

Introduction Speech

Hi my name is Johan Bester.

When I was 5, I saw my first computer. I remember my dad taking my hand and leading me into this massive machine that WAS the computer. Ever since I've been fascinated by tech and computers....

I came to the USA in 2003, completed a GED in 2011, and graduated with an Associate's degree in CMIS in 2014.

Right out of college I got a job at small company where I worked as a generalist IT support contractor, and web developer.

In December 2019 I lost my job, and quickly realized that I need JavaScript and other industry skills if I am to find a new job.

While self-studying, I met the folks from Savvy Coders in an online meetup, and the rest is history.

My goal here at Savvy Coders is to gain the necessary skills to secure a job as a web developer.

Apart from working as a web developer, I'm also a Martial Arts enthusiast. My sport of choice is the Filipino Martial arts, particularly stick fighting.

The Filipino Martial Arts, or FMA as we call it, is a lesser known sport but one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Not only is FMA a great sport, it's easy for anybody to pick-up, and is one of the most effective self-defense systems in the world.

There are currently about the 3,500 clubs and 175,000 FMA practitioners in North America.

However, finding schools and events is still hard.

I've developed a SPA solution called "STIX FMA Fun Finder" to help FMA practitioners find each other!

There is only one other similar option in the market -- a paid general martial arts search platform -- but their list of FMA resources is severely lacking in substance.

My solution is unique in that it currently offers a free to use platform that will soon feature info on all FMA clubs and events in the whole of North America!

The app has a simple interface that asks for a zip code and returns result of groups or events within a certain radius. Searches can be refined through some filter options to narrow down or expand the list of offerings.

Not only will this app provide simple information about FMA schools and events, but **the app also has a button people can click to add more schools or events!**

By allowing for info to be "crowd-curated", so to speak, the list of resources and the value of the app will continue to increase as it provides a more and more comprehensive service to the FMA community.

Having an application like this would not only help FMA practitioners find each other, it would provide clubs and schools more business, and help grow the FMA sport in general.

Allow me to show you what I developed ...

My project:

- what it does and why I chose this as my project
- Target Audience / End User
- Functionality of website

Project Management:

- Trello
- Agile
- UI/UX - Mockups
- How I built the site / tools / technology
- Github / walk through code

Obstacles I have faced:

- What I have done to overcome those obstacles
- Things I would have done differently
- Mistakes I have made and what I have learned from them

Future enhancements / Ideas for continuing on with my project:

But there's more! Because of the simplicity of this application, it can be implemented for any service or activity with only minor customization, and the necessary data!

This solution is so versatile that a whole array of "Finder Apps" can be produced to help people find anything -- from knitting-circles, to organic florists, to ice-fishing clubs!

While the **FMA Fun Finder** is initially provided free, other future "Finder applications" could easily be monetized through advertising and pay-to-use sections...

Future Features for development:

- Add a logo or an image for each club / event
- Add news items or info articles
- Current news section
- Sponsor Advertisements in application
- Registered Users Only section
- Online Database interface - for CRUD
- Paid / subscription section
- Store section for vendors