

Starburst

Why Engineering at Starburst

What Is Our Mission?

Starburst unlocks the value of distributed data by making it fast and easy to access, no matter where it lives. Based on open source Trino, our SQL-based MPP query engine allows you to see all of your data across all of your platforms.



Who Are We?

We're a team of industry veterans and experts with previous experience from companies such as Facebook, Square, MongoDB, Confluent, Hopper, Kafka, etc, who built platforms like Hadoop and Trino (FKA PrestoDB). Our Engineering teams primarily code in Java, React, Typescript. As an engineer at Starburst, your work makes an impact on the product itself. You also have the opportunity to collaborate with a team of talented engineers and accelerate your career along with the company. Through our innovative technical projects, we've been able to help customers across industries at a variety of scales. Curious to learn more? Check out some of our case studies here!

Why Starburst?

Starburst is a well-financed, late-stage, Series D startup. We currently have around 500+ employees across 18 different countries. We are on track to IPO in the next 2 to 3 years and to top that, our revenue has tripled each year, over the last 2 years. We're backed by strong investors including Altimeter Capital, Alkeon Capital, Andreessen Horowitz, B Capital Group, Coatue, Index Ventures, and Salesforce Ventures who have enabled us to raise \$414M to date.

In addition to our strong financials, we have a remote-first culture that allows our engineers to do their best work from home or in one of our office hubs in Boston, Palo Alto, London, Warsaw, and Tel Aviv.

What Problems Do We Solve?



Galaxy Overview

What Is Galaxy?

Galaxy is cloud-native Trino as a service that provides fast and secure access to all of the data within an organization. Galaxy makes it possible to perform analytics anywhere, without painful data movement and data duplication. Designed specifically for multi-cloud analytics, Starburst Galaxy decreases the time-to-insight with production-ready Trino, built-in security, and an easy-to-use interface. Whether you need to analyze data in a data lake, data warehouse, or both, Galaxy has you covered. Want to see our Galaxy product in action? [Sign up here!](#)

The Galaxy Team

Galaxy at Starburst has several teams of frontend, back-end, full-stack, distributed systems, and infrastructure engineers.

Starburst Enterprise

What Is Starburst Enterprise?

Starburst Enterprise works on proprietary add-ons, on top of Trino. It provides a modern solution that addresses data silos & speed of access problems. Our product helps organizations run analytics anywhere to make better business decisions. This project will allow you to directly contribute to the advancement of open source Trino and the Starburst proprietary enterprise analytics solutions. This team handles performance-building connectors for SQL and noSQL data sources and security.

The Starburst Enterprise Team

Starburst Enterprise focuses on distributed system and full-stack systems and the teams focus on those areas, as well as infrastructure and release pipelines. The teams run a standard Agile development cycle.

Trino Overview

What Is Trino?

Trino (formerly known as PrestoDB) is a high-performance MPP SQL engine that was originally developed by Martin Traverso, Dain Sundstrom, David Phillips, and Eric Hwang while they were working at Facebook. After leaving Facebook to continue expanding their work on Trino as an open-source project they joined Starburst in 2020. Trino was designed to solve the data and scalability challenges seen at large technology companies. Starburst started with a larger base of OSS users than Databricks, Confluent, and Hashicorp did at the same scale. Since then, Trino has gained viral adoption and is used by thousands of companies today such as LinkedIn, Lyft, Netflix, and many hundreds more.

The Trino Team

We have the largest team of Trino experts in the world. The major contributors to Trino are at Starburst with 90% of PrestoDB having been written by Starburst Engineers who now write Trino instead.

Interview Process

Introduction

As with any voyage, you may find yourself taking a detour or deviating from the map. While we've outlined our standard process, there may be some adjustments to fit your candidacy and the role for which you are interviewing.

Technical Challenges

General Programming Code Pair:

You will collaboratively work with the interviewer on 1-2 code pairing exercises. These exercises are not meant to be right/wrong tests. They are meant to facilitate discussion on a set of challenges that are common in the systems that Starburst is building. Interviewers will be looking for and collecting various signals around problem solving, troubleshooting, and good software engineering principles.

Domain Specific Code Pair:

In the domain specific code pair interview you will follow the same format as the general programming code pair interview while focusing on your specific subdomain of software engineering, e.g. frontend, backend, infrastructure, etc.

System Design Interview:

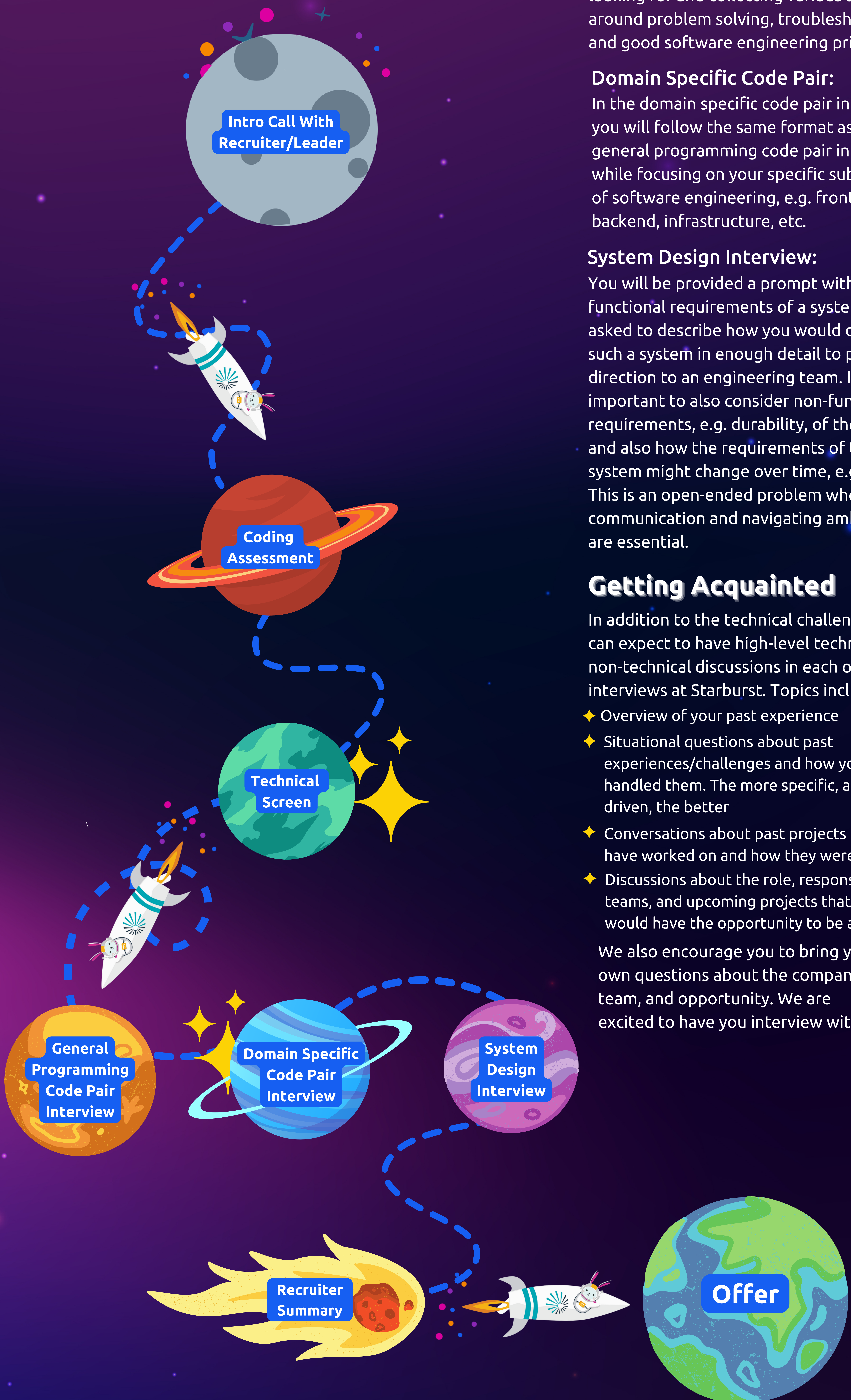
You will be provided a prompt with the functional requirements of a system and asked to describe how you would design such a system in enough detail to provide direction to an engineering team. It is important to also consider non-functional requirements, e.g. durability, of the system and also how the requirements of the system might change over time, e.g. scale. This is an open-ended problem where communication and navigating ambiguity are essential.

Getting Acquainted

In addition to the technical challenges, you can expect to have high-level technical and non-technical discussions in each of your interviews at Starburst. Topics include:

- ✦ Overview of your past experience
- ✦ Situational questions about past experiences/challenges and how you handled them. The more specific, and data-driven, the better
- ✦ Conversations about past projects that you have worked on and how they were successful
- ✦ Discussions about the role, responsibilities, teams, and upcoming projects that you would have the opportunity to be a part of

We also encourage you to bring your own questions about the company, team, and opportunity. We are excited to have you interview with us!



Candidate Resources

Here are some of our favorite references and guides to learn more about what it's like to be a part of the Starburst team!

✦ [Life at Starburst: Employee Perspectives](#)

✦ [Data Mesh: A Software Engineer's Perspective](#)

✦ [Star Wars Family Therapy: A Festive and Funny Video Series](#)

✦ [Maintaining Company Culture in an Online World from an Engineering Perspective](#)

Where To Find Us!

