

Demo Day Presentation

Personal Introduction

Hi my name is Johan.

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 a 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.

Product Intro

Apart from working to be a better 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.

However, finding FMA schools and events is still hard.

So, I've developed a cool SPA 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.

My solution is better.

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

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

The STIX FMA Fun Finder app has a simple interface that asks for a zip code and returns result of groups or events within a certain radius.

After an initial search, results 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.

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

Apart from a “home page” and search results, the app has a form to add info, a Contact form, an About section, and Disclaimers.

Project Management:

- How I built the site / tools / technology
- Walk through code

Trello Board (<https://trello.com/b/zWx1qQFB/stix-fma-fun-finder>)

I used a Trello board which is a Kanban style tool to monitor progress and throughput of a project

Divided the work into ...

- Planning and Research
- Backlog / to-do list
- Work-In-Progress list
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) phase
- Error and debugging phase
- Finally, a Completed / Done-Done list

Github Repository (<https://github.com/JohanBester/JBBesterCapstoneProject>)

In my Github repo I kept all the documentation for the project along with the application code

Documentation is in the Docs folder.

Documentation on Github

Show the following docs in slide presentation ...

- Build the SPA using VS 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

1) **The greatest obstacle I've had to face probably highlights the importance of this app – I had a very hard time finding data to populate the application database!**

To find data I resorted to 'scrapping' information from the internet, downloading any text from websites pertaining to FMA. Then I spent 2- 3 weeks, using all sorts of web tools, cleaning and parsing the data into a usable JSON format.

Big lesson here: Do not use Microsoft Word and Excel for these kinds of operations. These apps mess with the font and text styles in unspeakable ways, and one ends up with parsing errors because data is not in plain text format.

2) I've been building sites for 5 odd years and many sites look the same and act the same. I wanted something different. Seems that might have been a mistake.

Feedback I've received says that folks don't like the layout that much -- they don't like the navigation buttons at the bottom of the screen.

3) My greatest obstacle has been moving over to building in the SPA mode. This has been a major frustration to me as I still don't quite get it. I first build my application as a set of standard pages, and it worked great. After converting to an SPA, we initially couldn't get the search bar functionality to work. To overcome the issue, I reconfigured my site and changed the way it works. Once I better figure out what I'm doing, I'll be able to tell you what I'd do differently next time.

Future enhancements / Ideas for continuing on with my project:

But there's more Folks!

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 **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 and / or an image for each venue / event
- Add general news items or info articles on a blog-style addition
- Sponsor Advertisements in application
- Registered Users Only section
- Online Database interface - for C.R.U.D.
- Paid / subscription section
- Store section for vendors ???