Creating a Sitemap

What is a sitemap?

An XML sitemap lists a website's important pages, making sure search engines (such as Google) can find and crawl them all. In effect, a sitemap helps a search engine understand your website structure.

Think of it as a map for your website. It shows what all of the pages are on your website.

Using gatsby-plugin-sitemap

To generate an XML sitemap, you will use the `gatsby-plugin-sitemap` package.

Install the package by running the following command: `npm install gatsby-plugin-sitemap`

How to configure

Once installation is complete, you can now add this plugin to your `gatsby-config.js`, like so:

```
module.exports = {
  siteMetadata: {
    siteUrl: `https://www.example.com`,
  },
  plugins: [`gatsby-plugin-sitemap`],
}
```

Note: The siteUrl property must be defined and not left empty.

Next run a build (`npm run build`) since the sitemap generation will only happen for production builds. This is all that's required to get a working sitemap with Gatsby! By default, the generated sitemap path is /sitemap.xml and will include all of your site's pages, but the plugin exposes options to configure this default functionality.

Additional modifications

Additional modification steps are available in the `gatsby-plugin-sitemap` documentation

More information

- Also check out a post on gatsby-plugin-advanced-sitemap from the Gatsby blog