

Documentation Workshop!

"A beginner's guide to good practices, do's and don't's, and also the why of it all!"

WHY?

“What a question.” -Socrates

You made a thing!

Awesome! Look at you creating and producing!

Describe it!

What did you do? How did you do it? Why did you do it? Who did it? When was it done?

It works!

For now...

...it stopped working

Did you document it while it worked?

Make it work again!!

...but how??? Documentation!!!

Documentation doesn't just show **what** your project is but also **how** it came to be and **why** you did it. Your process is as important as the finished project!

Documentation has other uses...

Really? No way!



PORTFOLIO

That's right! People beyond the scope of NYU Shanghai may want to see your work in the future. Build your portfolio!

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Figured out a workaround to a problem? Is there a specific technique that you had to learn for your project? Maybe you did something cool and new? Or maybe it's just a really great project.

The Process

There are many ways to document your work, but there are always consistent practices that are utilized. Here are a few:

What . . .

...do you document?

What to write???

- Explain why you are doing this project.
- What do you hope to accomplish?
- What materials do/did you need?
- What are some other projects/resources that inspire you?
- Schedule/Order of operations
- What did you learn?
- What worked and what didn't work?
- What challenges did you face and how did you work around them?

(someone might face the same challenge as you in the future, and you can help them out!)

What to write??? (continued)

- Nothing is failure, document everything.
- Include the names of everyone involved.
- Screenshots and video are nice.
- Text description of goals
- Process and Results
- Share your code, with comments included!
- Credits to any resources you used
 - (Programming libraries, art, sounds, images that you may have used for your project)

How to respond to readings

- Write about your personal perspective on the subject matter
- Don't plagiarize! We can find out if you did
- Quality over quantity
- Proofread your grammar and punctuation
- Avoid writing in the style of "I liked/disliked this because..."



A stylized, flat-design illustration of a city skyline at night. The buildings are in various shades of blue and purple, with some windows glowing with yellow light. A small yellow crescent moon is visible in the sky. The background is a deep purple with scattered white and yellow dots, resembling a starry night sky. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

How . . .

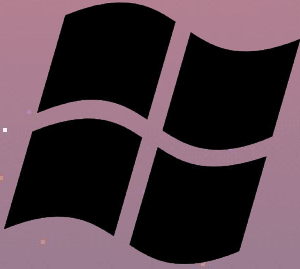
...do you document?

Use your computer!

Makes sense, right?



Using your computer...



If you have a Windows computer:

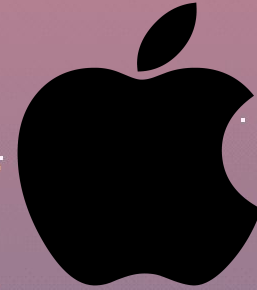
- Screen Capture:

- Use snipping tool! Or, use PrintScrn:

<http://bit.ly/2lpfz4H>

- Screen Video Recording:

- Windows 10: Xbox App-
- <https://youtu.be/OfPbr1mRDuo>
- ScreenR or CamStudio



If you have a Mac OSX computer:

- Take screenshots

- Cmd+shift+3 - fullscreen
- Cmd+shift+4 - part of the screen
- Cmd+shift+4+space - specific window

- Use screen capture software --
quicktime (mac) File->New screen
recording

Where do I place the documentation???

What a great question! You made your documentation and now you have to place it somewhere!

WORDPRESS

woo~!

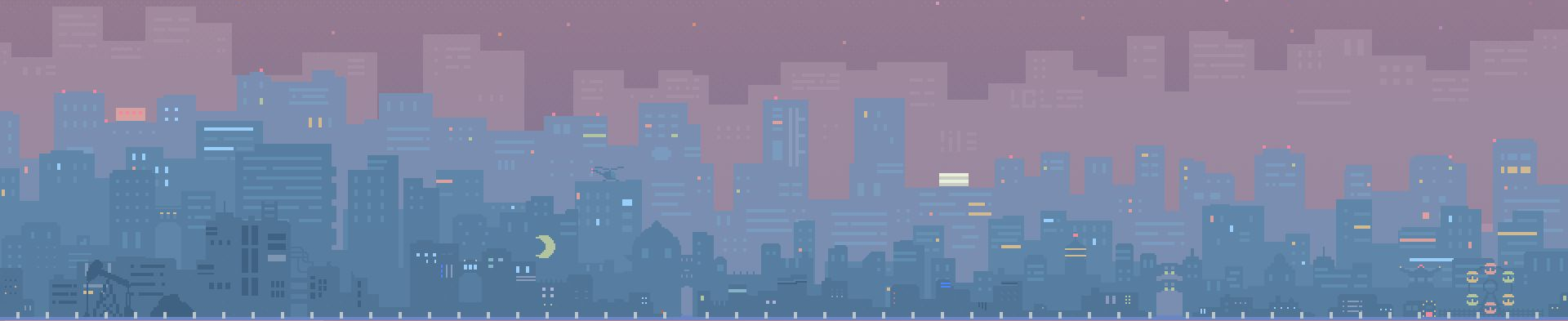
A stylized, flat-design illustration of a city skyline at night. The buildings are in various shades of blue and purple, with some windows glowing with yellow light. A yellow rectangular sign with the text 'woo~!' is positioned in the center of the skyline. The background is a gradient of purple and pink, with small white dots scattered throughout, resembling a starry night sky.

Wait, what exactly is WordPress?

Wordpress is a CMS or, Content Management System.

It started out as a blogging software, but is now a full-blown CMS.

It's nice cause it's **open-source** :D



Wordpress

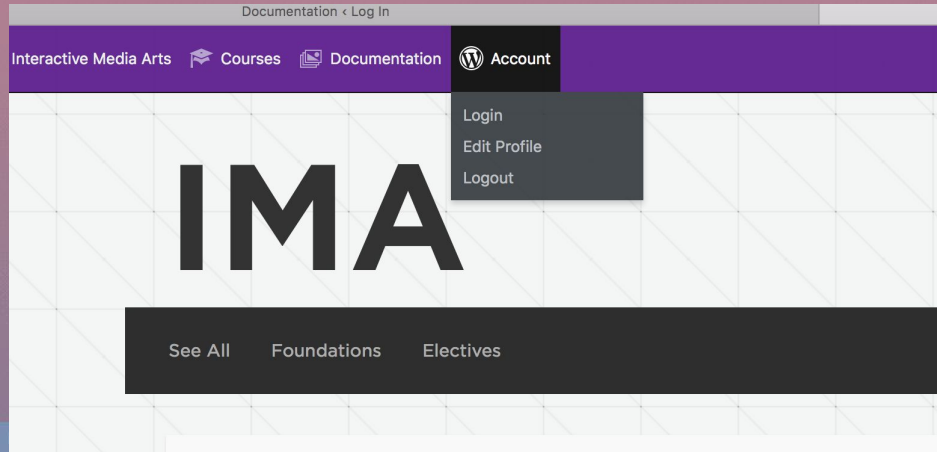
- You should have all received an email for a WordPress site:
<http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation>
- Login with your NYU ID
- Write your blog post

- REMEMBER TO CATEGORIZE YOUR POST BY WHAT CLASS YOU ARE DOING IT FOR

Logging In

- Anyone not know how to login to WordPress?
- Anyone having password errors?
- Remember! This isn't your NYU password.

LOG IN



DIRECT LINK: <http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation/wp-admin>



ERROR: Invalid username. [Lost your password?](#)

Username or Email

Password

☐ Remember Me

Log In

Lost your password?

← Back to Interactive Media Arts



Please enter your username or email address.
You will receive a link to create a new password
via email.

ERROR: There is no user registered with that
email address.

Username or Email

Get New Password

Log in

← Back to Interactive Media Arts

The Post!

- Put your instructor's last name in parentheses at the end of your post.
- Project name, name of creator/creators, link to your webpage, and also the date.
- Describe your project!

Final Project Documentation (Vasudevan)

🕒 MAY 18, 2017 👤 JONGHYUN JEE

💬 LEAVE A COMMENT

Project: Color:ful

Documented by: John Jonghyun Jee

Webpage link: <http://192.168.50.184/~jj2171/Colorful>

Date: May 18, 2017

Description

The project mainly focuses on the fictional character Violet's view on the world. In the video, Violet talks about her life as a colorblind. In her eyes, the traffic light

Interactive Media Arts

@ NYU Shanghai

HOME COURSES INITIATION BLOG EQUIP RESOURCES

CHINESE CYBERCULTURE

COMMUNICATIONS LAB

DEVELOPING WEB

INTERACTION LAB

SOLAR SOLUTIONS

STREET FOOD & URBAN
FARMING

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT

I AM USING

A WHOLE SLIDE FOR IT

Categories

All Categories

Most Used

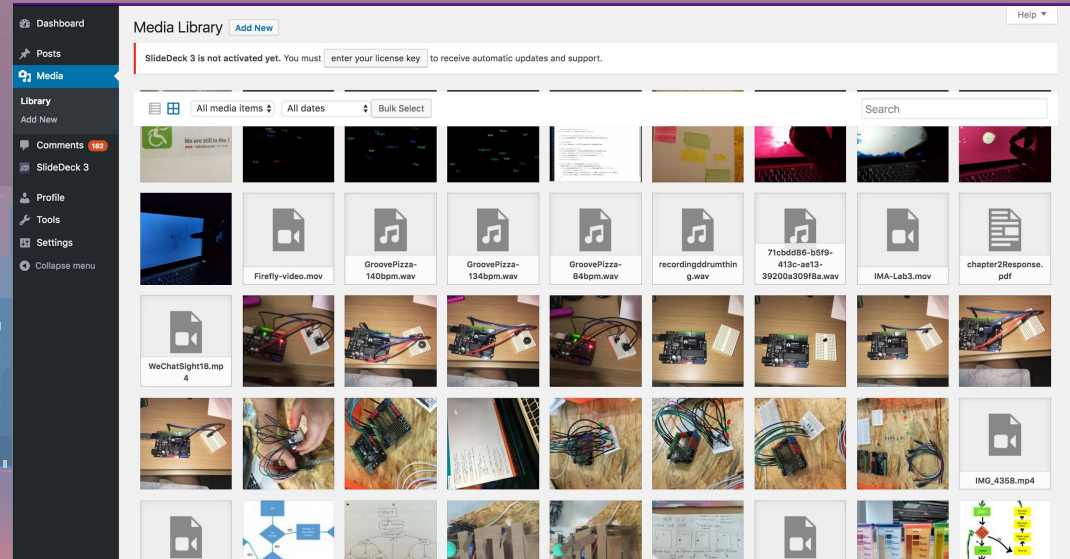
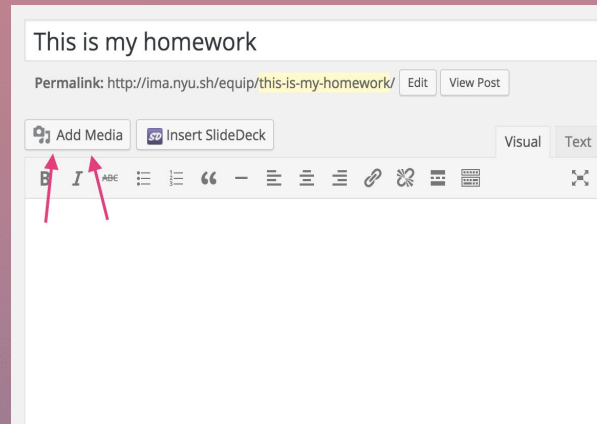
- ☐ Capstone Studio
- ☐ Chinese Cyberculture
- ☐ Code of Music
- ☐ Collective Methods
- ☒ Communications Lab
- ☐ Contemporary Media Practice
- ☐ Creating Immersive Worlds
- ☐ Developing Web
- ☐ Digital Fabrication

ADD SOME MEDIA

It's called Interactive *Media* Arts after all!

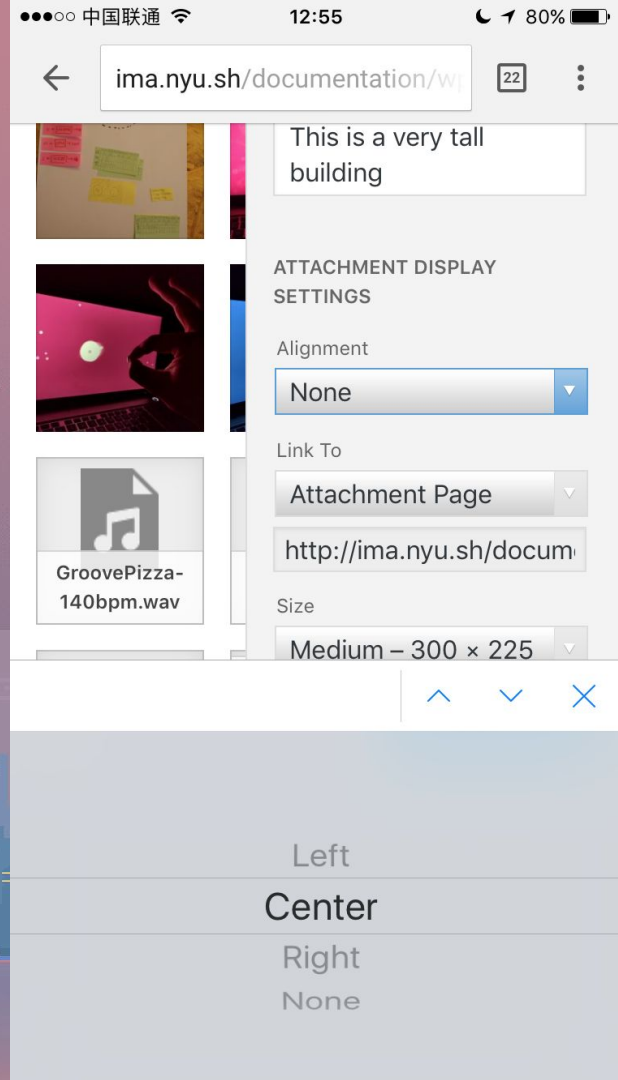
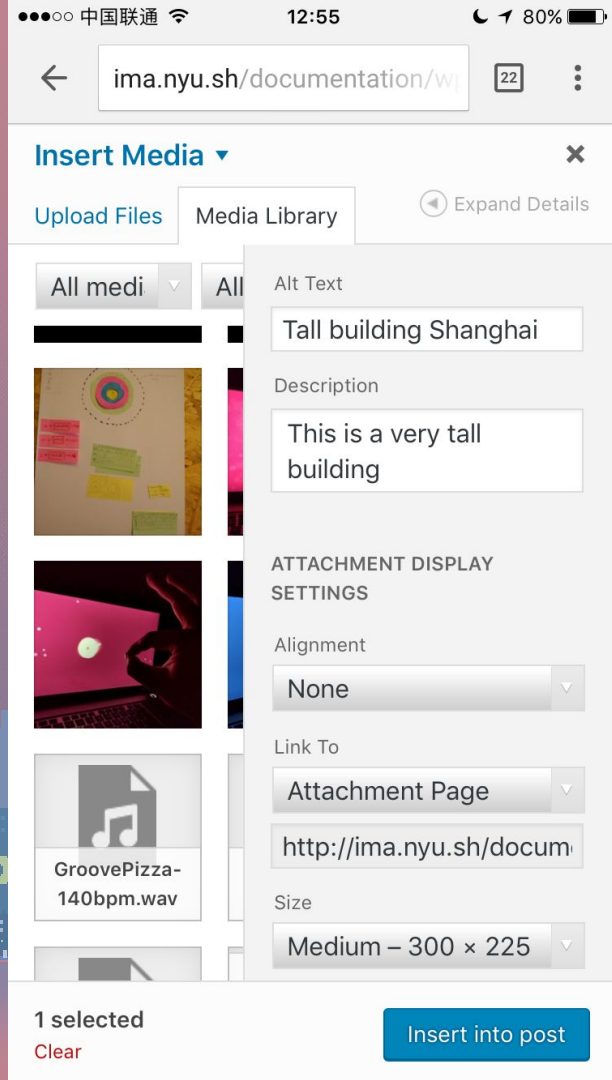
The Media Library

- Where EVERYBODY'S media is stored.
- 100MB limit per individual file.
- Upload image, gifs, and video files here.
- Name the files appropriately
- If you're reusing media you do not need to upload it twice, just find it in the library to insert into post.



Photos

- Easy to upload (depending on file size)
- Add media
- Upload to the library
- Select alignment
- Caption - always seen with photo
- Description - only seen on dedicated photo page



GIFs

Make sure gif is “Full Size” if wordpress has to show a different size it won’t animate!

ATTACHMENT DISPLAY SETTINGS

Alignment Center ▾

Link To Attachment Page ▾

Size
Thumbnail – 150 × 150
Medium – 300 × 225
✓ Full Size – 640 × 480



Videos

- Videos must be in an open format i.e. MP4
- Officially Supported formats: (M4a, MP4(H.264), OGG, WebM, FLV, WMV, MP3, WAV and WMA)
- You can't use native videos from iOS, which shoots .mov.
- Quicktime Screenshot: Uses .mov
- .mov is proprietary to Apple and therefore does not have open support for HTML 5 video players.
- Please do not use youtube/vimeo on the blog- IMA stores all media.



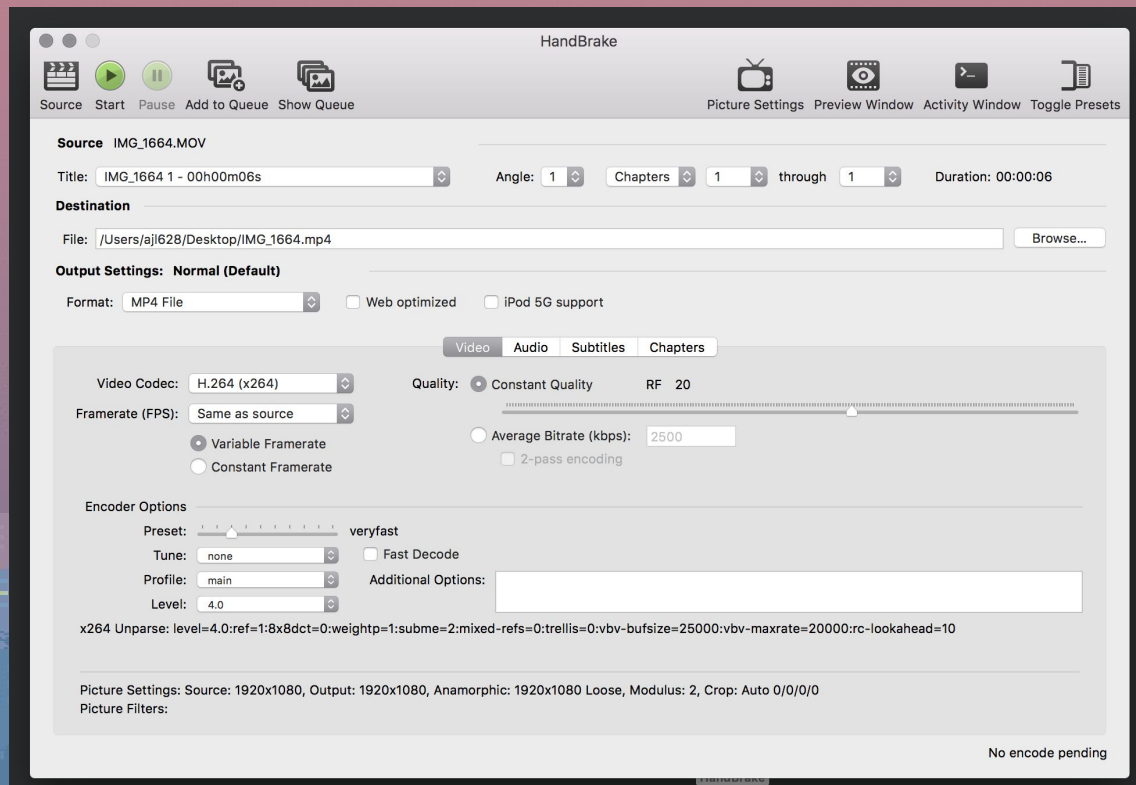
Using Handbrake

Open source video conversion

Select source video

Use default mp4 settings

Handbrake.fr



Uploading Code

1. The bottom of the new post page should have an area to place code in
2. Paste your code in the code window!
3. Apply your changes and save the code.

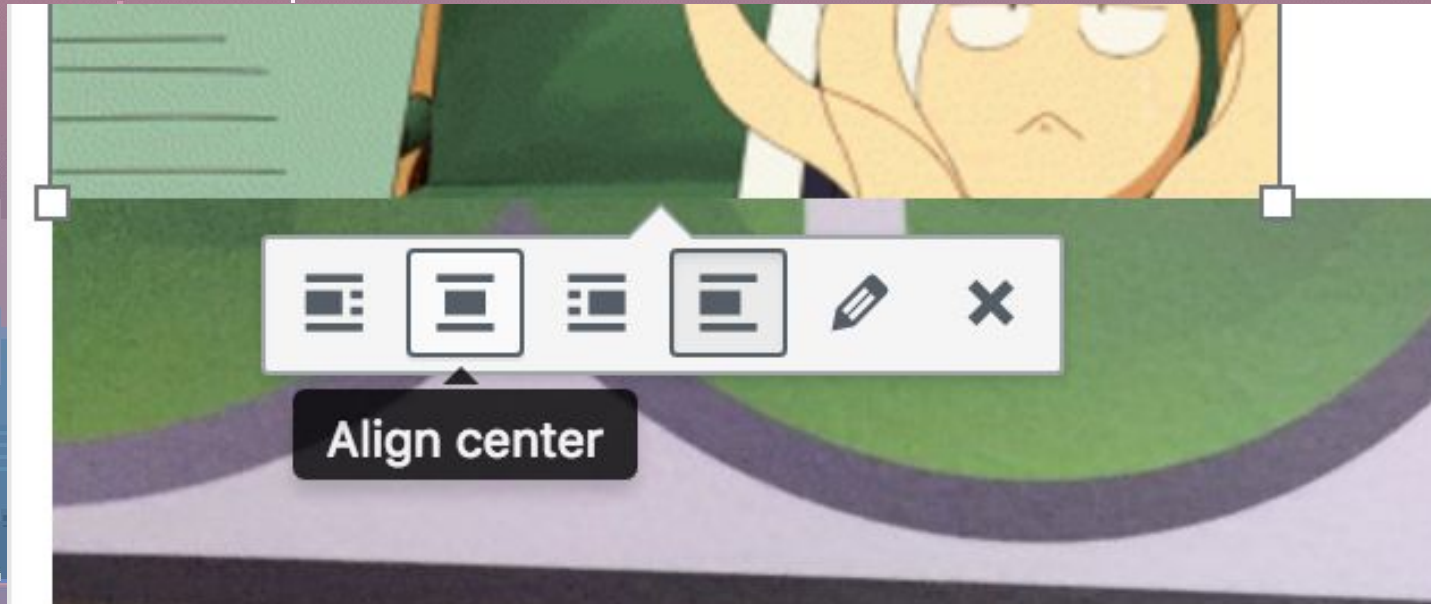
Source Code Language

- ☐ None
☐ Arduino
☐ JavaScript
☒ Processing

Source Code

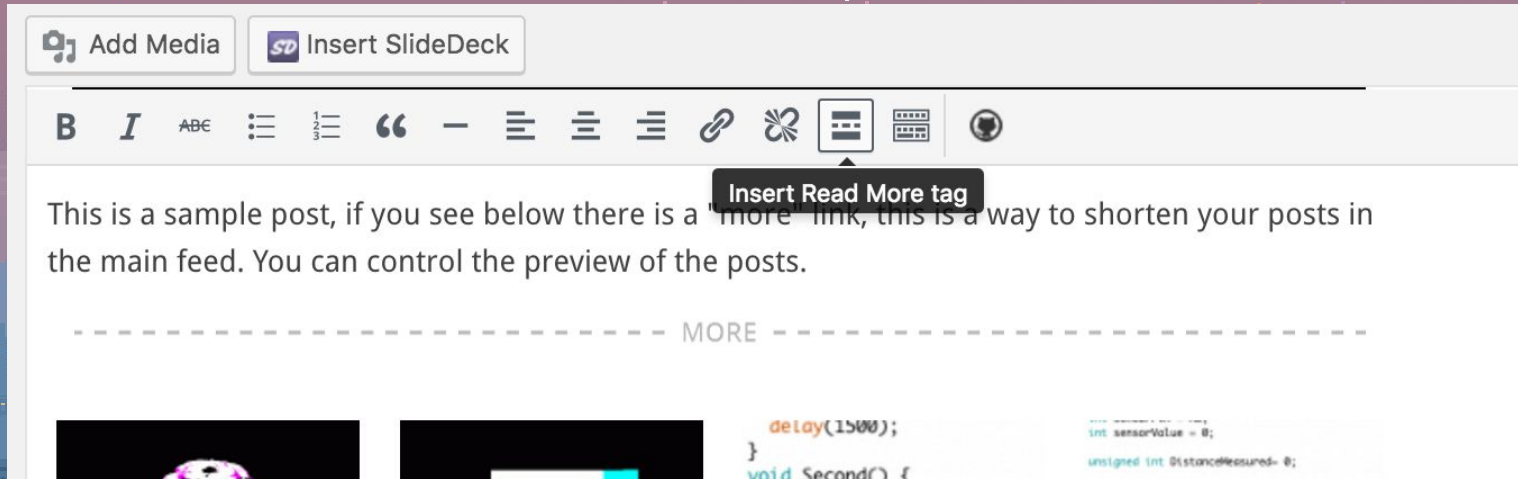
```
int a;  
  
void setup() {  
  size (800, 800, P2D);  
  
  rectMode(CENTER);  
  circ_num = 50;  
  csize_lg = 300;  
  csize_sm = 200;  
  a = 0;  
}  
  
void draw() {  
  background(0);  
  translate(width/2, height/2);  
  
  for (int i=1; i<circ_num; i++) {  
    //rotate ( a*map(i, 1, circ_num, .00005, .00005));  
    fill (map(i, 1, circ_num, 1, random(25, 255)), map(i, 1, circ_num, 255, random(10)));  
    float temp_csize = map(i, 0, circ_num, csize_lg, csize_sm);  
    ellipse(0, 0, temp_csize*(sin(a*map(i, 1, circ_num, .005, .05))+1),  
    temp_csize*(cos(a*map(i, 1, circ_num, .05, .0005))+1));  
  }  
  a++;  
}
```

Align and edit your images



“Read more”

You don't want your post taking up an endless amount of space, add a “Read more” tag.



The screenshot shows a social media post editor interface. At the top, there are two buttons: "Add Media" and "Insert SlideDeck". Below these is a rich text editor toolbar with various icons for bold, italic, text color, list, link, and other formatting options. A tooltip labeled "Insert Read More tag" points to a button in the toolbar that represents a truncated text block. The main text area contains the following text:

This is a sample post, if you see below there is a "more" link, this is a way to shorten your posts in the main feed. You can control the preview of the posts.

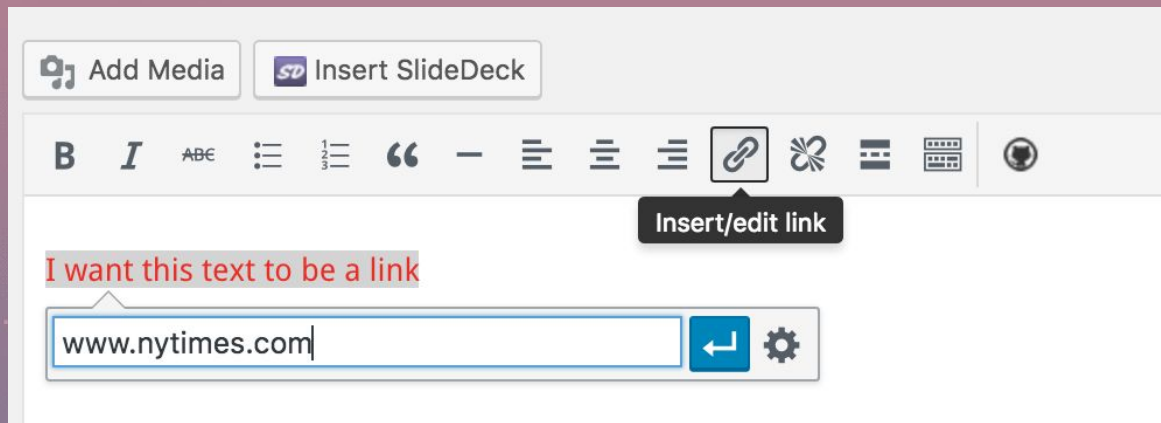
Below the text, there is a dashed line followed by the word "MORE" in all caps, indicating a truncated post. At the bottom, there are three preview thumbnails: a black image with a small colorful circular pattern, a black image with a small cyan bar, and a code snippet:

```
delay(1500);  
}  
void Second() {  
    int sensorValue = 0;  
    unsigned int DistanceMeasured = 0;
```

Creating a link

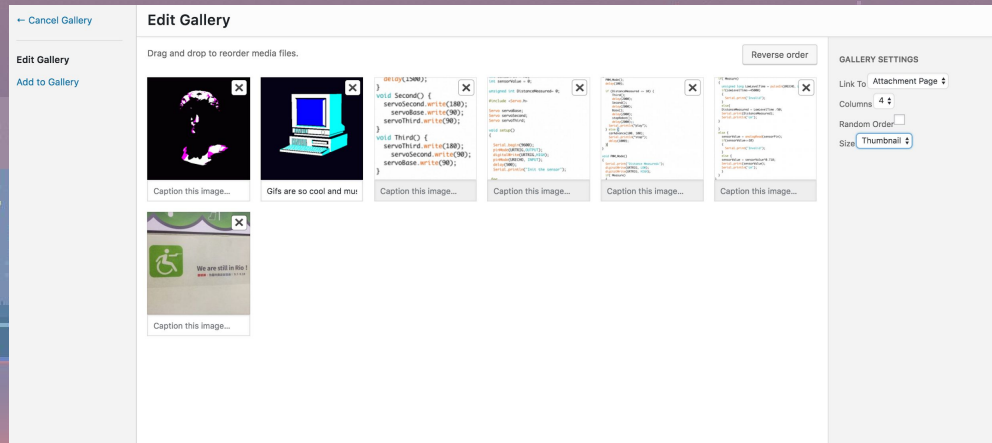
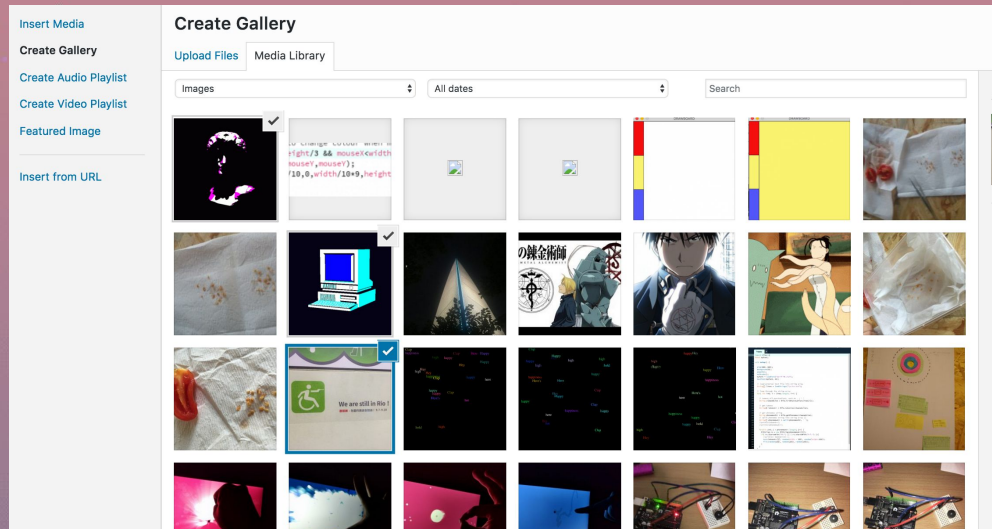
Is your URL not turning into a link automatically? Do this!

Also, you sometimes want your link to have custom text instead of the default URL.



Using Photo Galleries

Use create gallery instead of insert media.



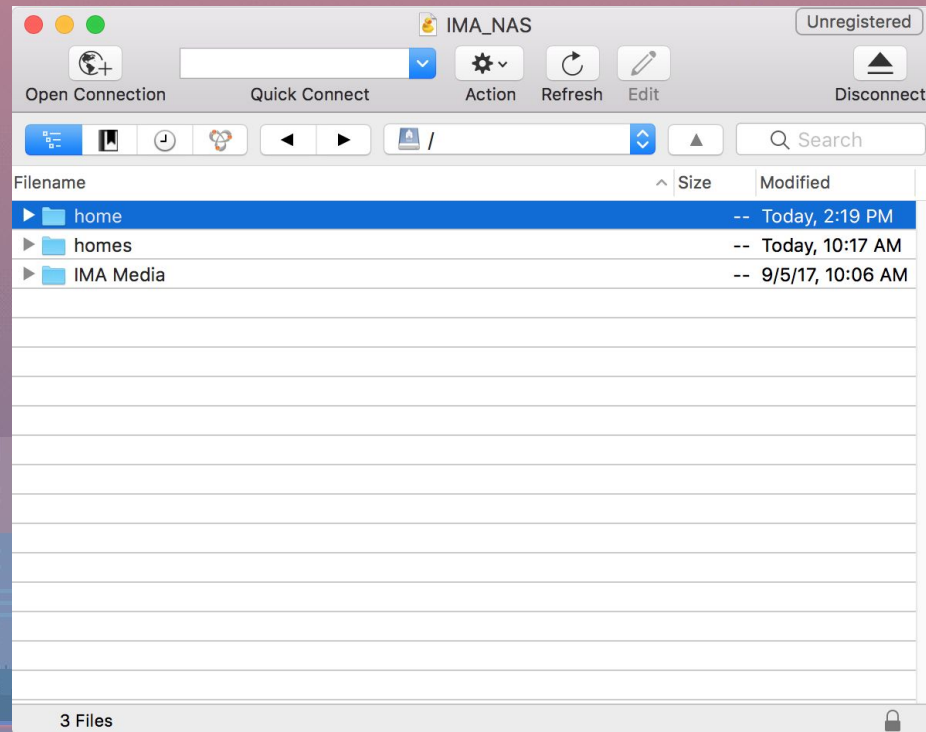
NAS STUFF

You better Cyber***duck***, cause there is a whole pond-load of information coming at you!

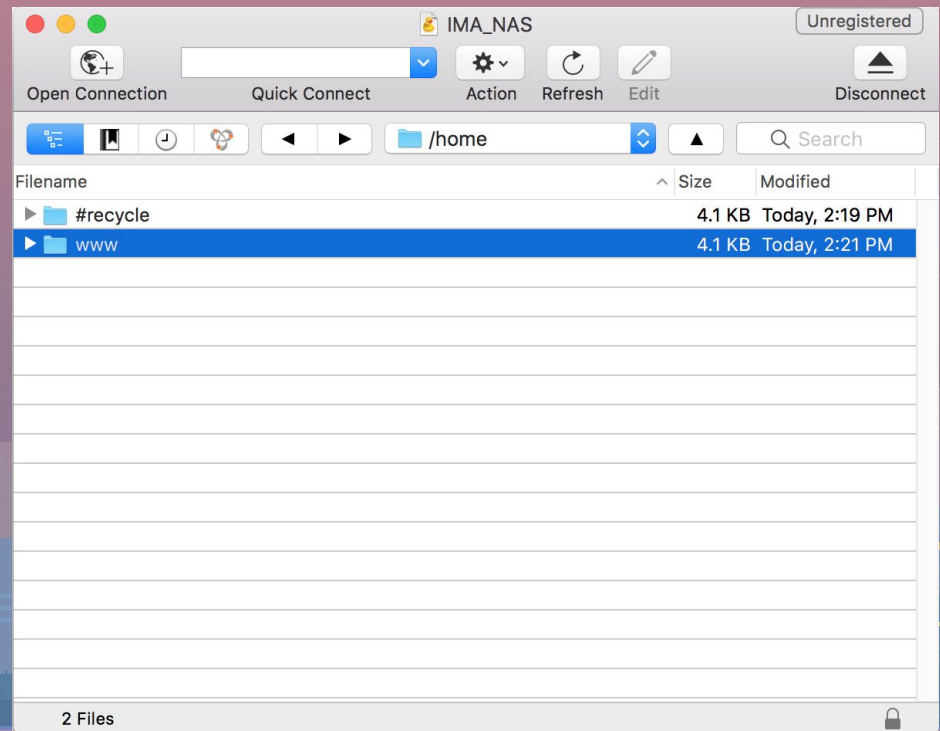
WHAT IS A NAS?

Network-attached storage (NAS) is a file-level computer data storage server connected to a computer network providing data access to a heterogeneous group of clients. ~Wikipedia

When you first connect to your NAS account on Cyberduck you see these three folders.

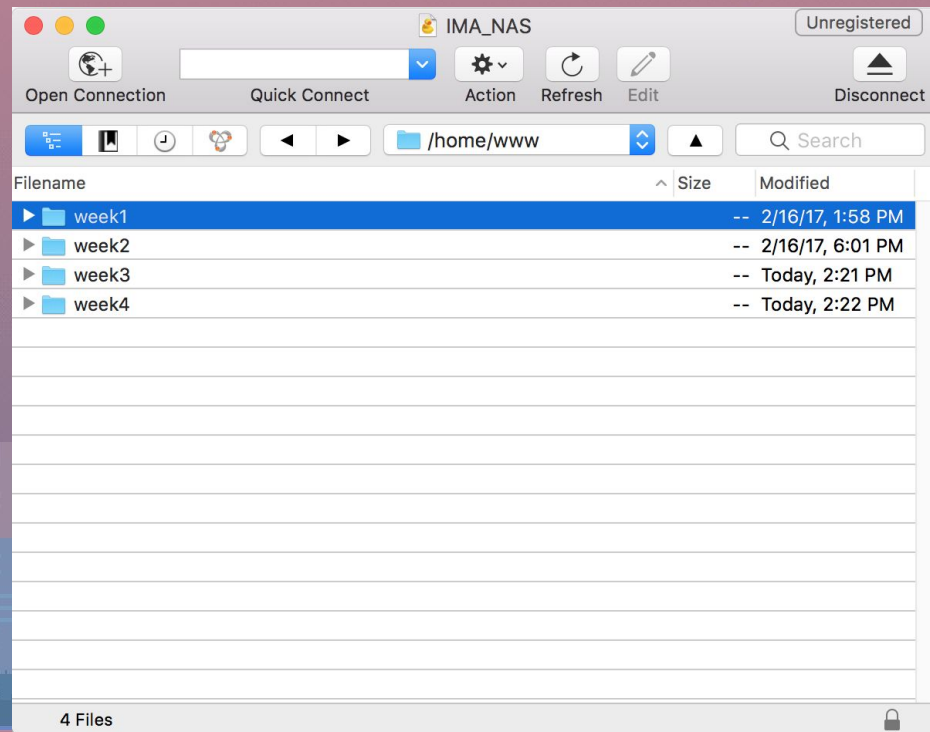


You should be uploading your
folders / files to the “home” >
“www” folder



Gradually, you will be accumulating more folders in here.

Let's say that we are trying to upload the link for your week1 assignment to the documentation blog.



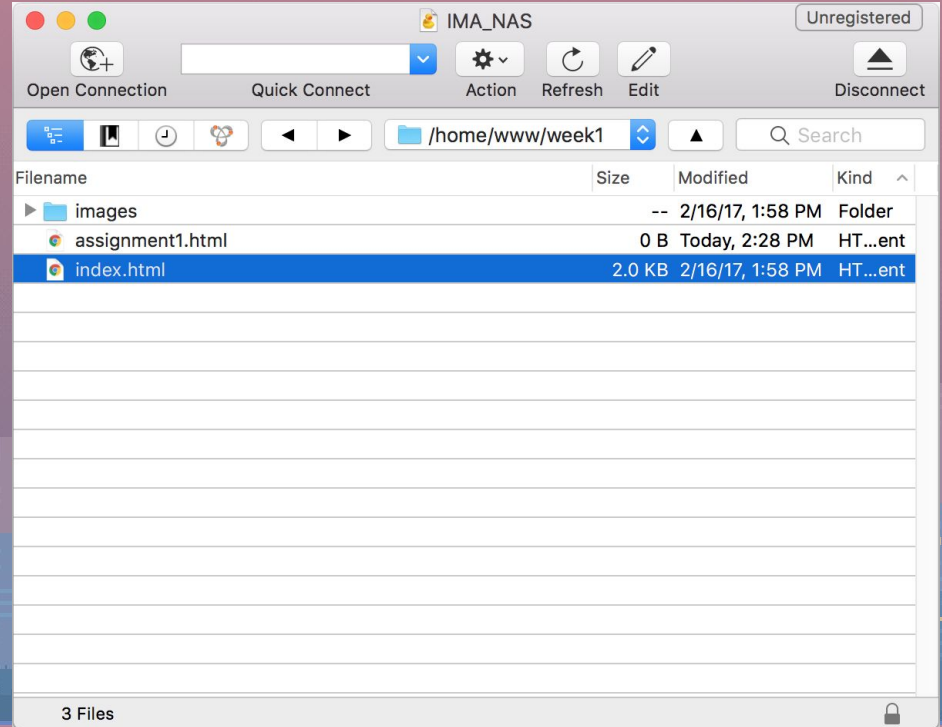
imanas.shanghai.nyu.edu/~your_net_id/ points to the folder home/www/

Therefore, the link to your index.html of your “week1” folder is:

imanas.shanghai.nyu.edu/~your_net_id/week1/index.html

Or

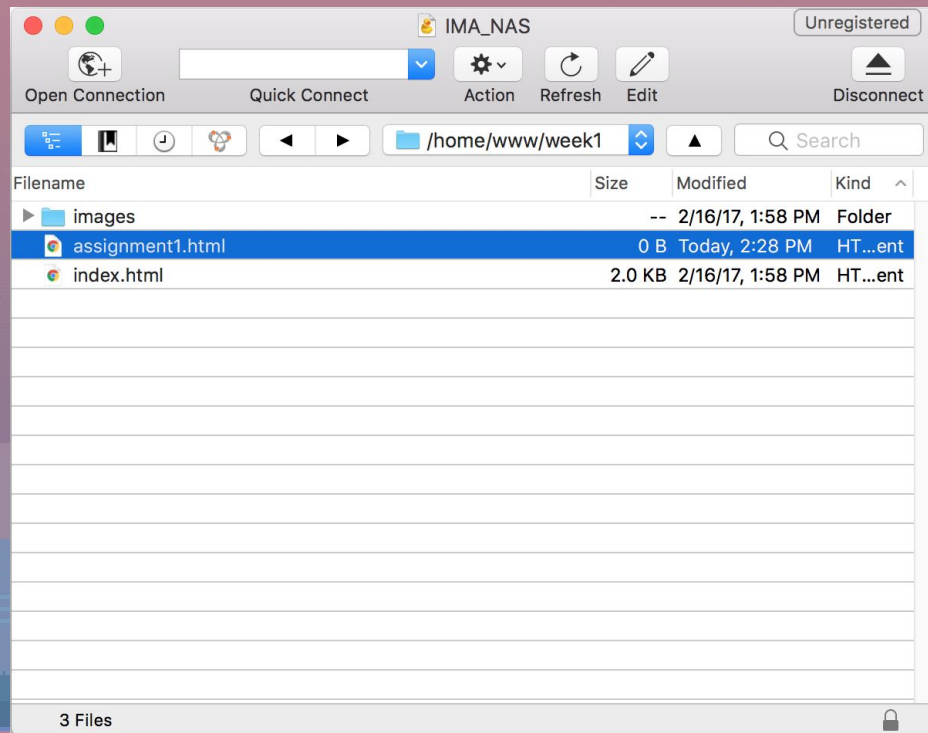
imanas.shanghai.nyu.edu/~your_net_id/week1/ (as you can omit index.html)



However, if your html page is not named index.html, you need to specify it in your link.

For example,

`imanas.shanghai.nyu.edu/~your_net_id/week1/assignment1.html`



Who . . .

...will see your documentation?

THE INTERNET

If you post your documentation on the internet, some others might be interested in looking at your work. Your methodology and workflow might prove useful or interesting to someone else!

Students and Peers

Your fellow students might look at your documentation for guidance! Your method might be something they want to utilize.

Professors

Your professors will be checking your documentation and looking at your readings to measure your understanding of the material

Future You

You might be doing a lot of projects in the future. You will definitely forget how you did a lot of your projects.

Here are some great documentation examples!!!

John:

- <http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation/2017/05/18/final-project-documentation-vasudevan-2/>
- <http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation/2017/03/27/week-8-audio-project-vasudevan-jonghyun-jee/>

Bond:

- <http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation/2017/05/17/week-14-internet-art-project-documentation-yi-zhenbond-luo-vasudevan/>

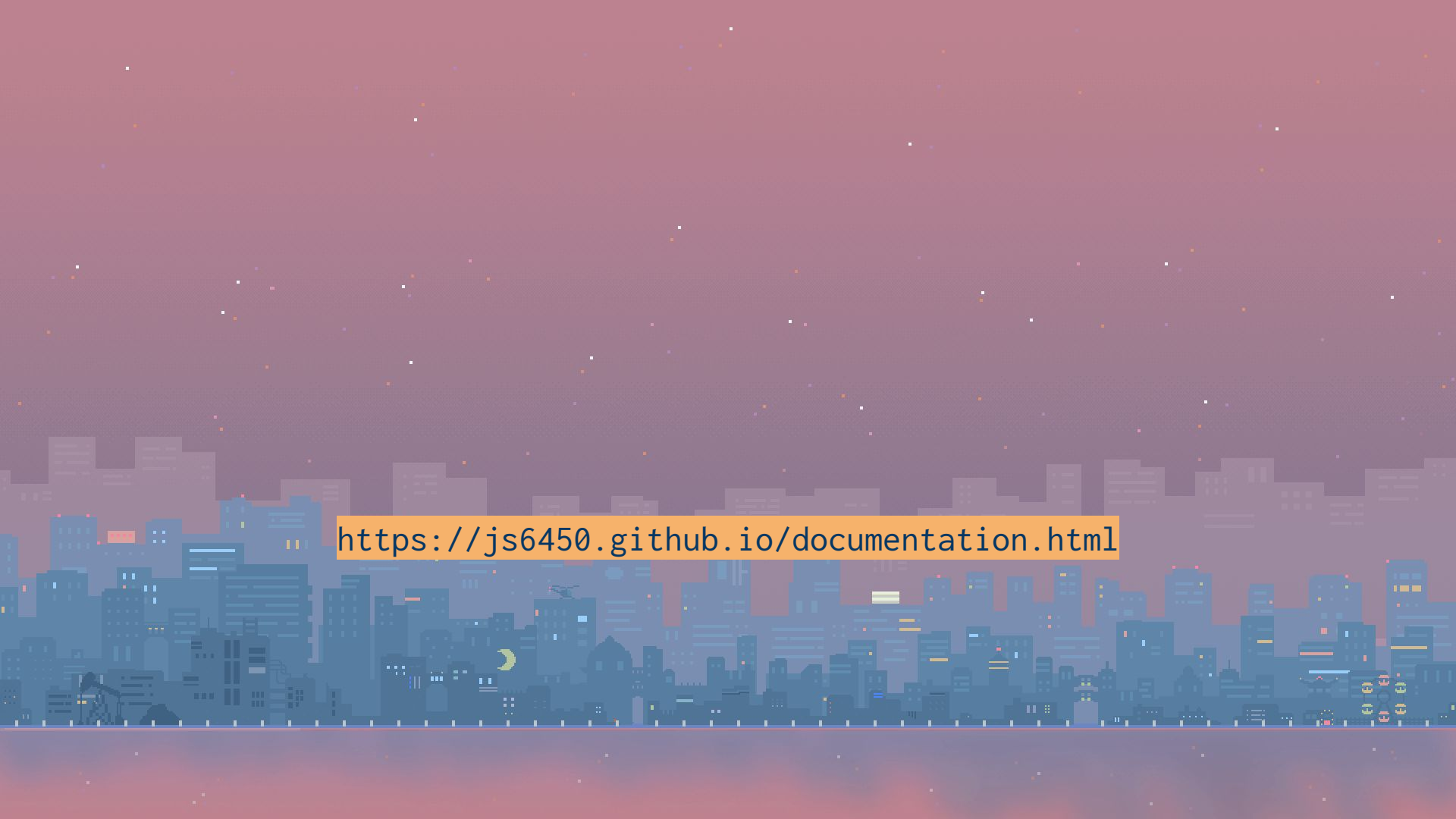
Francie:

- <http://ima.nyu.sh/documentation/2017/03/03/cl-week4-assignment-of-variable-vasudevan-ioseph-and-francie/>

Go forth...

...and document!



The background of the image is a stylized illustration of a city skyline at night. The sky is a deep purple and blue, filled with numerous small, white and yellow stars. The city below is composed of various buildings in shades of blue and grey, with some windows glowing with yellow light. A small yellow crescent moon is visible in the sky. The overall style is minimalist and modern.

<https://js6450.github.io/documentation.html>