approach.

##### ROUND 2.4: HIGH-LEVEL DESIGN/ARCHITECTURE (60 MINUTES)

You will be given 1 or 2 scenarios for which you'll have to provide a fully detailed architectural solution, expressed as an architectural diagram. You can either use a white board or white paper to draw and explain your design for the problem.

You may be asked to provide sequence diagrams for important use-cases of the scenarios. You are strongly encouraged to be vocal about solutions over the acceptable, and specifically why you rejected the other solutions over the one you chose.

Please note that you'll be evaluated on the following pivots in this round:

- 1) Tech stack selection
  - Choice of data store, web service framework, queue-processor, etc.
  - It is not mandatory for you to know open-source technologies.
  - It is acceptable if you use a proprietary component in your architectural solution, such as CosmosDB, as long as you can clearly articulate its access patterns and limitations to your interviewer.
- 2) Scalability of the solution
  - Choosing between consistency, availability and partition tolerance

**Overall, the discussion is going to be focused on your ability to positively influence design and architecture.**

##### Suggested learning resources:

<https://github.com/binhnguyennus/awesome-scalability> →

<http://highscalability.com/> →

##### ROUND 2.5: TEAM FITMENT (60 MINUTES)

The intent of this round is to evaluate your team fitment based on your experience, interests and strengths demonstrated across other rounds. In this round, you'll be interacting with your potential team leader/hiring manager who will try to get to know you better in order to make an informed choice that we hire the right person for the right job.

The interviewer will try to understand your aspirations, inspirations and motivations, self-awareness, leadership ability, stakeholder management, strengths and weaknesses, etc.

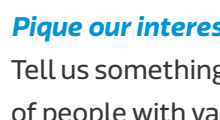
You can also expect questions around some of the competencies which you would have been evaluated for in previous rounds. Think of this round as a summary of all the discussions that you have had during the day.

##### ROUND 2.6: CULTURE FITMENT ROUND (60 MINUTES)

We are a proud community of Flipsters. All our decisions are deeply rooted in our values, and they have made us into what we are today - successful and confident. Our core values define our identity and form the basis of our actions and reflect in everything that we do at Flipkart. These values enable us to shape the desired organization culture in which each Flipster can thrive and be at their best.

In this round, you are being evaluated for your cultural fitment at Flipkart. The round is meant to assess whether you would be a good fit in the world of Flipsters or not. There are no right or wrong answers. Be honest and think thoroughly before you answer. There may be questions around your past experiences, career aspirations, hypothetical scenarios, your strengths and weaknesses, etc. We highly recommend that you invest some time in preparing yourself for the interview.

- Read up about our values and what makes you a great fit for us
- Be honest about your success and failures
- Invest some time in preparing yourself for the interview
- Be candid and help us understand you better



### NERVOUS? DON'T BE.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR A SMOOTH INTERVIEW:

#### Be prepared:

Needless to say, we want to hire the best talent. Prepare well, understand what we do as a business, the position you are interviewing for, learn how your role will contribute in achieving our vision and brush up your basics as much as possible. At Flipkart, we strongly believe that our highest leveraged time should be applied to hiring and helping onboard the absolute best talent that we can scout around the world.

#### Pique our interest:

Tell us something about yourself that prompts us to know more about you. Flipkart is a great mix of people with various talents and skill sets and so, we'd like to know how and why you stand out from the rest.

#### Think things through:

We don't necessarily look for absolute solutions. Instead, we'd like to know how you approach a problem. Therefore, make sure you think through your answers. It's okay if you need a few minutes to collate your thoughts. You can help the interviewers understand your thought process by thinking out loud.

#### Be authentic and candid:

Nobody is perfect. It's okay to openly admit past failures - if any. At Flipkart, we place intent and commitment over success. And, being honest about yourself will help us identify those traits in you.

#### Show your passion:

It's not an interrogation, it's a discussion. Blend in a lot of passion and energy in your interactions. Ours is a fast-paced and challenging workplace and therefore, there's no room for someone who takes it slow.

#### Ask questions:

We are open to all kinds of questions. It's the easiest way to get to know each other better. So, ask away!

#### Understand how we work:

Get yourself acquainted with our values: Audacity, Bias for Action, Customer First and Integrity. Our values are deeply rooted in all our major decisions at Flipkart.

#### Audacity:

We challenge established standards and keep pushing the boundaries. We innovate continuously and find disruptive solutions. We are fearless in trying anything new.

#### Bias for Action:

We strongly believe in taking initiative and driving results with impact. We make speedy decisions and believe in failing fast.

#### Customer First:

We continuously strive to understand our customers' needs. We validate our success through customer actions. We go deep into customer issues and resolve the root cause.

#### Integrity:

We strive to do the right thing, in the right way, at all times. We do not compromise on our values

If you are someone who believes in these values, and you're able to exhibit these values, you are a great fit for us. Reflect on your past experiences and prepare yourself well before the interview. Spend some time on identifying instances from the past when you exhibited these values.