F1 Draft -2022 – Tom Williams

F1 Draft was a hobby of mine for around a year when I first got involved with web development. I had a passion for building things and having done a lot of mechatronics and python work, I wanted to try something someone could view from the other side of the world.

Due to my love for F1, I wanted to make a livery voting style application simple enough for me to make whilst being exposed to full-stack development for the first time. Everything I used (aside from the backend hosting) was free and I spent far too much time watching DevOps YouTube videos trying to connect my application together.

Plain JavaScript on the frontend using Axios to pair to a Python Flask backend server hosted on GCP by a third party called Zeet (which hugely helped me as a pure beginner). The Python PyMongo library also made it very simple to access a free hosted MongoDB database. The flexible JSON like structure was initially much more suitable for this project, as the database was far from complex and no complex querying would need to be done.

The project had been sewed together and all of the component parts worked well and produced my first hosted (with a domain) web application. F1Draft.com was live for over 2 years before I decided to deactivate the servers and stop payments for my domain.

It taught me a lot about architecture, git, networking and a whole lot more. The intro to full-stack development may have been premature but those skills used have helped me learn so much about the internet, SEO, and generally how to take advantage of the internet to produce cool things which may be functional, or may serve no purpose. This project may no longer be in service but I am happy that at least over 100 people used it during its life maybe thanks to my awful Instagram marketing skills and some lucking Google clicks.