

## JOSHUA NORTHCOTT

Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer at Hounder

### [VIDEO LINK](#)

Hello, my name is Joshua Northcott and I am the Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer at Hounder. Hounder is a design and development company that builds websites, builds web application products, so like what we're on right now, like Flipgrid is a web application that was someone designed and created. That's what we do for a lot of companies that are looking for some help and needing something to be created and built. So that's what we do. And I love what we do.

As far as some highlights of some of my favorite parts of my job, it really comes down to being able to see that there's a problem and being able to come up with a really creative way of solving that using the web. So most of the time companies come to us and say, Hey, we need something, here's our problem. And we come up with a solution in technology that we'll think through and we'll whiteboard out with our team, we have an eight person team and we'll design it and draw it out, draw it on a sketch pad, and then start to put it into the computer and design it out.

And then we'll build it with HTML and CSS and JavaScript. So in code we'll build it out to create and make it a reality. And that whole process is something I love and really enjoy. I love being able to help solve problems that people have in the real world. And so my favorite part is that whole process of it all. And then seeing the results of seeing people respond and go, wow, this is amazing. This really solves these problems that I have on a daily basis, or it makes life so much easier now that I can just hit this button and it all works. So these are, those are the big highlights and the things I love most.

What steps did I have to take to get into the current role. So I stepped out about five years ago working for a large software company and, basically took the chance on, Hey, let's, you know, with me and a friend of mine who was also a really amazing web developer and said, Hey, let's go into business for ourselves. And I think we can really do an amazing job of designing and building applications and websites and just web technology in general, to solve problems for people. And we kind of took the jump. It was a bit of a risk. We did it, we just, we knew we wanted to do it, so it was worth it.

And it's been five years now. And we started from two people to now eight and probably by this year, we'll even have nine, maybe even 10 employees by the end of the year. It's been an amazing experience and so glad that we were courageous enough to take that jump and to go for it.

It was a big challenge. I was in college as a marketing major and I love marketing. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do yet as a career. But at the time, the web was something that was fairly new and people were starting to build applications and websites and it was really early.

And I knew that I just liked to do it. I love playing with it. I love the idea of. Creating an experience on a website on the web that when you're like you see different colors and you think, see things moving. And I just thought that was so neat to create an experience. So I've learned and taught myself, while I was working for the newspaper and I was writing stories for the local newspaper here. And I also was going to college as a marketing major. And then I was on the site and learning how to do web development and web design and not knowing what that meant. From a career standpoint, I just followed what I was really enjoying doing. And I learned that if you have a passion for something, do it for the best of your ability. And good things will come of it, opportunities and careers will come out of that. So really dive right into what you're really, truly interested in. I had challenges though, as I was going through it and learning, I tried working for other technology companies in the area, people that were doing software, anyone, all this stuff that was doing anything on the web I tried to get in and, I had to submit like 20 or 30 different resumes to two different job positions and all got turned down. They were all looking for someone who already had experience in the kind of the real world company world. And I was just getting out of college. And so it was a real struggle to try and find that. But the breakthrough was, I kept learning and honing my skills. Didn't didn't get too discouraged. I just kept going for it, learning, learning, and learning. And then while at the newspaper, there was that realization that, Hey, people aren't buying paper newspapers as much anymore. We need a website. And I was, and I was there and I said, I ain't even know how to do that. I design, I build these things. When I go home, I love doing it. And they promoted me to do that. And I helped build those initial websites for the newspaper. And it made a big difference in, in their subscriptions, made a big difference in their company. And then doing that then led me to amazing opportunities for other software companies that I did later. And it was even better jobs than I could have even ever dreamed of. So it was a real stepping stone. So just grinding and not giving up and learning new skills and just not giving up was the real key for me.

So that's what I really would want to let you know, is don't give up; constantly learn. Even though I've been doing this work now for 15 years, maybe even more than that now, the important thing is I have to learn new things every day and web technology, computer science, things are constantly changing. There's new technologies, there's new coding platforms, new coding libraries, and if you stay just doing the things you're comfortable in, you're going to get left behind. And so it's important to constantly. Not at any point, feel like, you know, everything there is to know, but always keep moving forward to what is new and having an open mind and saying yes to those things. And good things will come of it.

My computing talent has been, you know, just like I said, building experiences and then being able to see people enjoy them. So I really get fulfilled on that. And it's a lot of fun, even while we're doing it. Sometimes we'll make little fun games and things like that, that we'll build, then we'll pass along to each other during the day with our team. And so that just makes it a whole lot of fun. So I'm super glad you're all interested in computing and keep doing it cause we need

amazing computer programmers out there. There's still a lot to be done. There's a lot to build on, there's all these solutions and technologies that are just waiting to be discovered.

So, yeah. Keep computing, keep learning and working hard and learn, learn, learn. There's so many things to learn. All right. Bye all,

Reviewed-mel 3.8.22