

Web Dev Loop Prep

What will the questions be like?

Our web developer interviews focus on practical application of HTML/CSS/JS for building web UI. The questions are based on real-world examples rather than raw coding exercises. You will be given a design spec and asked to build the best solution you can that demonstrates your experience and grasp of web development technologies.

Phone interview

Our initial interviews are conducted live over the phone. We will use codepen.io as a collaborative coding space. The interviewer will email you a link to the coding space and then give you the directions and the materials you need to get started. The coding interview will take about 50 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes left at the end for you to ask questions.

It is important to have a computer ready to go in advance of the interview. Make sure that you can get online and can access codepen.io.

Onsite interview

Additional live coding interviews are conducted in person at Dropbox HQ. The coding interview will take about 50 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes left at the end for you to ask questions. **It is important to have a computer ready to go in advance of the interview.** When you arrive, make sure that you are able to join “DropboxGuest2.0” wi-fi and can access codepen.io. If you need to borrow a computer while you are here, make sure to tell the recruiter before you arrive.

However one of your interviews will not be a coding exercise. We’re excited to learn more about you, experiences you’ve had, and what you’re passionate about. In addition to writing and maintaining great code, we’d love to talk about recent projects you are proud of, how you go about tackling complex problems, and how you work with your team. Here are the things we value as an engineering team:

- Relentlessly focus on impact. Iterate, prioritize, and build products that solve real user needs.
- Pursue simplicity and sweat the details. Design and develop products anyone can figure out, seek out simple solutions and obsess over details.
- Build a culture you want to be part of ten years from now. Collaborate and help your team. Seek out feedback and provide constructive feedback to others. Help build an amazing team.

Then, you'll meet an additional engineer at the end for some time to learn more about Dropbox. Feel free to ask about company/engineering culture, values, vision, work life balance or anything

really. We'd like to use this time to talk about things that are important to you - remember you're interviewing us as well!

Can I use [insert framework here] during the interview?

We encourage the use of basic utilities like jQuery, SCSS, LESS, etc. during coding interviews. Frameworks and style libraries are discouraged because they waste time during setup and will prevent us from learning about your core coding skills.

Can I use Google/Stack Overflow/online documentation?

We totally understand that it would be impossible to memorize every jQuery function and CSS property. Even the most experienced web developers use online docs to fill in the gaps. We don't expect you to be superhuman in this regard and a quick lookup is totally fine. What we discourage is using the web to grab code snippets or to look for solutions to the problem that you are working on. These interviews are designed to explore your knowledge of real world web development and give you space to show off your skill.

Tips for you if you have not interviewed in a while

Live coding interviews are half about the quality of the code you write, and half about how you think about solving unexpected problems. Familiarize yourself with codepen.io prior to your interview. Keep in mind that you have a hard time limit and you will need to budget your time to maximize your progress. Don't let bugs in your code slow you down. Be prepared to quickly troubleshoot problems, and know when to move on to something else if you are stuck. Think out loud throughout the entire interview. Ask the interviewer for help if you get really stuck so that the interview can keep moving forward. Write code at the same level of quality that you would write for a production site like dropbox.com. This is your opportunity to amaze us with your knowledge and skill. It's about the journey not the destination. Practice.

Topics that may be covered

- Accessibility
- Animation
- Array operations
- Asynchronous requests
- Code correctness
- Componentization
- Data structures
- DOM creation
- DOM manipulation
- Efficiency

- Encapsulation
- Error handling
- Event handling
- JSON
- Layout and positioning
- Mobile/responsive
- Naming conventions
- Pixel perfection
- Semantic HTML
- Syntax
- Troubleshooting
- User interaction