

## Roman

### A Mastercam programmer sidelined by the pandemic reskills as a web developer — and rediscovers an early career ambition.

When Roman came to XTAP from an already successful first career in manufacturing, it was part of a journey back to an earlier love. As a teenager, he'd been introduced to programming by a friend who was building a website from scratch. Seeing the code behind the scenes was like being let in on a secret. "It was amazing," he says. "Only you know all the code going on — some people never think about it." The powerful experience sparked a lifelong interest in web development that never waned even as his career went in a different direction.

### A dream lost and found

Roman planned to study computer programming in university, but life had other ideas. His parents, who'd worked hard their whole lives, were struggling financially, and he knew it was his turn to support them. What followed was a long and successful career in manufacturing: over twelve years, Roman worked his way up from an entry-level position to a senior Mastercam programmer — a job he loved — before his company was taken down by the pandemic.

Unemployed for the first time in his adult life, he faced the hard choice of whether to stay the course in manufacturing or start over in a new career. "I'd lost one of the most important functionalities in my family," he says. "But I thought, this is my chance to learn something new, to invest this time, and I was supported by everyone around me."



Encouraged by his wife, Roman studied programming through online courses for two years before coming across an ad for XTAP's full stack development bootcamp. The XTAP program took him to the next level, helping him fine-tune his programming skills and expand his network in the field.

## Moving in the right direction

Roman has no regrets about his winding path to web development, and he knows he'll approach his new career with the same balance of leadership and teamwork that saw him climb the ranks at his previous company as it grew: "I'm always thinking about how to make things better. At my old job, I was always talking with people to figure out how to solve problems, how we can improve things. My colleagues inspired me, and I think I inspired them." With his full stack training, he's excited to move forward with the people he loves. "When I received my diploma from Lighthouse Labs, I jumped like a kid. It was one of those moments in life, when you turn around and look at the people around you, and you think, 'I'm moving in the right direction.'"

**Hire Roman**

