**SAVVYCODERS Mock Interviews / Interview Questions:**

Name of Student Johan Bester

1. Tell me about yourself, what your experience is and why you chose to get into technology.

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. Most of what I know about web development I learned there – on the job so to speak. In December 2019 I lost that job, and quickly realized that I need to know way more about JavaScript and a host of other industry skills if I’m 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 soon as possible, and to continue enjoying my career as a web developer.

* 1. What are your long-term career goals?

I have been working as a web developer because I love it. I want to continue enjoying what I do as I continue my career. To make me better at what I do, I’ve enrolled in Savvy Coders to better understand my trade, so to speak. I would love to move back into a team coding environment where I can grow, be creative, and help others develop in their coding life.

* 1. Where do you feel you are the most proficient?

Like most developers I’m learning more and more about JavaScript every day; they say one can never know everything about JavaScript, but I’m striving to live my best coding life every day. I started coding HTML way back, and have taught myself CSS, CSS3 and several CSS frameworks. So, I would say I am definitely the most comfortable at HTML and CSS.

1. What have you learned in this class with SavvyCoders? Valuable lessons you will take with you?

We have all learned a lot of JavaScript. We have also learned that there are a ton of stuff we do not know. LOL! Seriously though I guess what I’ve learned is actually just a re-affirmation of what I’ve always believed: One never stops learning – this is especially true for coding; No one knows everything—not even everything about just one thing; And, just because someone knows a lot it does not necessarily make them a good teacher.

1. Tell me about your class project:

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!

* 1. Why did you choose this as your project?

Finding FMA schools and events is still hard, and we love to work out together. So, I’ve developed the “STIX FMA Fun Finder” to help FMA practitioners do just that -- 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 clubs and events in 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.

* 1. What mistakes have you made, obstacles you have had completing the project?

Well, 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 is a mistake. Feedback I’ve received says that folks don’t like the colors, or the layout, and they don’t like the navigation buttons at the bottom.

Another obstacle I had was finding data for my app. The reason I’m building the app is because it’s hard to find good info on FMA venues. I had a very hard time finding data to populate the application database!

However, 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. Now that it’s in SPA form I can’t get the search bar functionality to work. Once I figure out what I’m doing wrong I’ll be able to tell you what I’d do differently from the get go.

* 1. What / how did you overcome those obstacles

Finding data was hard. In desperation I resorted to scraping the web for data, downloading any text from websites pertaining to FMA. Then I spent 2- 3 weeks, using all sorts of web tools, cleaning and parsing 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 ASCII format.

* 1. What would you do differently and or how do you plan on continued improvements?

I guess next time I do something like this, I will probably stick to a design that looks and feels a little more “boring” as far as lay-out and visual style is concerned. I would also look for a mentor who can help me more closely with development issues till I get the hang of this SPA thing.

1. What is functional Programming?

Functional programming is a programming paradigm where programs are constructed by applying and composing functions. Functional programming is the process of building software by composing pure functions, avoiding shared state, mutable data, and side-effects. When a pure function is called with some given arguments, it will always return the same result. This helps to solve problems effectively in a simpler way, and it improves modularity.

1. What is an object?

JavaScript is an object-based language. Everything is an object in JavaScript. An object is a collection of properties, and a property is an association between a name key and a value pair. A property's value can be a function, in which case the property is known as a method.

1. Define Agile and what that means, what are some of the methods you learned?

Agile is a term used to describe approaches to software development emphasizing incremental delivery, team collaboration, continual planning, and continual learning. The AGILE mindset realizes that the key to success is not to do more work faster. The key is to be smarter by generating more value from less work and delivering it sooner.

We learned about Scrum techniques and the different roles in and around the scrum, Kanban Boards and techniques, and about User Stories.

1. What did you use for project planning?

We used Trello which is a Kanban style online board (like Jira) for planning our projects and work flows. I also build myself a Gant chart to help estimate how long different portions of my project could possibly take, so that I could set some soft deadlines for the different tasks.

1. What is an SPA?

An SPA (Single-page application) is a web app implementation that loads only a single web document, and then updates the body content of that single document with different views. SPAs allow users to use websites without requesting and loading new pages from a server. SPAs can apparently improve user experience with faster load times since whole websites can be served and used without any additional loading of pages.

**Notes: (Interviewed by) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Overall Strengths:

Areas of improvement: