

Learn what *build* means and how to set up a build process for your Gatsby project.

What is a build?

Build refers to the process of compiling your site. During a build, or at *build time*, your project gets transformed from component files to optimized HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files that you can [deploy](#) to your hosting provider.

There are a few ways to create a build. You can build your site locally on your computer using the [Gatsby CLI](#), and then deploy changes to your [host](#). If you use [Gatsby Cloud](#), you can take advantage of [Gatsby Builds](#), a feature available with every Gatsby Cloud account. You can also use a [continuous deployment](#) service such as [AWS Amplify](#) or [Netlify](#).

For larger teams or larger projects, you may want to use a continuous deployment approach to create builds. Each CD/CI service works slightly differently. Almost all of them, however, use the contents of a Git repository to build your site.

Gatsby Cloud, for example, integrates with [GitHub](#), and a number of hosted [content management systems](#). Gatsby Cloud creates a new build after every commit or content change, although you can also trigger a build manually.

Using Gatsby CLI

For smaller teams and projects, use `gatsby build`. The `gatsby build` command is part of the Gatsby command line interface (or CLI). You'll need to install the CLI interface to create a site with Gatsby. Install it globally using [npm](#).

```
npm install -g gatsby-cli
```

Installing `gatsby-cli` globally makes Gatsby commands available system-wide. You'll use `gatsby new` to [create a new site](#), and `gatsby develop` to start a development server on your local machine.

When you're ready to publish your project, run the `gatsby build` command to create a production-ready version of your site. Once built, you can use an SFTP client, the [rsync](#) utility, or similar tool to transfer these files to your host.

Learn more about builds

- [Deploying and Hosting](#) from the Gatsby docs
- How to enable super fast [Distributed Builds](#) for Gatsby Cloud