FIRST EDITION / BUILD SOMETHING USEFUL

APP LAUNCH STARTER KIT.

Your idea. A clear plan.
A first build you can actually test.



Don’t just use apps.
Build one.

PLAN / BUILD / TEST / LAUNCH

20-page workbook + editable templates + runnable demo

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Powered by AH Solutions

02 / PICK A PROBLEM

A useful app starts with a repeated frustration.

Look for a task someone already does. Make it clearer, faster or harder to miss.

Question	Weak answer	A more useful answer
Who uses it?	Everyone in the business.	The person assigning small equipment repairs.
What is the problem?	Our systems are messy.	A reported issue has no clear owner or next action.
What changes?	We become more efficient.	A team member can find the owner and blocker without asking.
What is the first loop?	A complete operations platform.	Create → assign → progress → review → close.

Choose one candidate

List three repeated frustrations. For each, score 0-2 for frequency, clarity of the user, ease of testing and low data sensitivity. Start with the highest-scoring small task; the score is a discussion aid, not proof of demand.

Example: a repair owner tracker scores well because the action is visible and fictional test records are easy to create. A full payroll or medical system adds specialist requirements and is a poor first exercise.

Your sentence
For **[one person or role]**, who currently **[manual task]**, this app will help them **[one outcome]**. We will know it helps when **[observable behaviour]**.

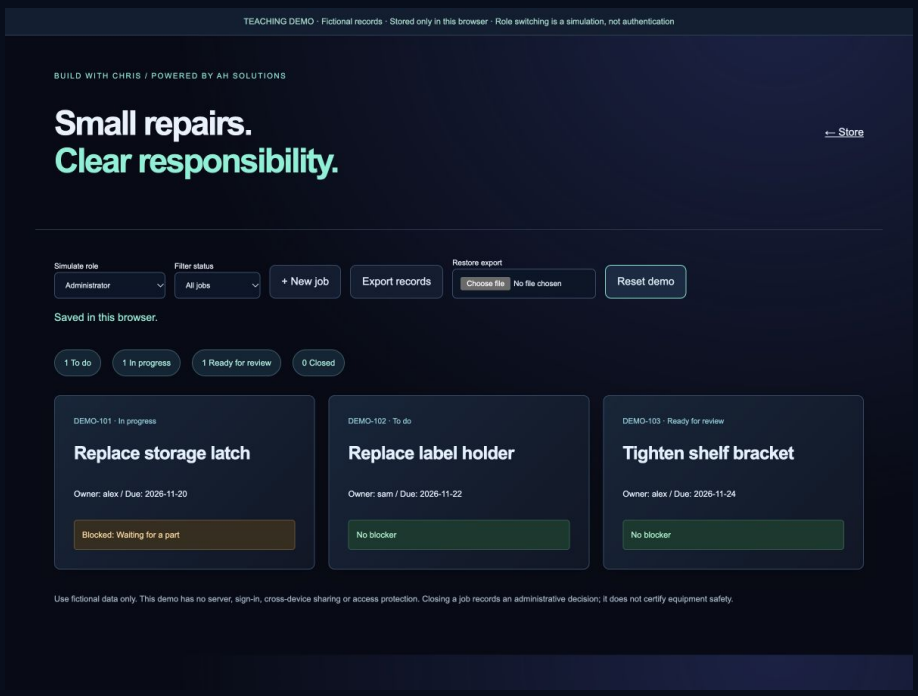
Leave a later list

Notifications, payment collection, chat and elaborate dashboards can wait until the main loop works. Keep the list so ideas are not lost; do not quietly add them to version one.

05 / OPEN THE DEMO

See the whole job without chasing a message.

This screenshot comes from the supplied demo, using fictional records.



Three things to notice

Ownership is visible. Each card names a person, rather than hiding the assignment in a separate screen.

Blockers have their own place. “Waiting for a part” is easier to find than a note buried in a long conversation.

Status is a shared vocabulary. Ready for review means the work was submitted; it does not mean it was approved.

Try it
Open DEMO-101. Read the owner and blocker. Close the dialog, filter to Ready for review, then return to All jobs. Nothing here is live customer information.

Public inspiration: WholeHelm describes assignment, progress, review and approval at wholehelm.com. This demo is a simplified teaching adaptation, not a reconstruction of its code.

08 / COPY, ADAPT, CHECK

Prompt pair 01.

Replace bracketed fields. Give the AI relevant context, then inspect what it actually produces.

01 / Find the smallest useful version

Use when your idea is still broad.

COPY & ADAPT

Act as a practical product partner. Here is my idea: [IDEA]. The user is [ROLE] and the current workaround is [METHOD]. Ask up to three questions that change the first version. Propose one complete task loop, up to five must-have behaviours and a later list. Separate my facts from your assumptions. Do not build yet.

Look for: A narrow loop and a visible definition of success.
Your check: Could a tester finish the main task without an unrelated feature?

02 / Turn the idea into a brief

Use before screens or code.

COPY & ADAPT

Turn this agreed scope into an app brief: [SCOPE]. Include the main user, problem, screens, fields, roles, allowed status changes, failure states, storage and five acceptance tests. Mark unanswered decisions rather than inventing them. Explain technical terms in plain English.

Look for: A brief you can edit and approve.
Your check: Do the fields and permissions support the main task?