

How a Networking Club Turned into Real Internet Experience

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Introduction

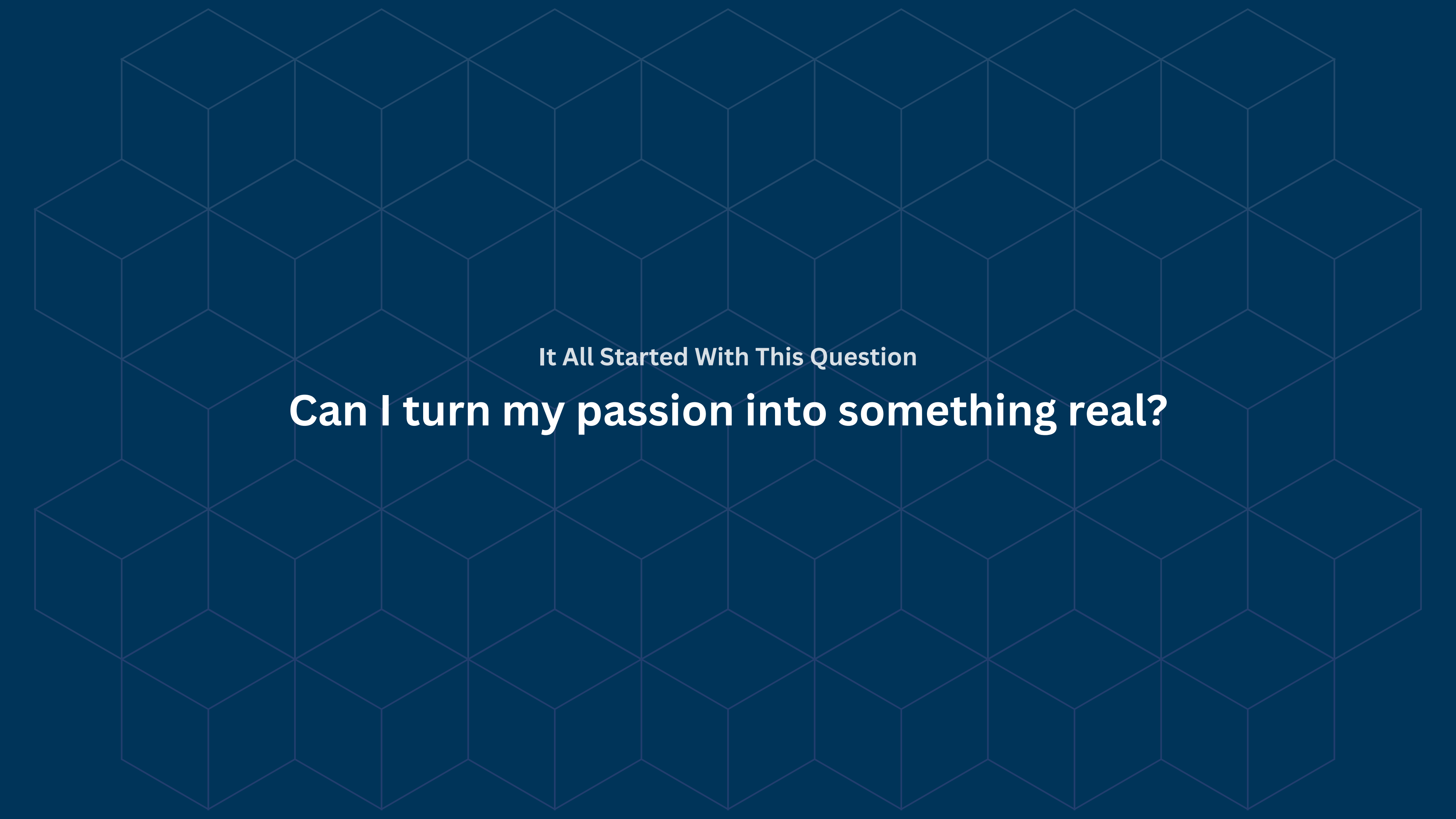


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It All Started With This Question

Can I turn my passion into something real?

The Problem

- Computer science in high school focused mainly on programming
- Limited structured exposure to networking
- No consistent hands-on environment

Why I Decided to Start a Club

- I was already learning networking on my own
- There was no existing networking-focused initiative in the high school
- I saw interest among other students
- I wanted to create a structured, hands-on environment

How It Started

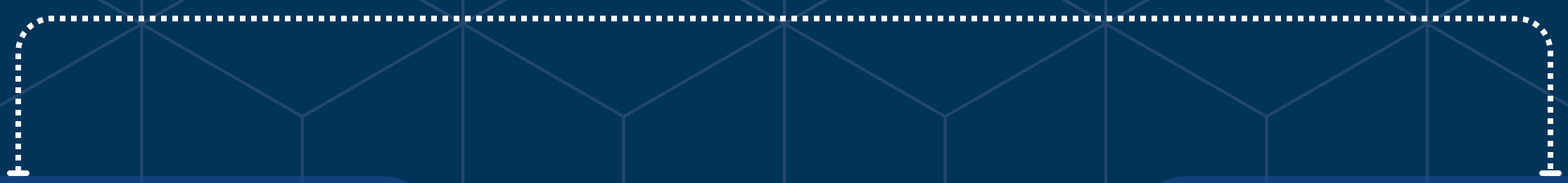
- Wrote a detailed document outlining the club's structure and objectives
- Presented the proposal to the school leadership, who approved the initiative
- Found a coordinating teacher to support the club
- Built a small core team of classmates who helped manage the club

Structure of the Club

- Short theoretical introduction
- Practical lab session
- Quick quiz-based review (to identify gaps and clarify concepts)
- Physical sessions + online fallback for those unable to attend in person
- Collected student feedback after each session to identify what could be improved



Building Our Own Mini Infrastructure



Starting Point

- One older server
- My own IPv6 allocation
- No usable public IPv4
- No dedicated external connectivity

What We Achieved

- Dedicated fiber connection (with support from RoEduNet)
- Own basic web platform
- Additional services & labs

Preparing the New Network Setup



Early preparation for a separate school network

Challenges

- No stable funding
- Equipment limitations
- Learning how to ask for external support
- High School entering full renovation
- Limited physical space
- Ensuring continuity after my graduation

Key Lessons

- Building something for others made me take it seriously
- Asking for help is part of building something real
- Even small projects can create real impact
- Initiative matters more than perfect conditions

Conclusion

- Not everything went as planned
- Community support makes a difference
- This experience shaped how I see networking



The Most Important Thing Someone Told Me

“Communities build communities”

Questions?

Feel free to contact me at:

 contact@stefanmincu.ro

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Thank You!