Benji Welner

I am an Israeli-American programmer building secure, clean, and effective systems as an undergraduate student at Stanford University. I use modern tools to write software that avoids bloat and unnecessary complexity. I work on real and interesting problems in challenging areas that matter. You can contact me via email at: figbert@figbert.com.

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Work
Consultant @ Beeper (2023)

> Led software development for Beepy, the company's hardware effort. Adapted an existing Matrix chat client to run in an embedded environment and created a bespoke CLI for device setup and management.

Founder @ FIGBERT LLC (2020–Present)

> Incorporated a single-member LLC to provide a home for project and client work.

Founder @ SMMR Software (2021–23)

> Formed and led a three-person programming collective through the development and monetization of software projects.

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Languages
Human

> Fluent: *English, Hebrew*
> Proficient: *Arabic, Chinese*

Computer

> Fluent: *Golang, Swift*
> Proficient: *Python, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Java, GodotScript, Rust*

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Education
Stanford University

> Class of: 2027
> GPA: 3.99
> Major: Design
>   Track: Physical + Manufacturing
>   Advisor: David Kelley

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Technology Focus
Passive technology. How can we shape devices that enrich users' lives and disappear into the background? How can we make software as intuitive as the physical world?

Next-gen user interfaces. The window system was a huge innovation to a text-only world. What is the next big leap that will supplant this paradigm and in retrospect feel obvious?

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Projects
figbert.com (2020–Present)

> Authored a blog on technology and contemporary society with significant engagement built on open standards and a modern, minimal tech stack.

Mabel (2021–Present)

> Developed the first text-based client for sharing files using BitTorrent on macOS and Linux and received over 400 GitHub stars.

txtodo (2020–21)

> Developed a minimalist to-do list application designed to eliminate the buildup of delayed tasks, which received over 5K downloads on the App Store.

Privacy Redirect for Safari (2021–23)

> Developed a browser extension for Safari to redirect users to alternative, privacy-focused web services utilizing novel inter-process communication technologies to store user data out of the browser in native application storage. Received over 4.9K downloads on the App Store.

Personal Infrastructure (2020–Present)

> Installed and operated essential utilities on Linux servers, including email, Really Simple Syndication, and Internet Relay Chat.

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Personal Interests
Seriously good food. I love discovering, making, and sharing amazing food experiences with the people I care about.

Israel and the Middle East. I am deeply engaged with my heritage, the history of the region, and its complex contemporary realities. My playlist of Hebrew music is over four days long!

Weightlifting. I am in the gym almost every day, building my discipline, focus, and physical self. This routine exercise has broad benefits for bodily and emotional health.