

Building a Website Just for Myself

After falling into a new YouTube rabbit hole, I discovered something that completely captivated me: solo entrepreneurship. Watching creators like Marc Lou or channels like *Starter Story*, with titles like “*This App Makes Me \$10K/Month*”, I got totally hooked. The idea that you could live anywhere, work on your own projects, and make more than a regular job sounded like the dream. So I decided to give it a shot.

It actually came at a perfect time. I was halfway through my Master’s degree in web development, already working on multiple projects in different technologies. On top of that, I’ve been working as a QA developer for the past 4 years, and I have a Bachelor’s in computer science. So the only thing left was to choose a tech stack and build my million-dollar idea.

I’ve been writing down ideas for a while now, so I picked something simple to start with: a website with calculators.

I use online calculators all the time — for compound interest, taxes, or estimating how much I’ll save in a retirement fund. But each of these tools is on a different website. So I thought, why not bring them all together in one place? That’s how the idea for the site was born.

I started building it with React, TypeScript, and Vite. But halfway through, I got assigned another project for university that had to be done using Next.js. So I ended up rebuilding the whole thing with Next.js instead. Looking back, it was a great decision. I learned a ton about the differences between Vite and Next — definitely a win in disguise.

Once the site was ready, I started thinking about deployment. I watched some scary videos about how Vercel can hit you with unexpected charges if your project isn’t properly configured, especially for things like tracking or APIs. That freaked me out a bit, so I decided to self-host.

I found this awesome tool called Coolify — it’s free and super helpful. I combined that with the cheapest Hetzner server I could find (just €4/month), and after spending a full Sunday setting it all up... boom! My site was live: **Kalkulatory.org**.

Next, I tried to add some small Google AdSense banners to learn how monetization works. Unfortunately, that turned out to be harder than I expected. Google rejected my site six times, each time giving only vague feedback. After a month of trying, I gave up. And honestly? It’s fine. I’m the only one using the site anyway.

So the site is online, and it’ll probably stay that way for at least a year — until the domain expires. And yep, I’ll still be the only one using it. But that doesn’t bother me at all. The whole point was to test myself — to see if I could actually start and finish something, which has always been a struggle for me. More on that in the next blog post.

Also... I already had another idea lined up. Something I thought didn’t exist — turns out, it didn’t exist *for a reason*. But that’s a story for another article.

