Hitting the right notes with the right framework

Setting the foundation
Started by three graduates from Technical University of Berlin, Flowkey’s founders set out to solve the problem of providing the best software to learn piano. Creating an interactive learning app entailed a great deal of front-end code in order to enable a fun and simple way for people to learn and practice at different levels of difficulty. Seeking to achieve the best piano learning experience for users, the team decided to develop their web application with JavaScript.

As an early stage startup in 2013, the competition in hiring developers in Berlin was high and rather than finding team members versed in multiple programming languages, JavaScript ensured a solid foundation to begin work right away.

Getting into the flow
Co-founder Ahmed Hassan came across Meteor and was impressed by the founders’ vision. “I understood what the team was doing and they were implementing complicated technology, at the time, with real time web applications.”

“We initially began using Meteor 0.5 and although this might have been a risk – using a relatively new framework – it was the best decision we made and the possibilities are and continue to be endless,” said Hassan. With the Meteor framework, Flowkey successfully onboard their team and got them up to speed with projects. While developing learning interfaces, Flowkey completed several months of beta testing with more than 20,000 players from over 120 countries to optimize the Flowkey learning method and app. From implementing new features to changing the interface, Flowkey made several updates a day in the first year of testing to hone their app and this was possible due to Meteor running on both the server and the client.

Teaching and technology perfectly combined
Being in constant exchange with leading e-learning experts, IT professors, music teachers and dedicated users, Flowkey is the first learning system for the piano and keyboard that detects notes and chords through a player’s microphone. An interactive experience combining auditory and visual learning, the app detects notes played and provides live feedback to ensure fast progress. “The biggest advantage with Meteor has been the ability to reuse a lot of code, especially with mobile applications,” said Hassan. Available on the web and iPad tablets for avid learners, Flowkey is also an integral tool for piano instructors working in combination with conventional teaching methods.

“The biggest advantage with Meteor has been the ability to reuse a lot of code, especially with mobile applications.”
Ahmed Hassan, Co-founder