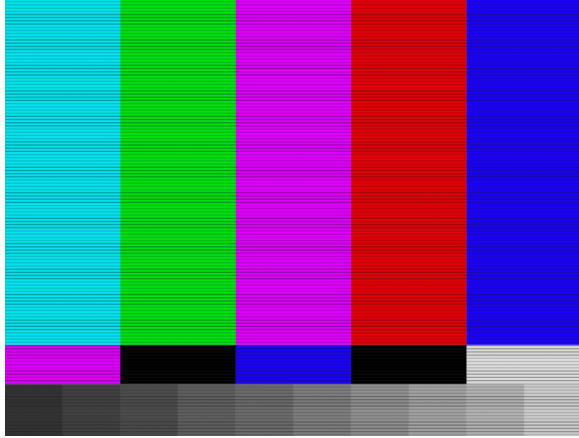




This is my fifth annual Year in Review—[2016](#), [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#). Writing this reflection feels different, largely because 2020 was a very different type of year. Different due to macro events (e.g., global pandemic), yes, but also personal reasons.

I'm very very lucky. I'm healthy. My friends and family are healthy. And I'm in a position where I get a lot of help from others. "While life is largely a single player game, I know that I am standing on the shoulders of giants." Thank you for all the support!

If [last year's theme](#) was to "begin to focus," 2020's theme—reinforced by external conditions—was to double down in that direction. 2020 was simple, hard, and rewarding.

2020

- I lost 26 pounds. I've never been particularly overweight, but I've long wanted to take control of my health. Peer pressured by my cross-country-centric roommates, I began running and ran like 500 miles. I'm not particularly good but I'm significantly better than before and that counts for something.
- I made random memories. I spent time in NY, SF, SD, PHX, and LA. I read the Harry Potter series. I watched Goodfellas. I ate lots of cauliflower rice until I realized it was terrible. I rode a hot air balloon. I got shoulder surgery. Fast 9 was postponed :(I had lots of facetimes. I drank wine/IPAs (I'm now 23?!!). I went to random beaches and rode in dune buggies. I got really tan but then spent too much time indoors. I quit Twitter. I tried to improve my writing ability and also studied many weird parts of history.
- I worked on [Compound](#). We 5x'd the team this year and saved customers tens of millions of dollars. Feeling optimistic: we've built an exceptional team, a group of people who believe they have control over the outcomes in their lives (as opposed to external forces beyond their control). The world is abundant with scary unconditional probabilities about how only a small percentage of people ever build a successful startup. These odds suggest Compound will fail. People who work at Compound believe in the conditional probability—the idea that we will beat the odds. And we are! We're hiring for every position, email me: jordangonen1@gmail.com.

2020 // [Jordan Gonen](#)

I'm excited for 2021. Bring on the roaring 20s. Onwards.

Thanks for reading. I hope you're well. I wish you the best in 2021.

Please do reach out if I can be at all helpful. **Find me on [Twitter](#) or [here](#).**