

Running My Blog in 2025: Behind the Scenes

A manifesto for a quieter web

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Abstract

This is the story of why I stopped scrolling and started building. It is a look at the philosophy of "learning out loud" and how modern AI tools like Google Antigravity and Perplexity helped me construct a privacy-first, open-source haven for ideas in an increasingly noisy digital world.

<https://alessandrosblog.it.eu.org>

The Signal and the Noise

For years, my "learning out loud" was scattered across social timelines—ephemeral bursts of insight sandwiched between ads and algorithmic distractions. By late 2024, I realized that while I was sharing, I wasn't *building*. I was renting space on platforms that incentivized engagement over depth.

I wanted a home. A digital garden where ideas could mature, where mathematics and code could live side-by-side, and where "privacy" wasn't just a toggle in a settings menu, but the default state of existence.

This blog is that home. It is a return to the "small web"—static, fast, and owned entirely by me (and now, by you).

Building in the Age of AI Agents

Building a blog from scratch in 2025 is a paradox. On one hand, we have tools of immense complexity; on the other, I wanted a result of extreme simplicity. I didn't want a heavy framework. I wanted pure HTML, CSS, and a JSON file.

To achieve this, I leaned heavily on the AI tools that have defined this year:

Perplexity: The Architect

Before a single line of code was written, I used **Perplexity** to challenge my assumptions. I didn't just ask *"how to build a blog"*; I asked it to critique the modern web. We debated the necessity of cookies (conclusion: unnecessary), the weight of JavaScript frameworks (conclusion: often bloated), and the best structure for a flat-file database.

Perplexity helped me design the `posts.json` schema that powers this site. It acted as a research partner, filtering through the noise of "best practices" to find the timeless ones: semantic HTML and accessible design.

Google Antigravity: The Builder

When it came time to write the infrastructure, I turned to **Google Antigravity**. The agentic capabilities of the platform were instrumental in writing the tooling that keeps this blog sane.

I delegated the creation of `blogq`—my custom Python validator—to an Anti-gravity agent. I described the rules: *"No slugs with capital letters, no tracking pixels, force secure links, and validate the JSON schema strictly."* The agent wrote the rigorous test suite that now runs before every commit. It allowed me to focus

on the *content* of the proofs and posts, knowing the *structure* was being guarded by an automated engineer we built together.

The Philosophy: Learning Out Loud

The core mission of this space is to demystify complexity. Whether it's a formal proof in Isabelle/HOL or a breakdown of the latest sustainability algorithms in AI, the goal is to show the work.

- **Privacy First:** You will find no cookie banners here because there are no cookies. I do not track you. The only metric that matters is whether you found something useful.
- **Performance as Respect:** The site loads instantly because your time is valuable. There are no build steps between me writing and you reading, just a raw sync of text.
- **Open Source by Default:** This entire project is open source. The engine that runs this blog is available for you to inspect, critique, and steal.

A Hope for the Future

My hope is that this blog serves as more than just a repository of my thoughts. I want it to be a template for yours.

We are moving toward a web where personal publishing is reclaimed from walled gardens. By making this project open source, I invite you to clone it. Use the `blogq` tool to validate your own ideas. Improve the `build-pdfs.mjs` script to generate better documents.

If you find a typo in a proof, fix it. If you have a better way to explain a concept, submit a draft. This is a living document of my learning journey, but it is hosted on an open platform so that it might become part of yours.

Welcome to the behind-the-scenes.

— *Alessandro*