

# From Rabbi To Coder Preparing For The Technical Interview

Ben Greenberg (@rabbigreenberg)



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# Where It All Began



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*San Diego Ca*



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## SD 2600 People

[skalore](#) - Founder of San Diego 2600, UNIX administration, coding

[h1kari](#) - Co-founder of San Diego 2600, Chairman of ToorCon

[Pixel8](#) - Graphics / Founder of PixelTwisters.

[KiWe](#) - WarDriving wheelman and group cheerleader

[nfiltr8](#) - Dachb0den Labs Engineer

[ComLogik](#) - Corporate Diagnostics, Telephony & Network Auditing

[Fortezza](#) - Phreaking and Trashing

[Main Page] [Photos] [Disclaimer] [Directions]

### **What is 2600?**

2600 is a hacker quarterly magazine founded and edited by Eric Corley aka Emmanuel Goldstein. It has been around since the early 80s, and has worked for the hacker ideal of ethical hacking. Click here to see their official [website](#).

### **What is San Diego 2600?**

San Diego 2600 is an auxillary of 2600 Magazine. We are an outlet of 2600 in the Greater San Diego area. Our meeting like all 2600 Meetings is the first Friday of every month at 5pm. The SD2600 meeting is located at an excellent pizzeria called [Leucadias](#) (out on the patio) or at the mexican restaurant across the street if the patio is filled. Leucadias and the mexican restaurant is located on Regents Road in the Vons Shopping Center. The meetings serve as a place to hang out, meet the people you talk with online, discuss the latest technological advancements or hacker issues, and trade ideas.

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### **San Diego's own ToorCon was a success!**

September 30 2001

ToorCon 2001 went off without a hitch. Make sure to visit the [ToorCon](#) site soon for updates and photos.

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### **Added Security News Network from @Stake**

June 27 2001

Using html porvided by @Stake we now have regularly updated news links from SNN1 - The Voice of Reason

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### **The San Diego 2600 WebSite gets a facelift!**

June 5 2001

Pixel8, updated the site from his old design.

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### **The Union Tribune Investigates San Diego 2600**

August 31 1999

Consider the locksmith.

He's an expert in security -- how to bolster it, how to thwart it. In his knowledge of locks....[more](#)

## Essential WebLinks

### **News Sites**

- [@Stake](#)
- [Attrition](#)
- [The Intelligence Network](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [San Diego Union Tribune](#)
- [Nightfall Security Group](#)
- [Slashdot](#)

### **Technology Sites**

- [Freedom Software - Protect Your Privacy Now!](#)
- [FreeBSD](#)
- [Slackware](#)
- [San Diego Supercomputer Center](#)
- [Freshmeat](#)

### **"Hacker"/"Hacking" Sites**

- [Nightfall Security Group](#)
- [2600 - The Hacker Quarterly](#)
- [Las Angeles 2600](#)

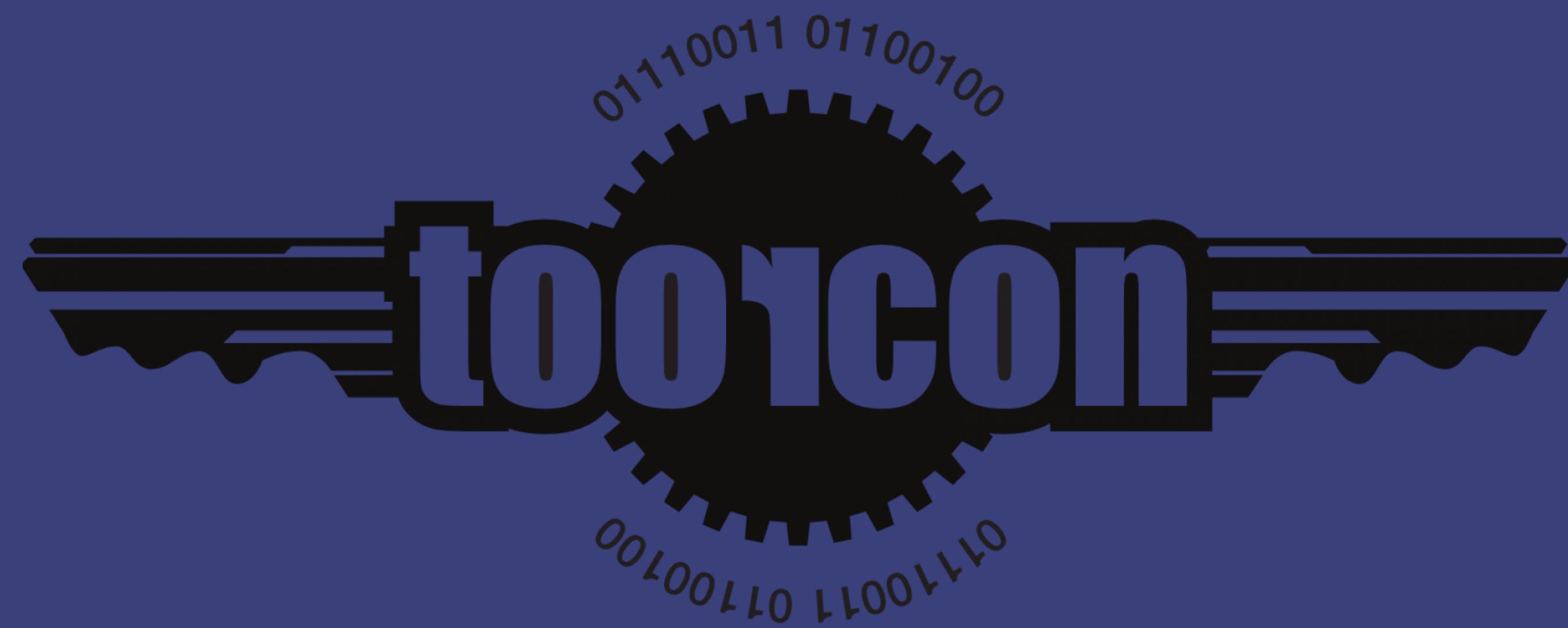
### **Conventions**

- [ToorCon Computer Security Expo](#)
- [Defcon](#)
- [Hope2000](#)
- [USENIX](#)
- [COMDEX](#)

[Mail us your ad!](#)



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*From:* skalore () SD2600 NET (Ben)  
*Date:* Tue, 13 Jul 1999 15:42:36 -0700

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ToorCon - San Diego, California's ONLY Comprehensive Computer Security Conference

WHEN

September 3rd-4th, 1999  
Each day starts at 10am and ends at 6pm

WHERE

The Price Center in the University of California, San Diego:  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093

WHO

ToorCon is sponsored by the San Diego 2600 Meeting ([sd2600.net](http://sd2600.net)) and Nightfall Security Group ([nfsg.org](http://www.nfsg.org)).

WHY

The purpose of ToorCon is to bring a comprehensive, interactive and enjoyable conference to the western United States that will help make the public aware of the importance of computer security and how to make their networks more secure. We will try to cover more general issues such as hackers and crackers and how the media uses it's role in the computer world but we are going to focus toward specific issues of computer security such as IDS, firewalling, buffer overflows, etc.

PRICE

ToorCon is \$35 at the door for both days. If you live in the San Diego area, or wish to pay in advance for large companies please contact me at [skalore \(\) sd2600 net](mailto:skalore@sd2600.net) and we can arrange to pay in advance for \$25 per person.

REFERENCES

ToorCon Website is <http://toor.sd2600.net>  
San Diego 2600 Meeting Website is <http://www.sd2600.net>  
Nightfall Security Group is <http://www.nfsg.org>



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*and then...*



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S A N D I E G O

# Reader

NEWS & POLITICS | STORIES | EVENTS | MUSIC | MOVIES | FOOD | BEER | NEIGHBORHOOD

SUBMISSIONS | JOBS | RENTALS | PLACES | PHOTOS | CONTESTS | ARCHIVES | LOGOUT



COVER STORIES

## H is for Hacker

Computer outlaws at downtown San Diego's Bristol Hotel

By Jeanne Schinto, June 19, 2003

0  
0

*"... my mind wandered off to Ben Greenberg.*



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***Had he really gone to rabbinical school...?***



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*Maybe he  
hadn't.*



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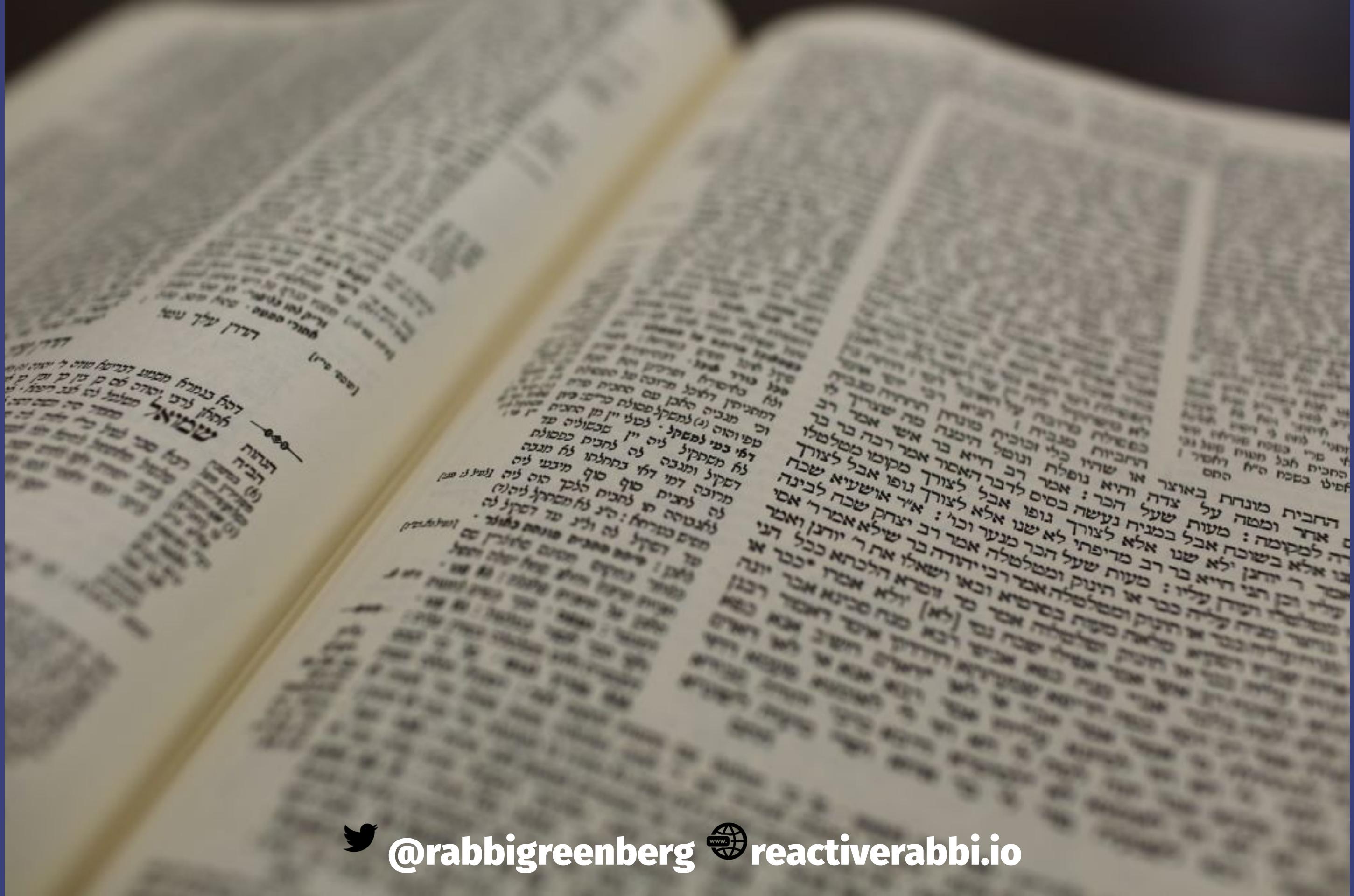


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# What I Was Actually Doing



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# Fast Forward 10 Years...



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# FLATIRON SCHOOL



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# Graphic Designers



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# Musicians



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# Artists



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# teachers



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# Lawyers



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# Salespeople



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and yes...



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# Rabbis



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# We Transitioned To Coding Because...



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# Ability to Create



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# Jobs



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# Excitement of Learning



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# Jobs



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# Ability to Make an Impact



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# Jobs



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# Remote Work Culture



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# Jobs



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# Did I mention...



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# Jobs?



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**First Comes  
The Learning**



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# Then Comes The Resume



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Then Comes  
The...



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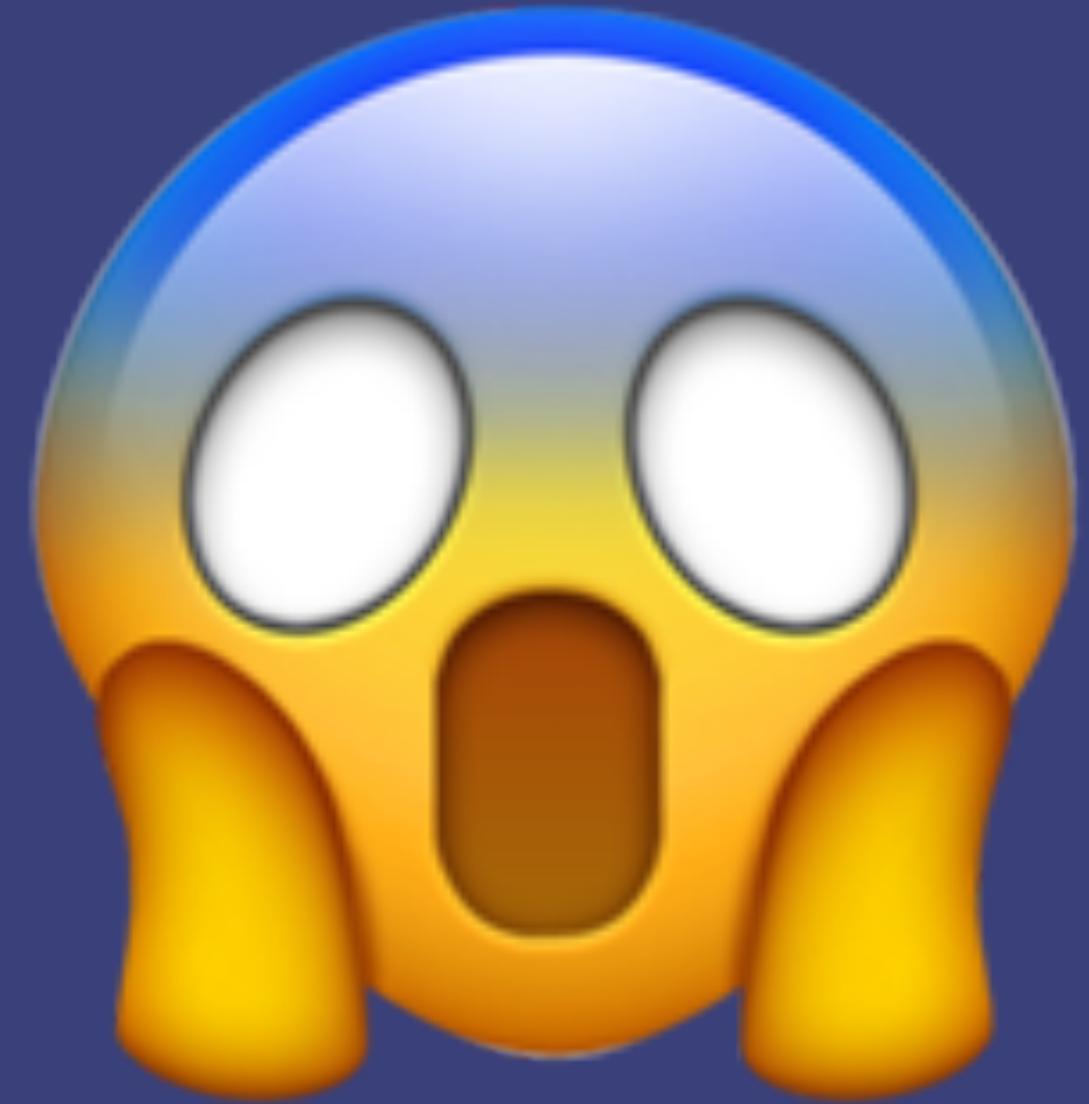


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# How Do We Turn This



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# To This

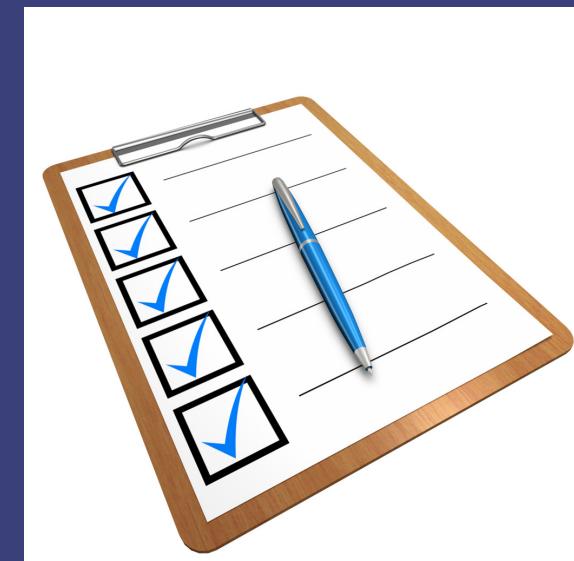


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# What We're Going To Do:



1. Some Principles
2. Apply Them To An Example



# Principle #1: Know Your Strengths



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# Which One Makes More Sense To You?



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$$\begin{aligned}\overline{A \cup B} &= \overline{A} \cap \overline{B}, \\ \overline{A \cap B} &= \overline{A} \cup \overline{B}\end{aligned}$$



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or



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***the negation of a disjunction is the conjunction of the negations;***

*and*

***the negation of a conjunction is the disjunction of the negations;***

*(source: Wikipedia on De Morgan's Laws)*



**(It's okay, if neither made sense)** 😮



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# **Technically Minded People: Limit # of Words**



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**Liberal Arts People:**

**How can I make one word into a sentence?**

**How can I make one sentence into a paragraph?**

**How can I make one paragraph into an essay?**

**How can I make one essay into a dissertation?**



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**Principle #2:**

# **Every Building Starts With The First Brick**



# big ideas

**ideas can be broken down to a collection of smaller ideas**  
**Smaller ideas can be broken down to even smaller collection of ideas**  
**and those ideas can be broken down to an even smaller collection of ideas...**



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**Principle #3:**

# **Interviewing Is Iterative**



*The wisest of people said, “A righteous person falls seven times, but rises again.”  
...the knowledgeable are aware that the essence of the righteous person's rising again is because of their seven falls*

— Rabbi Yitzhak Hutner

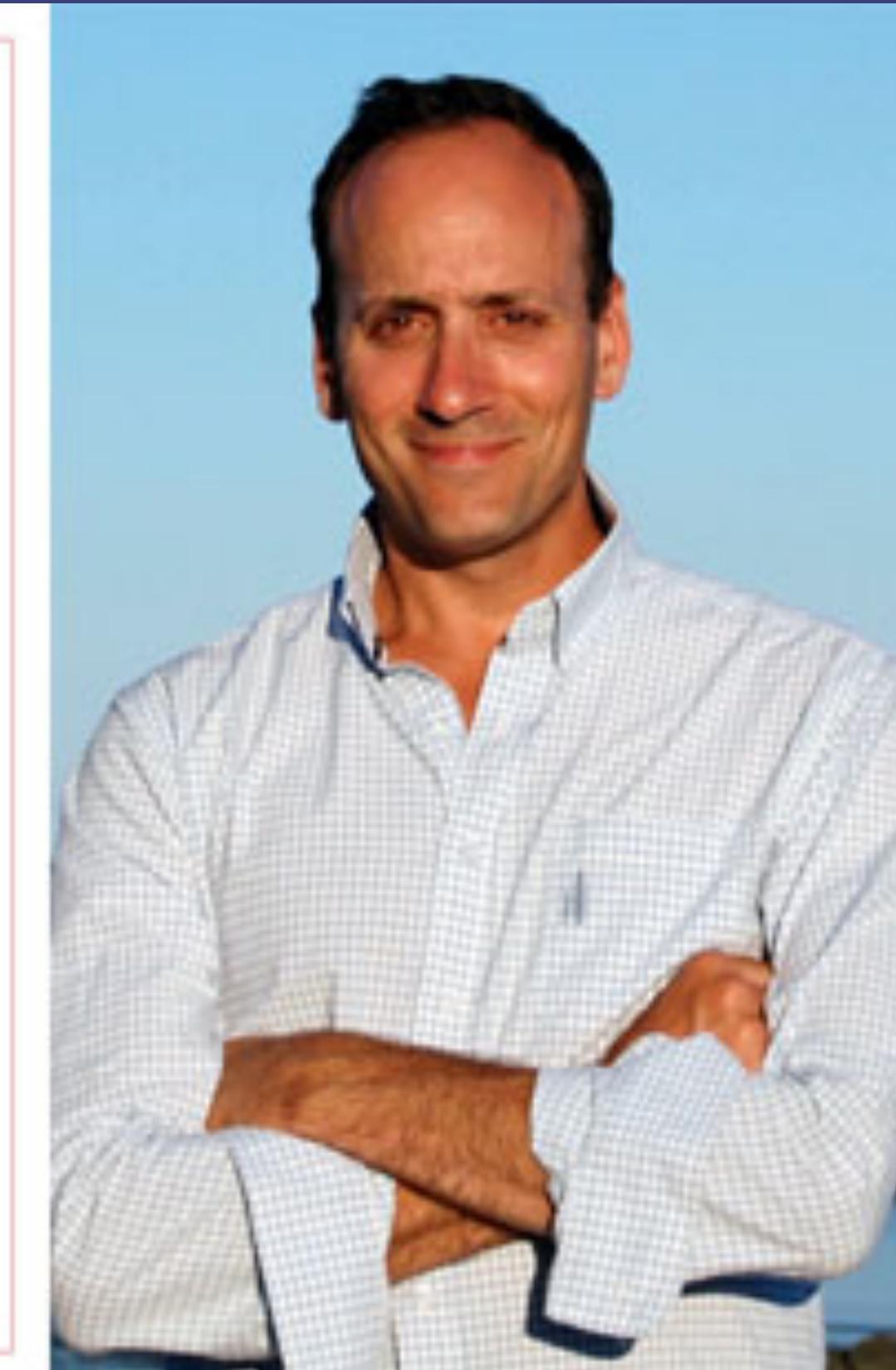


# WIN —AT— LOSING



How Our Biggest  
Setbacks Can Lead to  
Our Greatest Gains

SAM WEINMAN



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An Example:

# Binary Search



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# Applying Principle #1: Know Your Strengths



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# Binary Search

"one or the other" search

a method of searching in one or other place.

What is this similar to?



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# Applying Principle #2: One Brick At A Time



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# Simple English:

- 1 An ordered list
- 2 This list is split into two
- 3 I have a desired value

**In which section is my desired value closer to?**

- 4 Look through that section



# Is there?



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# Yes?



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# No?



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**At least we can eliminate a range of values  
that we know it's not in**

**Let's Make Two New Sections...**



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until...



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# We Found It!



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# Applying Principle #3: Interviewing Is Iterative



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# Binary Search

Take One:



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# Binary Search

Take One:

```
function binarySearch(items, value) {  
    }  
}
```



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# Binary Search

## Take One:

```
function binarySearch(items, value) {  
    let first = 0,  
        last = items.length - 1,  
        middle = Math.floor((last + first)/2);  
    }  
}
```



# Binary Search

## Take One:

```
function binarySearch(items, value) {  
    let first = 0,  
        last = items.length - 1,  
        middle = Math.floor((last + first)/2);  
  
    while(items[middle] != value && first < last) {  
        if (value < items[middle]) {  
            last = middle - 1;  
        }  
        else if (value > items[middle]) {  
            first = middle + 1;  
        }  
        middle = Math.floor((last + first)/2);  
    }  
    return (items[middle] != value) ? -1 : middle;  
}
```



# Can We Make That Better?



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**Yes We Can!**



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# Binary Search

## Take Two:

```
const binarySearch = (items, value) => {
  let first = 0, last = items.length - 1, middle = ((last + first)/2) | 0;

  if (value < items[first] || value > items[last]) return -1

  while(items[middle] != value && first < last) {
    value < items[middle] ? last = middle - 1 : first = middle + 1
    middle = ((last + first)/2) | 0;
  }
  return (items[middle] != value) ? -1 : middle;
}
```



# Can We Make That Better?



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**Yes We Can!**  
**but we'll stop here for the sake of time,**  
**but we could keep on going because...**



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# Interviewing



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# Coding



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# Learning



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# Growing



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Living



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is  
iterative

(Principle #3: 



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# To Recap



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# Three Principles



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1

Know What Your   Is



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2

Take The  Apart One  At a Time



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3



Rinse → Wash → Repeat



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לא עלייך המלאכה לגמר, ולא  
אתה בך חורינו לבטל ממנה

*It is not your  
responsibility to  
finish the work, but  
neither are you free  
to desist from it.*

-- *Ethics of the Sages 2:16*  
200 BCE - 200 CE



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# THANK YOU!

Please be in touch:

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