



# 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*