AIDAN BARENDS

Software Engineering Student | Owner & Founder, Digital Solutions WC | Aspiring AI Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Software Engineering student (Application Development) at CPUT, finishing in 2027, who spends more time building things than talking about building them. Owner and founder of Digital Solutions WC, my own web development business, building and launching websites and online stores for paying clients since July 2025, with full-stack apps shipped in React, Next.js, Java/Spring Boot and Laravel. Also an IT Field Technician at CraythorneIT, rehired with more responsibility: client tickets, remote support, networks and hardware for real clients with real problems. Looking for a junior developer role or new client work where I can put that same energy into practical, useful software.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Languages:** JavaScript, TypeScript, Java, Python, PHP, SQL, HTML, CSS
- **Frameworks & Libraries:** React, Next.js, Node.js, Express, Spring Boot, Laravel, Angular, Bootstrap, Tailwind CSS
- **Databases & Backend Services:** MySQL, PostgreSQL, Supabase, JPA/Hibernate
- **IT Support & Networking:** ticketing systems, remote support (Outlook troubleshooting, email and account setup), router configuration, Wi-Fi installation and troubleshooting, network diagnostics (Fing), PC builds, hardware repair
- **Tools:** Git, GitHub, VS Code, IntelliJ, Cursor, Figma, Postman, Vercel

EXPERIENCE

Owner & Founder, Digital Solutions WC

Jul 2025 – Present (freelance from Jul 2025, founded Digital Solutions WC Sep 2026)

- Run my own web development business: find clients, scope and quote projects, then design, build and launch each one as sole developer.
- Delivered three paid client projects: Ivy & Hold and KNOWNMERCH (online stores with Yoco payments) and JJS Business Solutions (business website).

IT Field Technician, CraythorneIT

Aug 2025 – Jan 2026, rehired Jul 2026 – Present

- Started out shadowing experienced technicians on residential and business jobs; brought back for a second stint with more responsibility.
- Work client-logged tickets through the ticketing system: triage, resolve, or escalate through to close-out.
- Provide remote support: troubleshoot Outlook issues, set up Outlook email and user accounts, and handle first-line troubleshooting, escalating admin-level changes.
- Run Wi-Fi assessments, installations and router configuration for residential and business clients, and diagnose outages on-site using Fing.
- Carry out PC builds, hardware repairs, and system upgrades for clients.

Other Experience: Waiter (Cape Town Fish Market), Barman (Die Strandloper), Classroom & Music Assistant (Longacres Private School), Background Actor (39 Steps Agency), Lifeguard (NSRI), 2022 to 2025. Different worlds, but all of them taught me the same things: show up, deal with people properly, and stay reliable when things get busy or stressful.

PROJECTS

Digital Solutions WC: Client Websites & Online Stores (Paid Clients)

React · TypeScript · TanStack Start · Supabase · Shopify · Yoco · Tailwind CSS · Vercel

- **KNOWNMERCH:** full-stack store for bar and braai gear with cart, discount codes, reviews and an admin area; Yoco payments confirmed only via a signed webhook, with stock deducted once an order is paid.
- **Ivy & Hold:** mobile-first storefront for a vegan leather handbag brand, with Shopify products and stock, Yoco checkout, photo reviews, SEO and Meta Pixel.
- **JJS Business Solutions:** business website for a skills development provider, with enquiry and WhatsApp contact and SEO.

Live: knownmerch.vercel.app | ivyhold.co.za | jjsbussol.co.za

Beauty Spot: Salon Website & Online Booking System

React · Vite · Supabase · PostgreSQL · Tailwind CSS

- Online booking with service, therapist, and 15-minute slot selection, modelling treatment lengths, trading hours, and staff time off so a therapist can't be double-booked.
- Staff diary backed by Supabase authentication with "My day" and "Whole salon" views, appointment statuses, walk-ins, and time-off blocking.

Live: beautyspot-eta.vercel.app

UniExchange: Campus Marketplace for CPUT (University Team Project)

Java · Spring Boot · Spring Data JPA · Hibernate · MySQL · React · Vite

- Worked mainly on the backend domain layer: 22 domain entities and 13 enums following consistent object-oriented and JPA patterns across a multi-developer team.
- Finished and deployed: verified student accounts, listings, messaging, reviews, and wallet payments held until the buyer confirms.

GitHub: github.com/AidanBarends/UniExchange | Live: uniexchange-rust.vercel.app

PracticeFlow CRM: Medical Practice CRM (6-person team project)

Next.js · React · TypeScript · Tailwind CSS · Supabase

- Worked as part of a 6-person team to build a full-stack CRM handling patient management, appointment scheduling, and staff admin.
- Built frontend features in Next.js/React/TypeScript and hooked up Supabase for auth and the database side of things.

GitHub: github.com/aidan-g-barends/practiceflow-crm | Live: practiceflow-crm-iota.vercel.app

MediTicket 2: Healthcare Practice Management Platform (7-person team project)

Java · Spring Boot · JPA/Hibernate · MySQL

- Built backend functionality for a platform connecting patients, doctors, and staff, using Domain-Driven Design and proper OOP structure.
- Handled appointments, digital tickets, payments, and notifications, split cleanly across separate frontend and backend repos.

Frontend: github.com/AidanBarends/MediTicketApp | Backend: github.com/AidanBarends/MediTicket2

EDUCATION

- Diploma in ICT: Application Development, CPUT (Cape Peninsula University of Technology), 2024 to 2027 (expected)
- National Senior Certificate (NSC), Hopefield High School, 2018 to 2022

CERTIFICATIONS

- The Complete Web Development Bootcamp, Angela Yu (Udemy)
- 4IR Digital Skills Training Programme
- AI course, Ed Donner (in progress)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.