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Blog Logistics

A Preliminary Structure

I don't know what to write about, but I have to start writing now if I have any hope of completing two pages and being able to eat breakfast in time to start work at 8. When I wrote questions, I was thinking about a blog—should I make one, what should I put on it, how often should I publish, that kind of thing. I also spent way too much time thinking about names and domains. So as to avoid the latter deliberation, my blog will be "Brennan's Blog," hosted at blog.brennancolberg.com. It will build off the frontend that I built for dldt, converted to Next.js, and use a Firestore backend for comments, subscriptions, and blog posts. Ta-da! Progress already.

So that leaves two major decisions to make: what do I write about, and when (do I draft / do I publish)?

Topically, it only makes sense to write about what I'm thinking about. Well, that's not entirely accurate: if I choose to write about a certain topic, I'm more likely to think about it, right? But then there would be a segregation of thought between blog & personal... sounds messy. I'll stick with whatever random stuff I think deeply about by default.

> Sidenote: I immediately started second-guessing my DOMAIN decision (blog.brennancolberg.com or brennancolberg.com/blog?). Final answer: subdomains. If linking parts of the site, I'll put the navigation bar in a git submodule shared between any websites.

My thoughts will tend towards certain categories, for sure. That's okay—I can make a category/tag system, eventually (no sooner than having published 10 posts). Colors per post might also be a good means of distinguishing topics!

> More *FUTURE* features: comments, suggestions. Analytics soon!

Okay, now the fun part: style & publishing schedule. Already, I write two pages in a composition book "journal" every day. I also write two more pages of questions, one per line (~60/day). The latter serve mainly to get my brain working in the morning; some ideas may come from them, but largely I generate journal topics when I sit down to write (routine > inspiration!). So, I'll continue that for sure as a first-draft generator.

There are two axes that I have to consider: how often I publish, and how much editing each post receives between its drafting and publishing. Quantity, and quality. And time, of course; increasing either means I spend more time on this!

My intuition says to do minimal editing, but get a lot of feedback. Type up a rough draft like this one, for instance, and show it to a select few people to see what they think—then make changes and decide to publish accordingly. To keep my posts as short as possible, and to explore a limited number of thoughts in each, would be desirable: people's attention spans are short, my time is limited, and if an idea can't be communicated concisely I'm not ready to share it.

I don't know about length, though... Tim Urban's blog is among the best, and some of his posts are book-length! Paul Graham's is also amazing, and length ranges from short to aa few thousand words. I'll aim shorter, still, but be willing to dive in very deep when I need to; after all, not having tried this yet, I don't know what I'll find more enjoyable!

Schedule? At least monthly. One feedback-ready draft per week.

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