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# ASCIIDoctor to Blog Utility

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Over the years I have tinkered with the idea of using ASCIIDoctor documents as the basis for a blog service. The Blog would be statically delivered and as damn simple as possible.

A PDF version of this document is available at this [Link](#)

# 1. Introduction

I use ASCIIDoctor to do the majority of my documentation and have gotten good at it with special editor extension and snippets.

I have looked at a number of Open source solutions and most of them are either too complex or difficult to implement.

- Hugo - Based on [Go](#) and a defined file structure that doesn't allow the article to exist in a directory atomically.
- Gatsby - Difficult to install and is geared more towards document repository
- Antora.org - Requires GIT repositories to create a document site generator, too many unneeded features
- Vue based - Flexible but used GraphQL for access to even the filesystem, ASCIIDoc not mentioned

# 2. Requirements

These are the requirements for a basic utility to manage ASCIIDoctor files specifically and generate a blog automatically

- Use Blog articles as separate directories
- Use ASCIIDoctor as the primary files for articles
- Use the content of the ASCIIDoctor file to drive the indexing
  - The (=) title becomes the title of the article
  - The preamble (The first paragraph of the document)
  - Date from the date line of the header
- index.html generated from index.adoc to all for template of index to be changed
- Blog order article is determined by a single text file in root `order.txt` with a list of the directory name in the order they should appear in the blog
  - Delete an article by (\*) it in the '`order.txt`
- Use a FTPSync command to help move (New/Updated) generated content into web server
- Auto generate HTML & PDF if the corresponding ADOC is more than 1 day old
- Auto generate (Optional) the `order.txt` file of the sub-folder of the blog

### 3. Prerequisites

- Definition of Blog article file naming
  - readme.adoc for main document
  - readme.png (Optional) for Blog article image
  - All sub-directories in Blog article directory will be transferred except for `.exclude` folder
- Node FTPSync - To manage transfer of generated updates

### 4. Folder / File Structure

Here is a diagram of the required file structure for ADOC2Blog to work.

Each Blog Article folder is **Atomic** which means all of the assets for that article are in the folder.

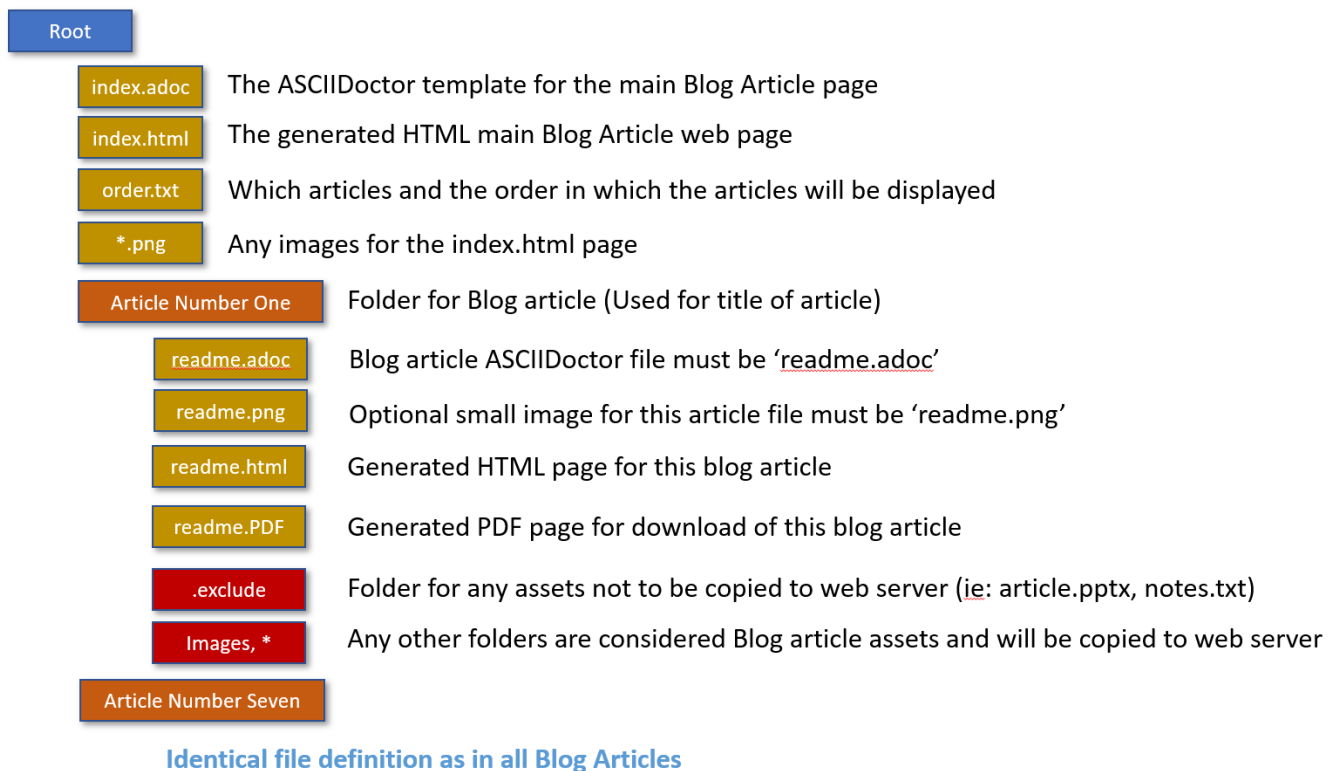


Figure 1. Folder / File Structure

### 5. oder.txt file

This is a simple text file with the names of the Blog Article folders to be included in the generated Blog Article web site.

Folders not listed here will **NOT** be in the generated web site.

Folders starting with an **\*** will be hidden and will **NOT** be in the generated web site. In this example **New dog grooming methods** will not be in the generated web site

```
You, a few seconds ago | 1 author (You)
1 Alternative Blogging Platform
2 Easier Tech Writing
3 * New dog grooming methods
4 Install HTTPServer Node
```

Figure 2. Example `order.txt` file

## 6. Web site

The web site will be generated based on the layout in the `index.adoc` template. This template can be modified for the page scaffolding. Additional content or directions could be added.

### GeekMustHave Blog Articles

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Welcome the GeekMustHave Blog articles. These are articles that were either too long or complicated to be done using the WordPress platform.

Blog articles can be viewed by clicking on the image or the `View` link on the Blog article.

Some Blog articles can be downloaded by clicking on the `Download` link if it exist.



To search for something in these Blog articles press `Ctrl` + `f`



#### Alternative blogging platform

**Date:** 04/13/2017 - GeekMustHave is using WordPress for its blogging platform. It has been a good platform and with the introduction of Jetpack the maintenance and post maintenance has become easier. I use ASCIIDoctor for most of my documentation and was considering using it for blogging. This is when I discovered there is no love for ASCIIDoctor.

[View](#) [Download](#)



#### Writing Documentation Easier Getting Started with ASCIIDoctor

**Date:** 08/14/2017 - ASCIIDoctor is a markdown languages. It has a very extensive syntax allowing for better technical writing. This file is an example of some of that syntax. There are links at the end of the document for more detailed references to this markdown.

[View](#) [Download](#)



#### Install HTTPServer Node

**Date:** 04/15/2018 -At some point in time you are going to need a HTTP server to test your JavaScript code. This method shows how to do this using either Python or Node.

[View](#) [Download](#)

Figure 3. Blog Article Web Page Example

## 7. Document History

*Table 1. Document History*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Description</b>
07/19/2019	V2.1b	JHRS	Initial version