Benji Welner

WORK

SwiftUI Engineer @ Envelope [YC S23] (2024)
⚡ Increased conversion of app downloads by completely redesigning the onboarding flow and enabling easy money transfers through Plaid.
⚡ Improved experience of existing users with app upgrades including the ability to categorize transactions from the home page and automatically allocate deposits into user "envelopes."
⚡ Triaged and resolved high impact issues, including complex authentication errors, by patching the underlying SDKs.

Software Engineer @ Beeper [YC S21] (2023)
⚡ Shipped a physical messaging device built from off-the-shelf parts in collaboration with SQFMI.
⚡ Modified a popular Matrix chat client to fit on a small screen and run smoothly on embedded hardware.
⚡ Created a bespoke tool for end-to-end device setup and continued management.

PROJECTS

figbert.com (2020-Present)
⚡ Authored over 75 blog posts on technology and society, which received 250+ upvotes and 200+ comments across Hacker News and Lobsters.
⚡ Built a fast and lightweight website using open standards and a modern, minimal tech stack. Served alongside other personal services (email, calendar, etc.) from a personal server.

Roll Call (2024)
⚡ Automated the printing of effective morning briefing using a receipt printer and Python scripts. Sourced relevant and up-to-date information for briefings from iMessage, Ōura, and my reminders/calendar.
⚡ Produced promotional material (a poster and a 90-second commercial) and extensive design sketches to pitch the use of my receipts to the Fall '24 DESIGN11 cohort.

Mabel (2021-23)
⚡ Disrupted the previous status quo of obtuse and dated torrenting tools through the creation of a beautiful app, using Charm's terminal libraries. Received more than 400 GitHub stars to date.
⚡ Wrote clear documentation for configuration and customization of the application on macOS and Linux.

Blind Date A Book (2025)
⚡ Adapted an offline tradition to a digital context through the creation of an e-shop where books are sold purely based on quippy one-line descriptions.
⚡ Integrated with Shopify for e-commerce functionality.

ABOUT

I am an Israeli-American designer and programmer building secure, clean, and effective systems as an undergraduate student at Stanford University. I use modern tools to build solutions that avoid bloat and unnecessary complexity. I enjoy real and interesting problems in challenging areas that matter.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Stanford University
Class of: 2027
GPA: 3.82
Major: Design
    Track: Physical + Manufacturing
    Advisor: David Kelley
Minor: Political Science (International Relations)

LANGUAGES

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

Computer
Fluent: *Golang, Swift*
Proficient: *Python, HTML/CSS/JS, Blender*

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?