Biography Joel Hernández

Founder of Openbook.

Nationality: Spanish / Mexican

Joel Levi Hernández Fernández (born 27th of January, 1996) is the creator of Openbook, an upcoming social network based in The Netherlands.

Background

Joel Levi Hernandez Fernandez was born in Guadalajara, México, as one of 11 children of Hector Hernandez, a former ballet dancer and political activist and Laura Fernandez, an industrial engineer and former ballet dancer.

Home schooled by his parents, discovered his passion for technology at an early age.

Encouraged by his parents to be autodidactic, he started reading software engineering and computers architecture books at the age of 10 (2006) and by the age of 11 (2007) he inaugurated his first private game server of the then popular online game Mu Online. This would later grow to be a network of game servers peaking at 2000 online players.

In the following years he goes from building online game servers to establishing multiple companies ranging from software development to eco-friendly clothing brands.

At the age of 18 (2014), he emigrates to the Netherlands to study Computer Science at the VU University Amsterdam. At the same time he starts working for Dutch company *Qelp* as a software engineer.

At the age of 19 (2015), he becomes a software architect at *Qelp.*

At the age of 20 (2016), joins KPN as a software engineer, where excelling in his role, he's promoted to lead software engineer and awarded the outstanding performance achievement.

At the age of 21 (2017), joins KPN's Chief Information Security Office, as a security software engineer and researcher, where once again excelling in his role, he's awarded the outstanding performance achievement. In the same year (2017) he's named one of the 500 most ambitious, talented people in the Dutch digital scene by The Next Web. Currently he continues to work for KPN part time.

At the age of 22 (2018), "frustrated" with the evolution of social networks in regard to privacy and security, he decides to take on the challenge to re-think and evolve social networks in a positive direction. He starts Openbook, an open source social network with a revenue model based on user transactions in contrary to advertisement. The social network also claims to have zero tracking, zero spying, tough data protection policies and being easy to migrate from existing networks.

In 2018, he was once again named one of the 500 most ambitious, talented people in the Dutch digital scene by The Next Web.

Hobbies

In his free time, Joel speaks at tech meetups on subjects such as the evolution of web technologies, software engineering principles and the concerns of artificial intelligence. He also practices photography and contributes to open source software where he works under the alias @lifenautjoe.

Links

Website: https://www.lifenautjoe.com
Github Profile: https://github.com/lifenautjoe
Twitter profile: https://twitter.com/lifenautjoe
LinkedIn profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/lifenautjoe