Documentation

help.gitbook.io

Documentation

This book contains the entire documentation for **GitBook** and **GitBook.io**. You an contribute to it on GitHub.
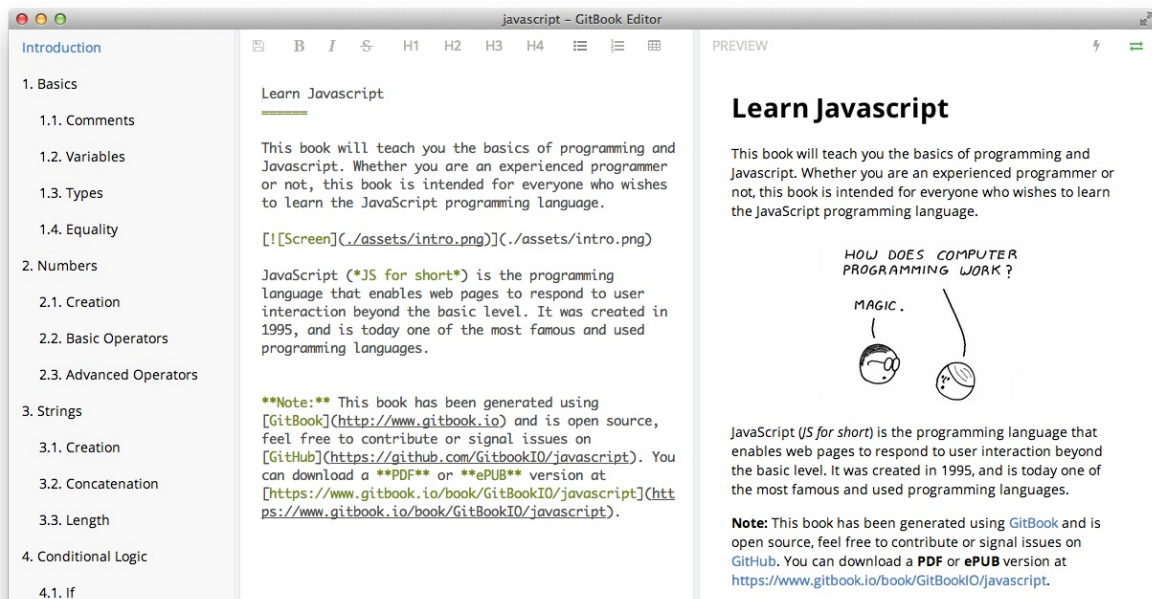
GitBook is a tool for building beautiful books using Git and Markdown. It can generate your book into multiple formats:

- **Static Website**: This is the default format, it generates a complete interactive static website.
- **PDF**: A complete PDF book with exercise solutions at the end of the book.
- **eBook**: A complete eBook with exercise solutions at the end of the book.

GitBook is open source and completely free, the source code of the tool is available on GitHub.

Desktop Editor

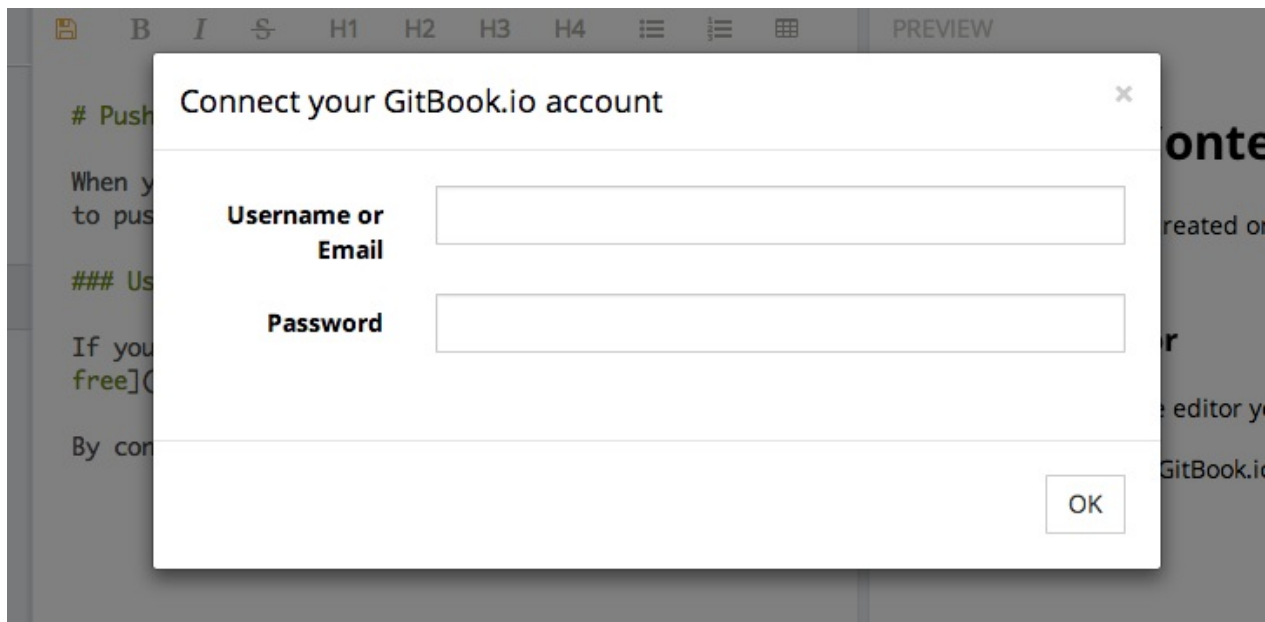An editor is available for desktop. It is open source and the source code is available on GitHub.

Download

The editor is available to download for these platforms:

- Windows
- Mac OS
- Linux 32bits
- Linux 64bits

Connect your GitBook.io account

You can connect easily your GitBook.io account by entering your username and password in the auth dialog:

Format

GitBook uses a convention on top of markdown files.

A book is a Git repository containing at least 2 files: README.md and SUMMARY.md.

README.md

Typically, this should be the introduction for your book. It will be automatically added to the final summary.

SUMMARY.md

The SUMMARY.md defines your book's structure. It should contain a list of chapters, linking to their respective pages.

Example:

```
# Summary

This is the summary of my book.

* [section 1](section1/README.md)
    * [example 1](section1/example1.md)
    * [example 2](section1/example2.md)
* [section 2](section2/README.md)
    * [example 1](section2/example1.md)
```

Files that are not included in SUMMARY.md will not be processed by gitbook.

Multi-Languages

GitBook supports building books written in multiple languages. Each language should be a sub-directory following the normal GitBook format, and a file named `LANGS.md` should be present at the root of the repository with the following format:

```
* [English](en/)
* [French](fr/)
* [Español](es/)
```

You can see a complete example with the Learn Git book.

Ignoring files & folders

GitBook will read the `.gitignore` , `.bookignore` and `.ignore` files to get a list of files and folders to skip. (The format inside those files, follows the same convention as `.gitignore`)
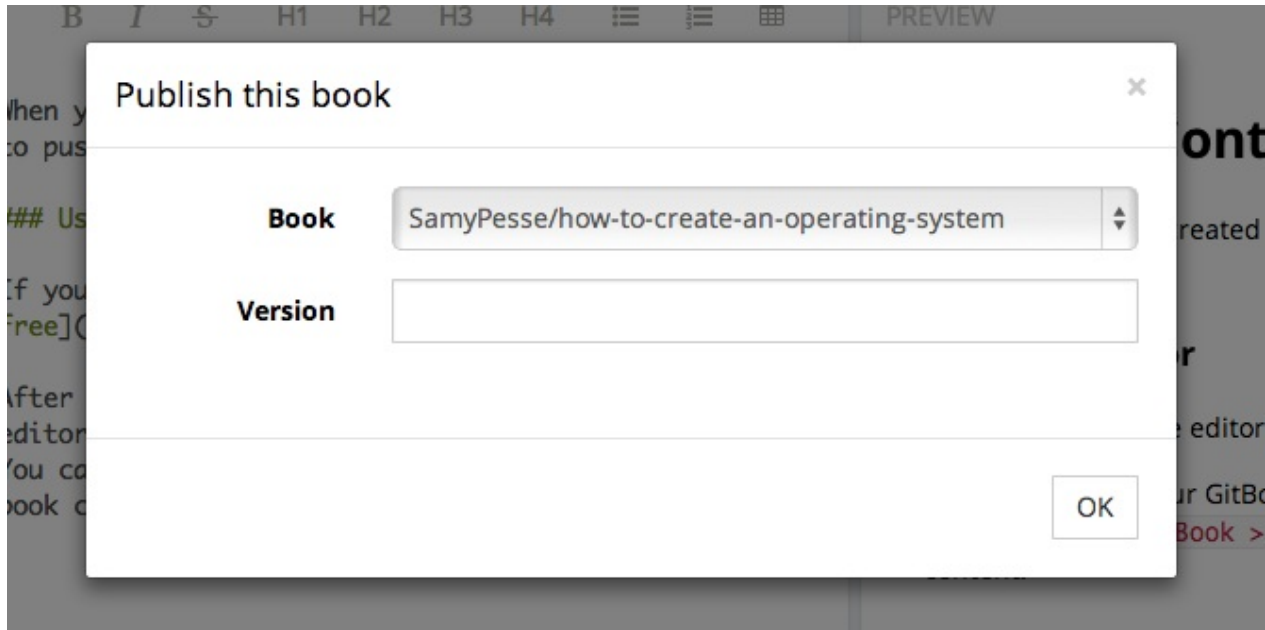
Pushing Content

When your book is created on **gitbook.io**, you need to push some content to it.

Using the Editor

If you don't have the editor yet, install it for free.

After connecting your GitBook.io Account to the editor. You can use the menu `Book > Publish` to update your book content.

Using git

You can use Git to push update of your book.

```
$ git push https://push.gitbook.io/{{UserName}}/{{Book}}.git
```

It will prompt for your username (username or email) and your password (password or api token).

What next?

Once you pushed content to GitBook.io, you need to check the state of your build.

Read more

Build

After you pushed content using **git** or the **editor**, GitBook.io will start different builds:

- **website**: it will generate the website
- **json**: il will extract metadata about the book (summary, introduction, ...)
- **epub**: it will generate the epub download
- **pdf**: it will generate the pdf download

List builds

The **Activity** tab on your book let you follow the evolution of your builds.

DETAILS   REVIEWS   ACTIVITY   SETTINGS

Current version: 092120d890   5 hours ago

Version	Type	Started	Finished	Author	
✔ 092120d890	json	5 hours ago	5 hours ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 092120d890	epub	5 hours ago	5 hours ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 092120d890	pdf	5 hours ago	5 hours ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 092120d890	website	5 hours ago	5 hours ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 1.0.0	epub	2 days ago	2 days ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 1.0.0	pdf	2 days ago	2 days ago	Samy Pessé	logs
✔ 1.0.0	website	2 days ago	2 days ago	Samy Pessé	logs

Details for a build

When clicking the link "logs" for a build, you can access a details page for it. This page will let you see the output of the build process.

← Build **092120d890** (json)   ✔ **passed**

Started 5 hours ago and finished 5 hours ago   By Samy Pessé

Output

```
Building JSON, will upload
Starting build ...
Successfuly built !
JSON built, uploading now
```

Fixing errors

If your build failed, you can use the logs to debug the issue and publish a fixed content.

Read more about common build errors

Common Errors

Here is a list of common buidl errors and there associated fixed.

> Error loading plugins: plugin1, ...

This error is happening because Gitbook can't resolve a plugin (or the plugin is invalid). External plugins need to be specified in the `dependencies` field of a node.js `package.json` file. Learn more about the package.json format.

For example, if your book depend on the **Autocover** plugin, you need a `package.json` file with the following content:

```
{
    "name": "mybook",
    "version": "0.0.0",
    "description": "",
    "repository": {
        "type": "git",
        "url": "https://github.com/Me/mybook.git"
    },
    "author": "Me <me@gmail.com>",
    "dependencies": {
        "gitbook-plugin-autocover": "0.0.5"
    }
}
```

Cover

To make your book more elegant on GitBook.io, you can specify a cover.

A cover is specified by a **cover.jpg** file, a **cover_small.jpg** can also exists as a smaller version of the cover. The cover should be a **JPEG** file.

Best Sizes

	Big	**Small**
File	`cover.jpg`	`cover_small.jpg`
Size	1800x2360	200x262

Autocover

A GitBook plugin (`autocover`) can also be used to generate a cover file for you, or just generate the `cover_small.jpg` from your big cover.

[Read more about autocover](#).

Custom Domains

All books on **Gitbook.io** are accessible via the url **http://{{author}}.gitbooks.io/{book}/**.

But you can configure your book to use a custom domain name (a free feature on GitBook.io).

The process to add a custom domain to you book is easy.

1. Add your domain name in your book settings.

In order to use your own domain, you will need to make changes with your domain registrar:

1. Log in to your domain registrar and find the section that allows you to add/edit host records, often found in a settings menu called 'Edit DNS', 'Host Records' or 'Zone File Control'.

2. Set the www record to a CNAME and set the URL field to: `www.gitbook.io` .

3. To redirect the naked domain (`yourdomain.com`) to `www.yourdomain.com` , find the option to forward your domain. This can usually be found under 'Forwarding', 'URL Forwarding' or 'URL Redirect'.

It may take a few hours for domain changes to propagate. To check if it's ready or to setup your custom domain with GitBook, enter your domain name (including the www) below:

Visibility

Public/Private

Your book can be **public** or **private**. Public books are visibile by everybody but only collaborators can update it. Private books are visible only by the collaborators.

You can switch your book from public to private and the inverse.

Paid books

Paid books can only be **public**.

Home/Explore pages

Home and Explore pages only list books that are already successfully builded. It is advised to set a cover picture.

Exercices and Quiz

Exercises

A book can contain interactive exercises (currently only in Javascript). An exercise is a code challenge provided to the reader, which is given a code editor to write a solution which is checked against the book author's validation code.

An exercise is defined by 4 simple parts:

- Exercise **Message**/Goals (in markdown/text)
- **Initial** code to show to the user, providing a starting point
- **Solution** code, being a correct solution to the exercise
- **Validation** code that tests the correctness of the user's input

Exercises need to start and finish with a separation bar (`---` or `***`). It should contain 3 code elements (**base**, **solution** and **validation**). It can contain a 4th element that provides **context** code (functions, imports of libraries etc ... that shouldn't be displayed to the user).

```
---

Define a variable `x` equal to 10.

```js
var x =
```

```js
var x = 10;
```

```js
assert(x == 10);
```

```js
// This is context code available everywhere
// The user will be able to call magicFunc in his code
function magicFunc() {
    return 3;
}
```

```

Quizzes

A book can also contain interactive quizzes.

A Quiz is defined in the same way as an exercise.

```
---

Here is the introduction for the quiz

This is Question 1:
- [x] This is the proposition 1 (the correct one)
- [ ] This is the proposition 2

> This is a help message when the answer to question 1 is wrong

This is Question 2:
- [ ] This is the proposition 1
- [x] This is the proposition 2 (correct)
- [x] This is the proposition 3 (correct)

> This is a help message when the answer to question 2 is wrong

---
```

Google Authorship

Use Authorship to return enhanced search results for your books.

To link GitBook to Google Authorship you must first log in or create a Google Plus profile.

1. Connect your Google account on settings.
2. Go to the About page of your G+ profile.
3. Find the section called "Links" at the bottom.
4. In the section called "Links" there are 3 options. "Other profiles," "Contributor to," and "Links."
5. Click "Add custom link" in the "Contributor to" section & name it "GitBook" in the "label" field
6. Add the URL of your Gitbook profile to the URL field (https://www.gitbook.io/@twitter_username)
7. Click save and head back to your G+ profile

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