



How I Turned a Hobby Into a Career in Web Development

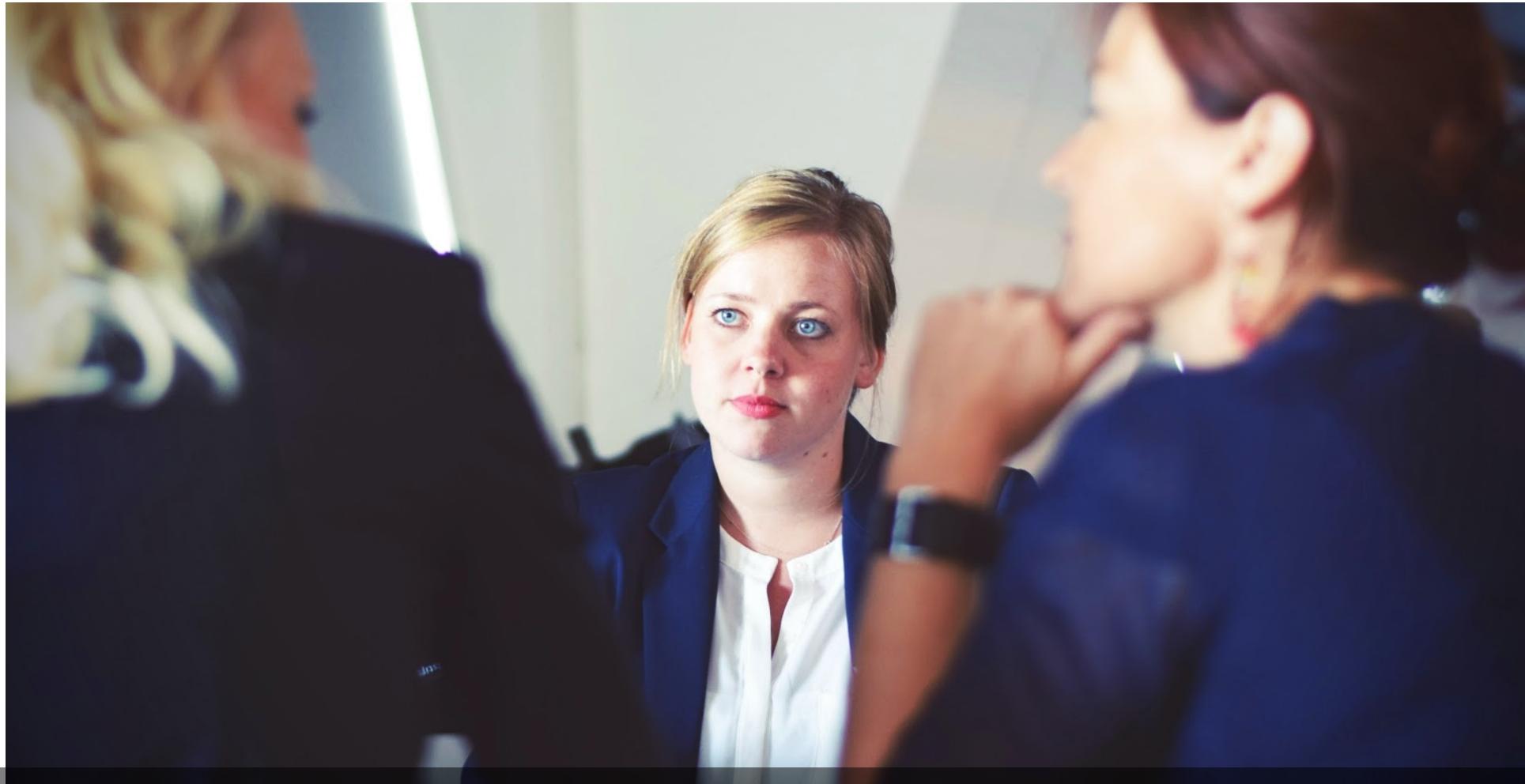
My Crazy Story Into Tech

by Tairema (Tai) Dailey

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Hello everyone my name is Tai and I am front end web developer I switched into this career 3 years ago and currently I am software engineer at Nevo Technologies and I am here to talk about how I turned a hobby into the career I have today.

For starters...I was like this girl...



- I started out like this girl..I was working in finance doing the same thing day in and day out and the only excitement I got was when something broke and I was able to troubleshoot it to fix it.
- Other than that I hated going to work but I needed to do it because it was paying the bills. It wasn't anything I loved doing, it was just something I did.
- Has anyone else ever felt that???
- For me, after work, I would escape my life by reading books and watching movies. I didn't know how to change my situation but I can at least enjoy the fantasy world after work.
- And one of the books I fell in love with that would completely change my life, was Twilight.

Yep...this Twilight



You are my life now

(Edward + Bella Shipper ===)

And if you thought you heard it wrong, I am talking about this Twilight. And yes I was an Edward & Bella shipper. *raises hand* hi

How did I manage that???

It started with **Fansites**



[screenshot from my first fansite]

So now you may be thinking how on earth did I manage that and it boils down to fansites. My first ever fansite was on twilight.

But before the fansite, it started with a community on twitter that lead to me learning...

But before the fansites it started with me being involved with a huge and I when I say huge it was like thousands of people in this twilight fandom on twitter. They introduce me to fansites and to blogging. Most importantly they got me sucked up into a whole new world I didn't even know existed.

I met people who taught me about how to blog, about blogging platforms such as wordpress. When I first started I didnt know the first thing to bringing a site to life. So when my first fansite was made, it was made by someone who made a business out of designing and building wordpress themes for fansites. And there are many women out there doing that as their main job or their side job and I thought that that was amazing and I wanted to do something like that for a living.



So when I finally got my first fansite up and running I needed to learn how to maintain it, so my nights and weekends after work became consumed with how to get my site to where I wanted it to be. And these amazing women introduced me to programs like photoshop and illustrator so I can learn how to make the graphics that I wanted to add to the site. Then they introduced me to programming languages like html and css and php. So that gave me even more things I needed to learn in order to do what I wanted to do on the site.

During the day at work when I had free time, it became my way to keep reading up on everything I was trying to learn how to do with my new site. I became obsessed and I was excited about everything I was learning and doing. I really wanted to get better at it so that one day I could possibly be like those women who made a living designing fansites.

More Fansites I started



In the meantime, as I got comfortable with working on my first site. I hired another woman who became one of my besties in the twilight fandom and she helped me add more fansites under my belt.

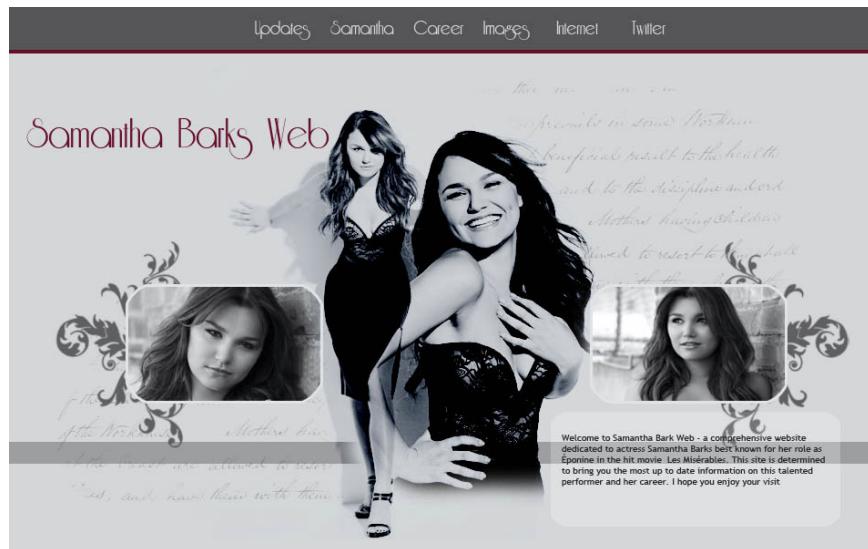
Started designing my own sites...

The homepage features a purple header with a city skyline silhouette. Below it is a large banner with a woman in a black dress and several smaller portrait photos. A sidebar on the left includes sections for "Working List" (with items like Emma-Watson-Love, Samantha-Barks-Web, You?, You?) and "Latest Online" (with items like Emma Watson Love, Samantha Barks Web, You?, You?). A central column displays two theme previews: "New Coppermine Gallery Theme" and "New Online Samantha Barks Web". The footer contains "Site Info" with details about the designer and "WordPress and Coppermine Theme" pricing.

The portfolio page has a dark background with a woman in a black dress. It features the title "Pink Candy Designs Portfolio" in large, stylized letters. A preview of a theme featuring a man's face is shown in a pink-bordered box. The footer includes links for Home, Login, and various site statistics.

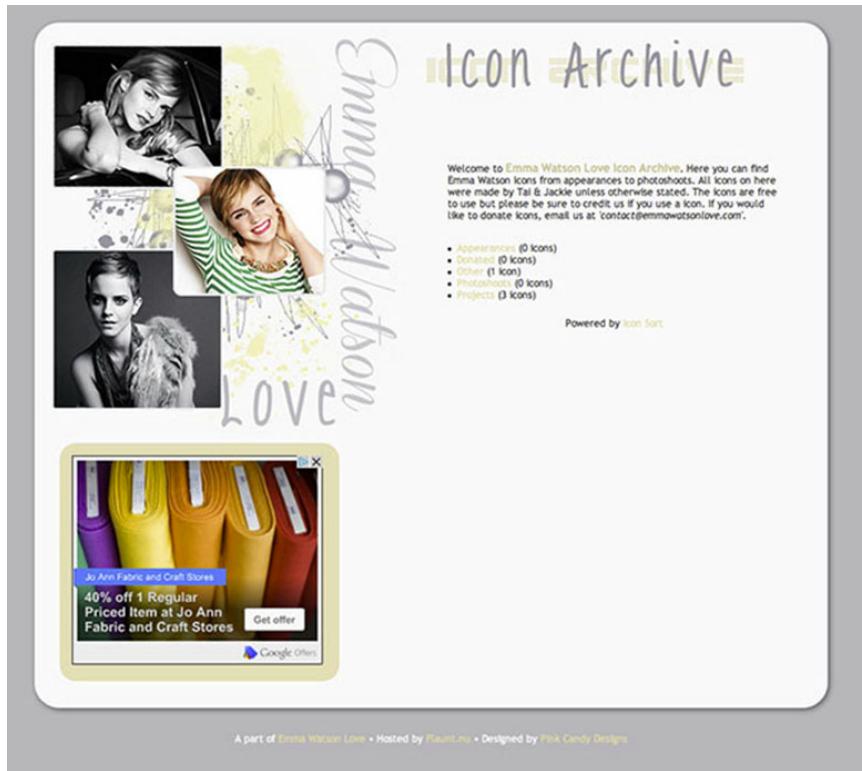
When I finally got comfortable with coding and using photoshop I went on to build my first site to start my side business of building fansites

My first faniste I built for a client....



Then one of my friends in the fandom allowed my to design and build one of her fansites

My first one pager icons sites I built...



Then I started to dabble in one pagers with html and css for icon graphics I had for some of my fansites

And that my friends is how this girl turned into a...

BADASS developer

So when I got laid off from my job, it became a blessing in disguise because one of those ladies I met in the twilight fandom convinced me that getting laid off was the best thing that could ever happen to me.

I took that as my sign to go back to school to learn how to become a web designer and actually get a job in the field. And that is exactly what I ended up doing.

I didnt know about the bootcamps at the time so I went back to school for another bachelors degree in web design. While in school it really helped me realize my passion was for coding and not really the design aspect.

From there it just took on a life of its own and I knew that this was what I wanted, it was the something else and the something better that excited me.

If it wasnt for Twilight, I can seriously say that I wouldn't be here right now telling you how my love of Twilight and those amazing women on twitter helped me make the switch into tech to become this badass developer.

Thank you!



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TECH LADIES

As Edward would say to Bella...you are my life now and that was coding to me and the rest is well I won't say history but still being written. Thank you!