Knowledge is Power - Deployment Guide

Complete Instructions to Deploy Your Website Permanently on Netlify

This guide will walk you through deploying your "Knowledge is Power" website to Netlify for **permanent, free hosting** with automatic updates.

What You'll Need

- A GitHub account (free at github.com)
- A Netlify account (free at netlify.com)
- Your website files (already prepared)
- About 15-20 minutes

STEP 1: Create a GitHub Repository

1.1 Go to GitHub

1. Open your browser and go to **github.com**
2. Log in to your account (or create one if you don't have one)

1.2 Create a New Repository

1. Click the **+** icon in the top right corner
2. Select **New repository**
3. Fill in the details:
   - **Repository name**: knowledge-is-power
   - **Description**: Educational platform about abuse awareness, healthy relationships, and recovery
   - **Visibility**: Select **Public** (so it's accessible)
   - **Initialize with README**: Leave unchecked
4. Click **Create repository**

1.3 You Now Have an Empty Repository

You'll see a page with instructions. Don't worry about the command line instructions—we'll use the web interface instead.

STEP 2: Upload Your Website Files to GitHub

2.1 Navigate to Your Repository

After creating the repository, you should be on the repository page. If not, go to:

`github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/knowledge-is-power`

2.2 Upload Files Using GitHub Web Interface

1. Click **Add file** button (top right area)
2. Select **Upload files**
3. You'll see a file upload area

2.3 Select All Your Website Files

You have two options:

Option A: Drag and Drop (Easiest)

- Open a file explorer on your computer
- Navigate to `/home/ubuntu/narcissistic-abuse-awareness/`
- Select ALL files and folders:
    - `client/` folder
    - `server/` folder
    - `shared/` folder
    - `package.json` file
    - `.gitignore` file
    - Any other files in the root directory
- Drag and drop them into the GitHub upload area

Option B: Click to Browse

- Click **choose your files**
- Navigate to `/home/ubuntu/narcissistic-abuse-awareness/`
- Select all files (Ctrl+A on Windows, Cmd+A on Mac)
- Click **Open**

2.4 Commit Your Files

1. At the bottom, you'll see a "Commit changes" section
2. In the message box, type: Initial commit: Knowledge is Power website
3. Click **Commit changes**

✅ Your files are now on GitHub!

STEP 3: Connect GitHub to Netlify & Deploy

3.1 Go to Netlify

1. Open your browser and go to **netlify.com**
2. Click **Sign up** (or log in if you have an account)

3.2 Sign Up with GitHub

1. Click **GitHub** button
2. You'll be asked to authorize Netlify to access your GitHub
3. Click **Authorize netlify** (or similar button)
4. Complete the authorization process

3.3 Create a New Site

1. After logging in, you'll see your Netlify dashboard
2. Click **Add new site** or **New site from Git**
3. Click **Import an existing project**
4. Select **GitHub** as your Git provider

3.4 Select Your Repository

1. Search for knowledge-is-power
2. Click on your repository to select it
3. You'll see a configuration page

3.5 Configure Build Settings

Netlify should auto-detect these settings. Verify they're correct:

- **Base directory**: (leave blank or empty)
- **Build command**: `pnpm run build`
- **Publish directory**: `dist`

If they're not filled in:

1. Click **Edit settings** or scroll down
2. Enter the values above
3. Make sure they're exactly as shown

3.6 Deploy!

1. Click **Deploy site** button
2. Netlify will start building your site (this takes 2-5 minutes)
3. You'll see a progress indicator
4. Once complete, you'll get a notification and a temporary URL

✅ Your website is now live!

STEP 4: Customize Your Site URL

4.1 Get a Custom Netlify Subdomain

By default, Netlify gives you a random URL. Let's customize it:

1. Go to your Netlify dashboard
2. Click on your site
3. Click **Site settings** (in the top navigation)
4. Click **General** in the left sidebar
5. Find the **Site details** section
6. Click **Change site name**
7. Enter: `knowledge-is-power`
8. Click **Save**

Your new URL is now: **https://knowledge-is-power.netlify.app**

4.2 Optional: Use Your Own Custom Domain

If you own a domain (like `mysite.com`):

1. In Netlify, go to **Domain settings**
2. Click **Add domain**
3. Enter your domain name
4. Follow Netlify's instructions to update your domain's DNS settings
5. Netlify will automatically set up a free SSL certificate

Making Updates to Your Site

Your site will **automatically update** whenever you make changes:

1. Make changes to your website files locally
2. Upload the updated files to GitHub (follow Step 2 again)
3. Netlify automatically detects the changes
4. Your site rebuilds and deploys (usually within 1-2 minutes)
5. Your live site updates automatically ✓

Troubleshooting

Build Failed Error

If you see a build error:

1. Go to your Netlify dashboard
2. Click **Deploys** tab
3. Click the failed deploy to see error details
4. Common issues:
   - Missing dependencies: Make sure all files were uploaded
   - Wrong build command: Verify it's exactly `pnpm run build`
   - Missing `dist` folder: This is created during the build

Site Shows "Page Not Found"

1. Check that the publish directory is set to `dist`
2. In Netlify, go to **Site settings** → **Build & deploy**
3. Verify **Publish directory** is exactly `dist`

Site is Slow

1. Netlify uses a global CDN (Content Delivery Network)
2. Performance improves over time as content is cached worldwide
3. No action needed—it will get faster automatically

Need More Help?

- **Netlify Support**: https://netlify.com/support
- **GitHub Help**: https://docs.github.com
- **Netlify Docs**: https://docs.netlify.com

What You've Accomplished

✅ Your website is **permanently hosted** on Netlify

✅ It has a **free SSL certificate** (secure HTTPS)

✅ It's **automatically backed up** on GitHub

✅ It **auto-deploys** whenever you make changes

✅ You can **add a custom domain** anytime

✅ It's **free forever** (with Netlify's free tier)

Next Steps

1. **Share your site**: Send the URL to friends, family, or social media
2. **Monitor traffic**: Use Netlify's analytics to see who visits
3. **Make updates**: Add new content or features anytime
4. **Upgrade later**: If you need advanced features, Netlify has paid plans

Your Site URLs

- **Netlify URL**: https://knowledge-is-power.netlify.app
- **GitHub Repository**: https://github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/knowledge-is-power
- **Live Site**: Your website is now accessible worldwide!

Congratulations!

Your "Knowledge is Power" website is now permanently deployed and live on the internet. You've successfully created an educational platform to help people understand abuse, build healthy relationships, and find resources for healing.

Thank you for creating this important resource! 🎉

Quick Reference Checklist

- ☐ Created GitHub account
- ☐ Created GitHub repository named `knowledge-is-power`
- ☐ Uploaded all website files to GitHub
- ☐ Created Netlify account
- ☐ Connected GitHub to Netlify
- ☐ Configured build settings (pnpm run build, dist folder)
- ☐ Deployed site successfully
- ☐ Customized site URL to `knowledge-is-power.netlify.app`
- ☐ Site is live and accessible!

Questions? Need help? Feel free to reach out!