

Ben Foss

Director of Access Technology
Intel Digital Health Group



Ben Foss is Director of Access Technology at the Intel Digital Health Group where he leads a team of industrial designers, mechanical engineers and software architects to develop mobile computing systems for people with disabilities. His group focuses on improving communication and access to information for all, including those who are dyslexic like him.

The idea for the Intel Reader, a mobile device designed to increase independence for people who have trouble reading standard print, first started with Ben. After being identified with dyslexia in elementary school, Ben had to rely on others to read to him or struggle through the slow process of getting words off a page throughout high school, college, and graduate school. Necessity is motivating, Ben says, “but frustration is the real mother of invention.” His innovative ideas and technological know-how led to the creation and launch of the Intel Reader, Intel Digital Health’s first consumer product.

Ben’s efforts in the dyslexia space have extended beyond industry as well: in 2003, he founded *Headstrong*, a California public benefit non-profit corporation, with the mission of forming a dyslexic community and encouraging learning disabled people to join the disability rights movement. The non-profit’s first film, *Headstrong: Inside the Hidden World of Dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder*, was recently broadcast across the U.S. on public television stations.

Previously, Ben served in the White House National Economic Council during the Clinton administration. Ben holds a B.A. from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, an M.S. in Moral Philosophy from the University of Edinburgh where he was a Marshal Scholar, and a J.D./M.B.A. from Stanford University. He is married to Dr. Alexis Filippini and lives in San Francisco, California.