Jean-Paul van Staden

Building Software with AI Tools

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Authorized to work in the U.S. for any employer. No visa sponsorship required, now or in the future.

SUMMARY

I build software by directing AI coding tools, mainly Claude Code, and I'm learning to read and judge the code myself. In 2026 I released a PC game on Steam, built Xelvo, a private messaging and calling app for Android and the web that is now in testing, and set up an automated website builder with its own test suite. I decide what to build, test the results, report what breaks, and keep going until it works. Before moving to Michigan I spent ten years in procurement and inventory control in South Africa.

SOFTWARE PROJECTS

Xelvo, private messaging and calling app 2026 to Present

Android and web, in testing

React and Vite app wrapped for Android with Capacitor; Supabase backend (PostgreSQL, row level security, realtime, edge functions); Cloudflare R2 for photos and videos.

- One to one chat with sent, delivered and read ticks, profile photos, and phone number login.
- Voice and video calls that can ring a phone even when the app is closed, using push notifications.
- An honest privacy page and a delete account option that erases the user's data.
- Chased down bugs that only showed up on friends' phones, so the app works whatever settings people use.

Deepclaim, PC game on Steam 2026

store.steampowered.com/app/5013330

Built in the Godot engine.

- A submarine mining game released on Steam in August 2026, followed by two updates with new modes, a Daily Dive with Steam leaderboards, and Steam Cloud saves.
- Automated test bots play the game to check balance and catch bugs before each release.

Automated website builder 2026

Python, GitHub Actions and Cloudflare, with 180 automated tests

- Business details go into a form, and the system builds the site, checks it, publishes a preview and emails the link with a screenshot.
- Replies such as "Phone: new number" update the site and report what changed.

SKILLS

AI development: Claude Code for writing, debugging and testing code, and checking that what it builds works

Used in my projects: React, Vite, Capacitor, Supabase, PostgreSQL, Godot, Python, GitHub Actions, Cloudflare

Tools: Git and GitHub, VS Code, Steamworks, advanced Excel, basic SQL

Next to learn: Kotlin and Swift for native Android and iOS, Android Studio and Xcode

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Manager Oct 2026 to Present

Anderson Paint Company, Ann Arbor, MI

- Promoted from Sales & Customer Service Associate after two months. Open and close the store, reconcile the day's cash and card totals, supervise the team on shift, and handle difficult customer problems.

Procurement, Inventory and IT Roles Aug 2015 to Jun 2026

SKG Properties, GoBid, First Technologies, LTM Energy Group, Deltrolux, X-Technologies, Barloworld and Salvage Management & Disposals, South Africa

- Most recently Procurement Buyer at SKG Properties, handling about $330K to $1M a year in purchasing.
- As an IT Stock Controller, ran weekly cycle counts against the system and built Power Query and Power BI reports for management.
- Worked in IT support at Deltrolux and X-Technologies, and ran my own small IT services business for six months.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- **High School Diploma:** National Senior Certificate, Rustenburg High School, South Africa (2012)
- **Certifications:** Microsoft Azure Fundamentals and Azure Data Fundamentals (2023)
- **Courses (Udemy):** Microsoft SQL for Beginners (2022), Power BI Practical Guide (2022), Excel from Beginner to Advanced (2025)
- **Languages:** English and Afrikaans, both fluent