Coding for Custom Web Applications

Hey Branden! What do you do for work?

I do freelance work for different companies that need help with web applications. Freelance means I work independently, taking on different computer projects for different companies. I am not employed by just one company.

I build special computer programs for them, like the website I made for the Democratic Party in Washington.

I use a type of code called JavaScript to make the parts of the website that people can see and use. I work on things called APIs. API stands for Application Programming Interface. APIs help software programs share information. For example, when you check your weather app, it uses an API to get the weather for your location when you type in your zip code. I help organize and show data in a way that makes sense for businesses.

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How do you use coding in your job?

My whole job involves writing code or handling the setup of computer servers. I create the behind-the-scenes structure, called backend architecture, to make APIs. These APIs need a special way to access them, called authentication. **Authentication is like checking if someone or something is allowed to use a computer system or special features.** It ensures only the right people or programs can access and use them. I also make the part you see on the screen, like buttons and forms – those are the frontend applications. They show the information we get from the APIs.

Any tips for young coders?

Taking breaks is important! If you get stuck on a problem, stepping away for a bit can help you figure it out later. It's also okay to take breaks between different tasks to avoid getting too tired. And always keep learning because technology is always changing. **So, if you want to be a coder, be ready to keep learning new things!**

Reflection Questions:

1. What are some ways you can take breaks when working on a task?
2. Why is it important to keep learning, even after you've learned something new?