

Re: interview question on primes

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- *From:* quasi <quasi@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 25 Feb 2008 20:48:13 -0500
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On Tue, 26 Feb 2008 12:28:27 +1100, "Peter Webb"
<webbfamily@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Digital Puer" <digital_puer@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:3bdc49e5-d202-491a-bde2-c7c31bee801f@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Got this on a software engineering interview question:
given two integers A and B, find all primes between them.

I basically wrote an initial function, `bool isPrime(int i)`, which
loops over all numbers between 2 and `sqrt(i)` to see if `i%num == 0`,
in which case the number is not a prime. With this function, I then
loop between A and B, calling `isPrime()` on each value.

Any better ideas?

The "correct" answer is heavily dependent on the range of values of A and B,
and if this is all the question states, its a pretty poor question.

No, not really.

It's a real world question, not an academic one.

Moreover, the question was not a "take-home project". Presumably it
was expected to solved right then and there, at the interview.

Judgement is required here.

Of course, the applicant can always `_ask_` the interviewer about the
range of values, but in my opinion, having to ask that question would
show a lack of common sense. The very fact that the range was not
specified, together with the implied time constraints of the
interview, should be enough for the applicant to opt for a clean,
simple, standard solution.

Re: interview question on primes

quasi

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