

Build Your MVP Weekend - Winter '24

Future Founder Program
Dr. Dennis Proppe



Hi, I am Dennis!

- Entrepreneur since way too long
- Founded a software business with friends in 2008 that eventually turned into a 75-people SaaS-Company
- Sold it three days before X-Mas in 2023
- Had an existential crisis in early 2024
- Started as a computer science professor at FH Wedel in late-2024
- Now focus on two things:
 - Teach young, ambitious people to build stuff with technology
 - Push young, ambitious people who build stuff to sell that stuff, too, hoping to turn more people into entrepreneurs



Why are we here today?

- You had an idea...
- You started to validate it...
- You think it can be done...So:



Wait, but why? (really)

- Why are we now building a first prototype of our product?



partici.fi/56262969



Reasons (for now) to build it

- You might have guessed: Some more validation
- Also, to find actual people who will pay money for it (It's called selling 😊)

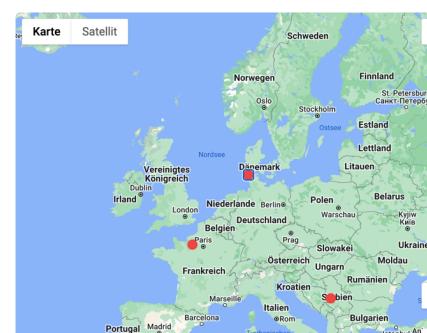
I have this idea for an app that tracks planes in the air and shows me, whether my favourite plane is coming to an Airport near me....



Aircraft Tracker

GLF6

Karte | Satellit



Data

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- And then, to quickly decide whether to pursue this idea further...

No Reasons (for now) to build it

- I finally want to build my sweet, sweet idea to perfection
 - Let's get over with building this, so the product is finally ready
-
- I don't know if anybody will need this, but once I build it, they will come...



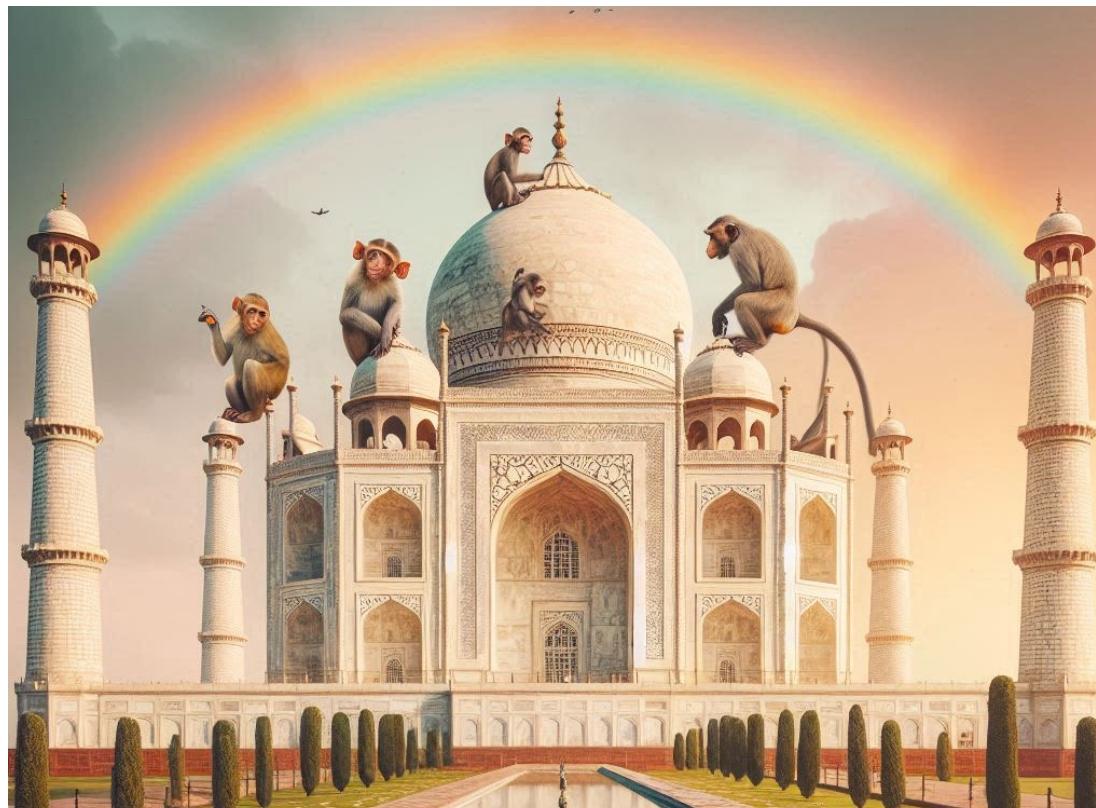
What will we build this weekend?

We are not building the glorious 1.0 Version of your product



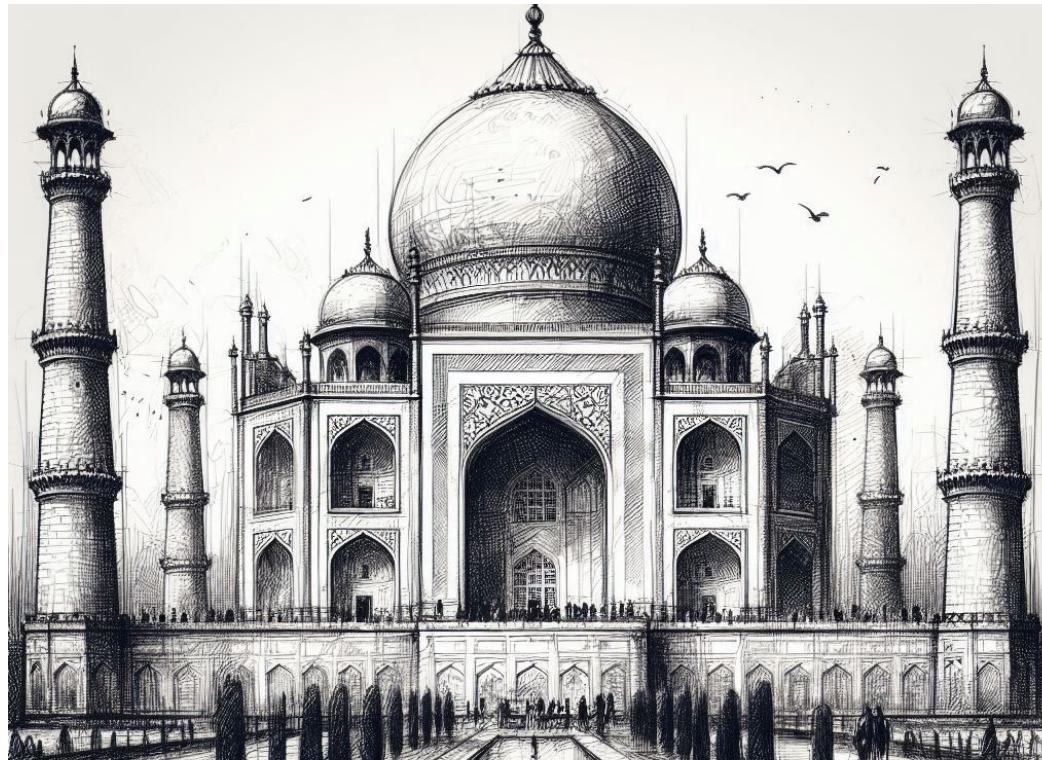
What will we build this weekend?

We are also not building the slightly less glorious Beta 0.9 Version of your product



What will we build this weekend?

Heck, we are not even building a very not glorious Alpha 0.4 Version of your product!



What will we build this weekend?

We want to build the minimum version of your idea that allows you to go out and seek more feedback and potential first customers.



What will we build this weekend? Today

Schedule

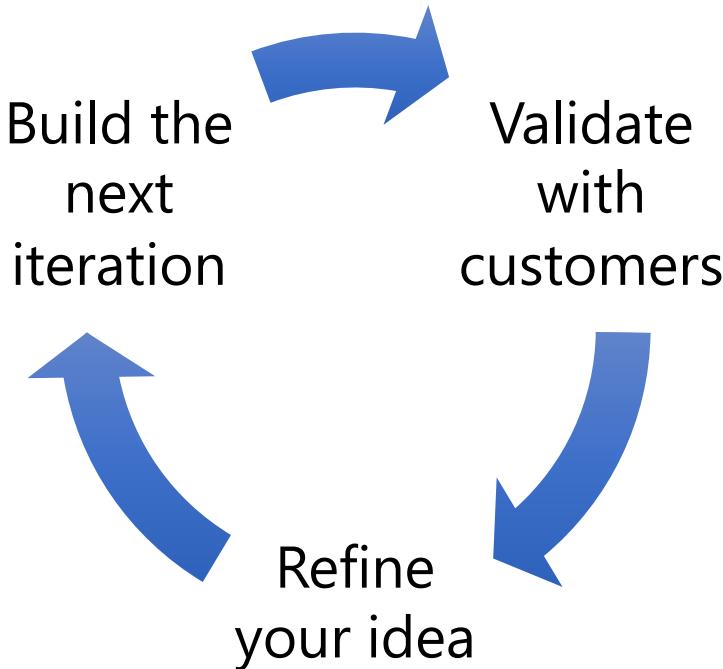
5:00 PM	Welcome & Kickoff Max and Dennis will bring you up to speed for the build weekend
5:30 PM	Keynote Presentation Listen to the SaaS Prototyping Keynote from Tobias Hagenau, Founder of Awork
6:30 PM	The why, how & what of building a first iteration of your idea Learn key process steps and why they should be done
7:30 PM	Your turn Build a mini-idea: Use the process and the tools you just got to know to build a mini-idea you have to come up with on the spot!
9:00 PM	Mini demo hour Every group presents their mini prototype in a 90 seconds elevator pitch
9:45 PM	Wrap-up Review of the day and preparation for Saturday

What will we build this weekend? Saturday

9:45 AM	Everybody gather Arrive at the workspace at get yourself settled	1:45 PM	Build your first iteration! Use your concept to create the first rough iteration in a timebox of 90 minutes. I will be available to assist and guide you.
10:00 AM	Welcome & Kick-Off A short kick-off session to get you started on running friday's process on your actual idea!	3:15 PM	Intermediate Pitch You have 2+3 minutes to show and get feedback your first iteration in your peer group!
10:30 AM	Hardtech Keynote Hardtech Prototyping Keynote by Oliver Lichtenstein, Founder Beagle Systems	3:45 PM	Build your second iteration! After a short break, use the feedback to improve your project. Another 90 minutes to make it shine!
11:30 AM	Design Sprint <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a max one-page text prompt of what you want to build today Make a Sketch/Whiteboard drawing of the app flow / hardware model Create a small Design, with Canva, GenAI, pictures, whatever you want Pitch the result in 60 seconds! 	5:15 PM	Done for today! Time to wrap up and bask in the glory of your project
1:00 PM	Lunch 45 minutes of lunch and talking about your prototype	5:20 PM	Closing & Next Steps We celebrate achievements and plan your next moves

The secret to success: Iterate quickly and keep at it

- In order to win the startup game, you just need to do these things very quickly and very often



How will we build this weekend?

By shifting into hackathon mode.

We will have to cut corners

- Does your app have a complex business logic with a lot of complex steps?
- Mock them, return concrete values instead of building up the complete logic right now.
- Focus on one or two cases you can make and ditch the rest



Hackathon mode

We will use tools that allow maximum speed

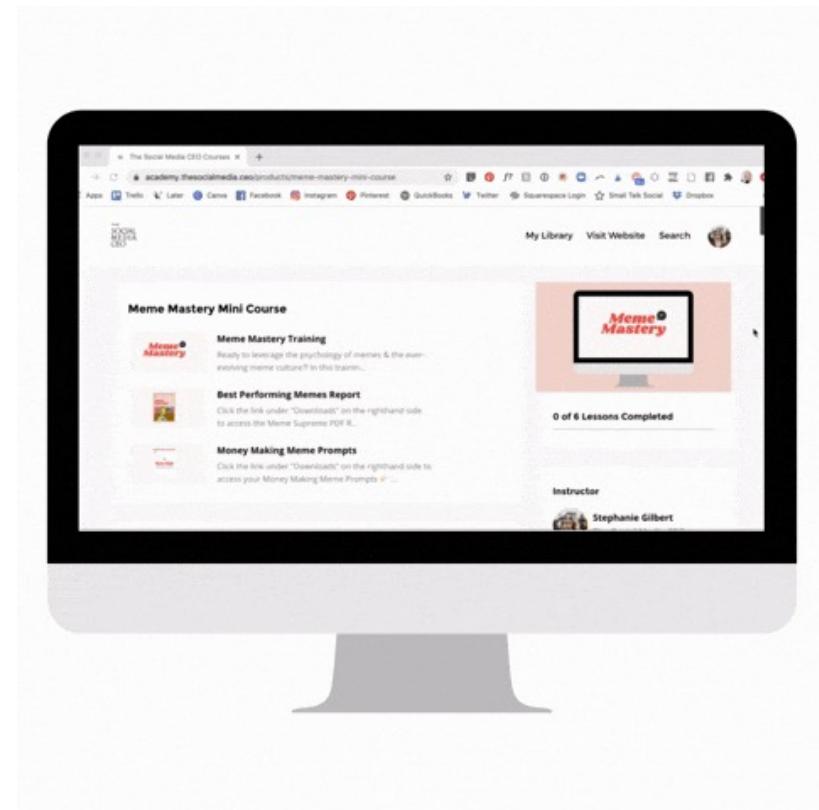
- These tools will not build something you might want to reuse
- Don't be afraid to scrap it after the weekend
- The goal is to rapidly prototype



Hackathon mode

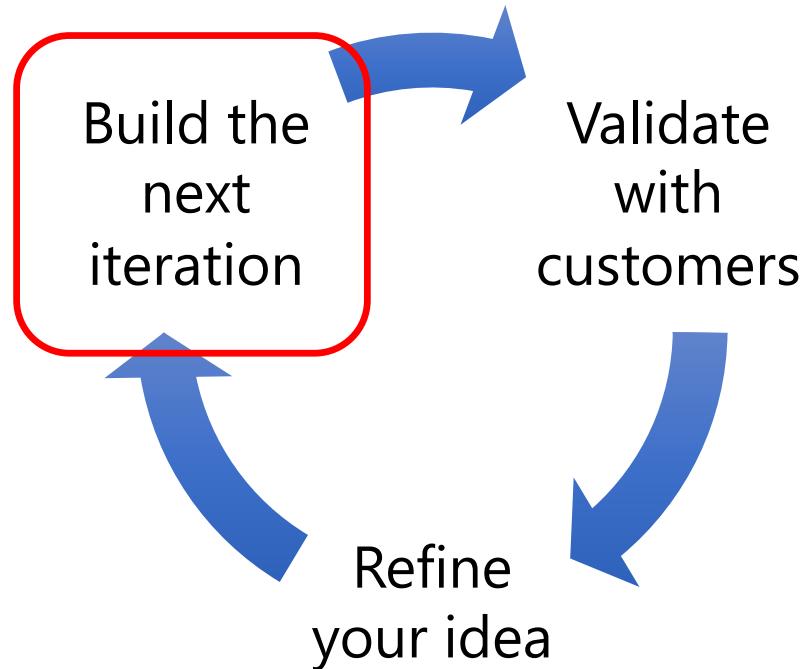
This is not the time for pixel-perfect design

- It is important that your prototype is visually appealing, people buy only nice stuff
- But: Use the standards, recycle what works best right now. You can find your own UI voice later



One question (and only one) to answer

What is the least amount of work I can do to deliver value?



One question (and only one) to answer

What is the least amount of work I can do to deliver value?

Options for this weekend:

- Landing Page for your (physical|software) product
- Build one function of your SaaS (not more)
- Build a very small happy path
- Build a physical cardboard sketch
- Make a rough 3D-print model of your product
- Use the electronics lab to build a simple first iteration

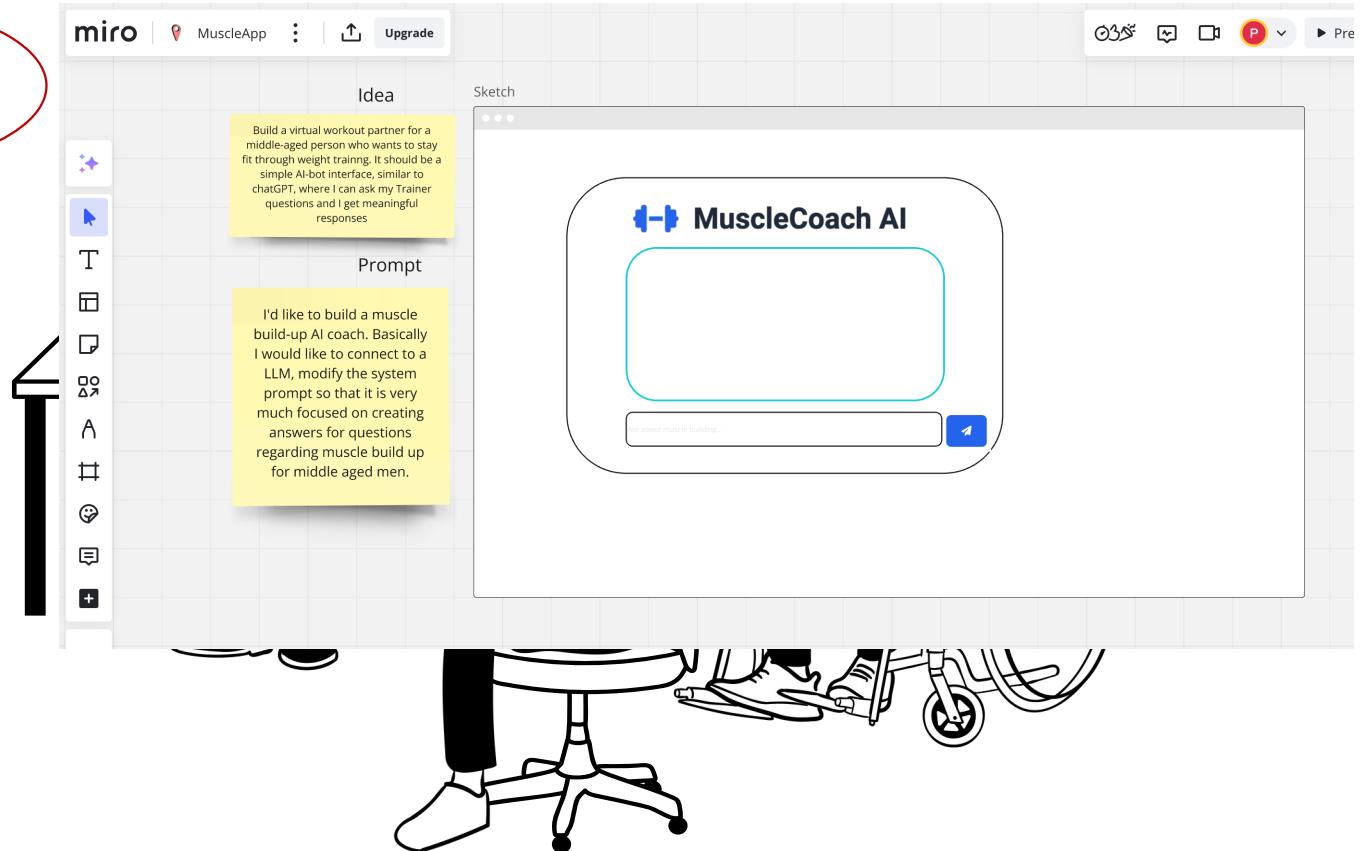
Proposed minimal process

1

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Proposed minimal process

1

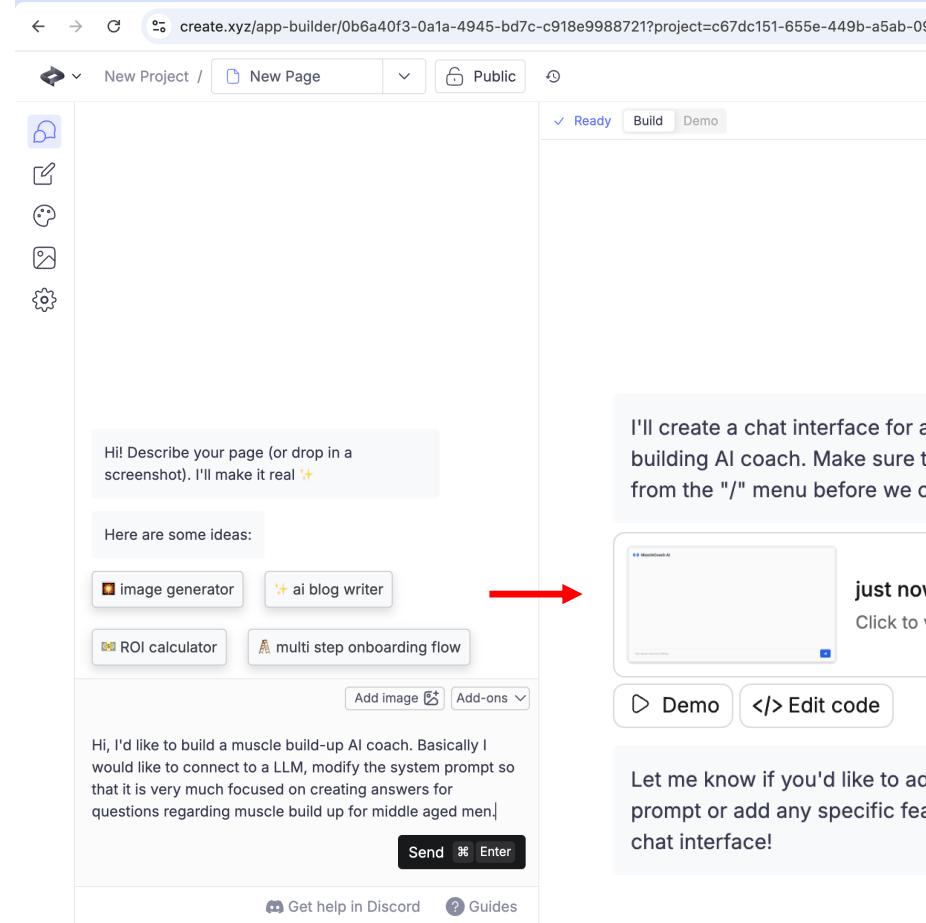
The screenshot shows a Miro workspace titled "MuscleApp". On the left, there is a sidebar with various tools: a blue square icon, a text "T", a list icon, a document icon, a "A" icon, a "H" icon, a "C" icon, and a plus sign icon. The main area has two cards:

- Idea**: A yellow sticky note containing the text: "Build a virtual workout partner for a middle-aged person who wants to stay fit through weight training. It should be a simple AI-bot interface, similar to chatGPT, where I can ask my Trainer questions and I get meaningful responses".
- Prompt**: Another yellow sticky note containing the text: "I'd like to build a muscle build-up AI coach. Basically I would like to connect to a LLM, modify the system prompt so that it is very much focused on creating answers for questions regarding muscle build up for middle aged men."

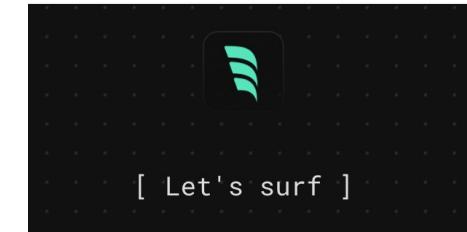
To the right of the cards is a large rectangular area labeled "Sketch" which contains a wireframe of a mobile application interface. The interface features a blue double-barbell icon followed by the text "MuscleCoach AI" in bold. Below this is a large empty rectangular input field with a placeholder "Ask about muscle building..." and a blue send arrow icon at the bottom right.

Proposed minimal process

2

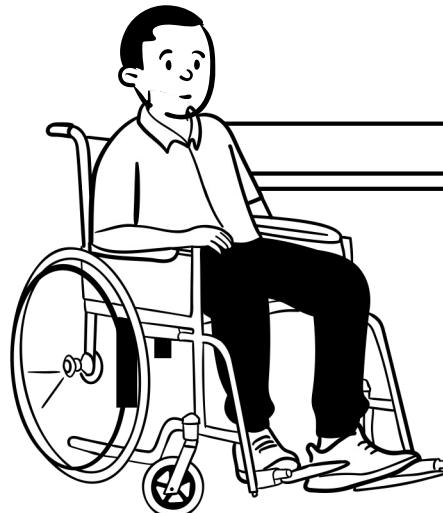
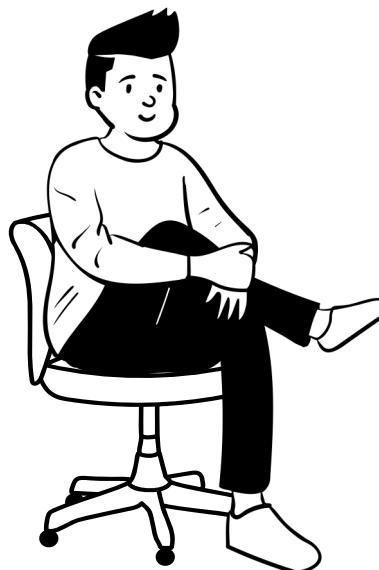


The screenshot shows the Create app builder interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for user, edit, profile, image, and settings. The main area has a text input placeholder: "Hi! Describe your page (or drop in a screenshot). I'll make it real :)" and a "Send" button. Below this, a section titled "Here are some ideas:" lists "image generator", "ai blog writer", "ROI calculator", and "multi step onboarding flow". A red arrow points from the "image generator" button to the "Create" workspace. In the workspace, there's a message: "I'll create a chat interface for a muscle building AI coach. Make sure to add ChatGPT from the "/" menu before we continue." Below the message is a preview card for a "Musclecoach.ai" project, showing a thumbnail, the text "just now", and "Click to view version". At the bottom of the workspace are "Demo" and "Edit code" buttons.



Proposed minimal process

3



↳ MuscleCoach AI

Hi, I am 47 years old and would like to gain upper body strength. I haven't exercised in a while.

Great to hear that you're ready to start building upper body strength! Given that it's been a while since you last exercised, it's important to focus on gradual progression and proper form to minimize the risk of injury. Here's a structured plan to get you started:

Initial Considerations

1. **Warm-up:** Always start with a 5-10 minute warm-up to increase blood flow and prepare your joints and muscles. Options include brisk walking or dynamic stretching.
2. **Frequency:** Aim for 2-3 upper body workouts per week, with at least one day of rest in between.

Sample Workout Plan

Week 1-4: Foundation Building

Focus on mastering basic movements with a focus on technique.

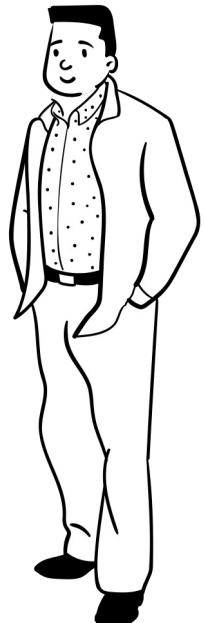
1. **Push-Ups (Knees or Standard)**

- Sets: 2-3
- Reps: 8-12
- Focus on controlled descent and full range of motion.

2. **Dumbbell Bench Press**

- Sets: 2-3
- Reps: 8-12
- Use a weight that allows you to complete the reps with good form but feels challenging by the last few reps.

3. **Bent-Over Dumbbell Rows**



Tip: Document while building

- Build one master document where you log all activities
- Add meta info generously
 - Which tool did I use?
 - What prompts did I use?
 - What did work, what did not work?
 - Take a lot of screenshots

Build Log

Iteration #3	Iteration #2	Iteration #1	Summary / Note
28.11.2024, 9am	Used a better prompt: "Build a virtual workout partner for a middle-aged person who wants to stay fit through weight training. It should be a simple AI-bot interface, similar to chatGPT, where I can ask my Trainer questions and I get meaningful responses"	Used a very basic prompt: "build me an ai muscle bot"	On it...
27.11.2024, 8pm	App now was better, but responses looked odd. Learned that most ai responses are Markdown formatted, which did not translate to my app.	App generated was not very nice. Did not know about ChatGPT-Feature in create, so no answers were generated	Learning: Use the Markdown feature of create.xyz
27.11.2024, 4pm	Starting with the right weight is crucial to ensure effective workouts and prevent injury. Here's a guide to help you determine where to begin: Considerations for Weight Selection: 1. Experience Level: If you're new to strength training or returning after a long break, start with lighter weights to focus on form. 2. Assessment Sets: Use assessment sets to gauge your starting weight. You want to choose a weight that allows for 8-10 reps. 3. Progressive Overload: Your priority should be on steadily increasing the weight over time as your strength improves. Recommended Exercises for Upper Back and Suggested Starting Points: 1. Front Pull-Ups: • Facepull Dumbbells or Barbell • Starting Weight: 10-15 kg • Progression: 15-20 kg • Barbell: 20-30 kg • Form: Keep your back straight, hinge at the hips and pull the weight towards your waist.	Learning: Get to know create.xyz better and use the integrations	MuscleCoach AI

(Screenshot of MuscleCoach AI interface showing a query about starting weight for upper back exercises and its response.)

Now it is your turn to practice...

7:30 PM

Your turn

Build a mini-idea: Use the process and the tools you just got to know to build a mini-idea you have to come up with on the spot!

9:00 PM

Mini demo hour

Every group presents their mini prototype in a 90 seconds elevator pitch

- Do not work on your startup idea today!
- Find a quirky, very simple idea that you'd like to use the process on and that you can create in 90 minutes
- Use the tools mentioned, get to know them...
- The result does not matter so much, it is about practicing the process and the tools today!

Some small ideas...but much better to come up with own...

Speed Typing Test

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

Start typing here...

[Restart Test](#)

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New Post dennis.proppe@gmail.com ▾



This #1
eee



Number 2
This is anakin

With user now?
Lets see



242
242



252
This is Shmi Skywalker.



Another picture of mine

Aircraft Tracker

Enter aircraft type (e.g. A388)

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Your light idea...

How?

25