Insider interview

with

Pedro Sena Tanaka

Pedro travelled literally halfway around the world to join our team. Since October 2018 he's working as a Senior Software Engineer at Legal One. In this interview he tells about joining the team and his everyday life at Legal One.

Pedro Sena Tanaka

Hi Pedro, what are your main tasks at Legal One?

Currently I am playing the role of Senior Software Engineer, but as part of my profile and work environment I end up involved in many activities also outside of software engineering. Currently, I am helping maintain the main Software of the company (a custom CRM focused on legal area), this system is written in PHP 7.4 using Symfony and Microservices architecture. Apart from that, I help the main DevOps Engineer with smaller tasks regarding our infrastructure and by reviewing the work done by him with merge request reviews.

On a weekly basis I sit together with the team to translate business requirements into technical details, in order for the team to be able to implement new features in the system. Moreover, on a daily basis I utilize many interesting and useful technologies like: Kubernetes, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ and NodeJS.

How was your recruiting process?

My recruiting process was really pleasant and fast, at that moment I was looking for an opportunity in Europe and was open to many countries. I was recruited through a recruiting platform and the whole process took two to three weeks (from the first interview until signing the contract). I was still in Brazil, so the whole process was conducted via Skype.

On the first interview with the Team Lead I got to know more about the company and the basics of how the team was working and also, the Team Lead got the opportunity to ask me basic technical knowledge questions. After this interview I already knew what the next steps were, and they happened quite fast just after that interview (within the same week).

On the second interview, I had the opportunity to meet the CTO and the Software Architect and was where I had to answer the more complex questions about the day-to-day work at the company, here my knowledge about distributed systems and building systems for high availability were essential. After some more messages via e-mail I received the news that I was accepted for the role. I really liked the prompt feedback from all people involved in recruiting.

Why did you join Legal One?

Back when I was looking for a new position I was interested in companies on which I could work with state-of-the-art technology and also technologies being used heavily by the software development community. Luckily I found this at Legal One where I could work with Kubernetes, latest version of PHP, Microservices architecture and many other well-known technologies and good practices.

Moreover, coming from a startup background, I wanted a company that was already on its feet regarding investments and rentability. Going through rounds of investment and having to satisfy investors at all costs took a toll on the company I had previously worked for – I didn't want to see that happening again in my professional life.

And last, but not least, I felt a really good connection with the Team Lead during the interview process and after knowing the team with more depth I got to make friends with a lot of really caring and dedicated people that made me feel like I was home, even being thousands of kilometers away from my home country.

Tell us about your first days at Legal One

I started working from Brazil for two weeks, I took leverage of that time to study about the system and how it was organized. I also talked a lot with the team to figure out details about how I should set up my machine and get started with work. After this, I was ready for a lot of "firsts". I had my first international flight, got my luggage lost for the first time, and also was visiting Germany and Europe for the first time.

I had arrived on a weekend in Berlin and was super excited to meet the team and really get to work in the office. Within the few first days of working in the office I was already able to deliver tasks and contribute with the team, so I was feeling quite good. The feedback I received on the merge requests also made me improve the way I develop software and to understand how the team is working.

How do you like the working environment?

I think we have a good environment with a feel of a startup in terms of speed and delivery. The team communicates really well, the fact that we are not so big helps a lot, and we manage to archieve a lot with the rather small work-force that we have. I also see that management and team lead is always worried about internal conflicts of the team and is diligent in solving them.

In general terms, the office-space is really good, well located in the city and offers good working conditions for its employees. The office has free coffee and fruits which are really nice for snacks during the day and also quite often colleauges are bringing tasty things here.

Do you have any tips for applicants?

Try to keep calm and relaxed during your interview, study what are best practices on software development and be hungry for new information. When having an interview remotely, always keep attention to time zone differences and try to test your communication setup early to ensure a smooth experience during the interview.

Pedro, thank you very much for this interview.