Getting Started: How to Deploy Your First Static Site with Netlify

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Are you a newcomer to web development looking for a fast and simple simple way to showcase your site to the world without much technical know-how. Even experienced front end developers could benefit from more straightforward tools to deploy front end web apps. If you fall somewhere within this cohort, then look no further than Netlify — the platform that automates deployment so you don't have to worry about it.

You might be thinking: *wait, but what about Wordpress? I thought Wordpress did that.* You wouldn't be wrong. Wordpress definitely makes developing and deploying simple (and even not so simple sites) easy and manageable. The wide adoption of the open-source platform over the past decade, however, also means a proportionate increase in known vulnerabilities. This, of course, can be remedied by setting up Secure Socket Layers (SSL) to help encrypt the information that goes out from your server to your browser. Not too many people can say they're well-versed on internet security, though. And SSL certificates can be really expensive to keep up with.

Here's where Netlify takes it to another level, offering:

- East SSL certificate setup with just one click. Netlify works with Let's Encrypt to automatically provision, distribute and renew your SSL certificate.

- Free HTTPS on all plans and HTTP2 enabled.

As a newbie to web development and the pitfalls of internet security, the value of these features might not be so apparent. And with any luck, the Netlify decentralized and distributed approach to secure hosting might be the common-sense solution that makes the internet great again.
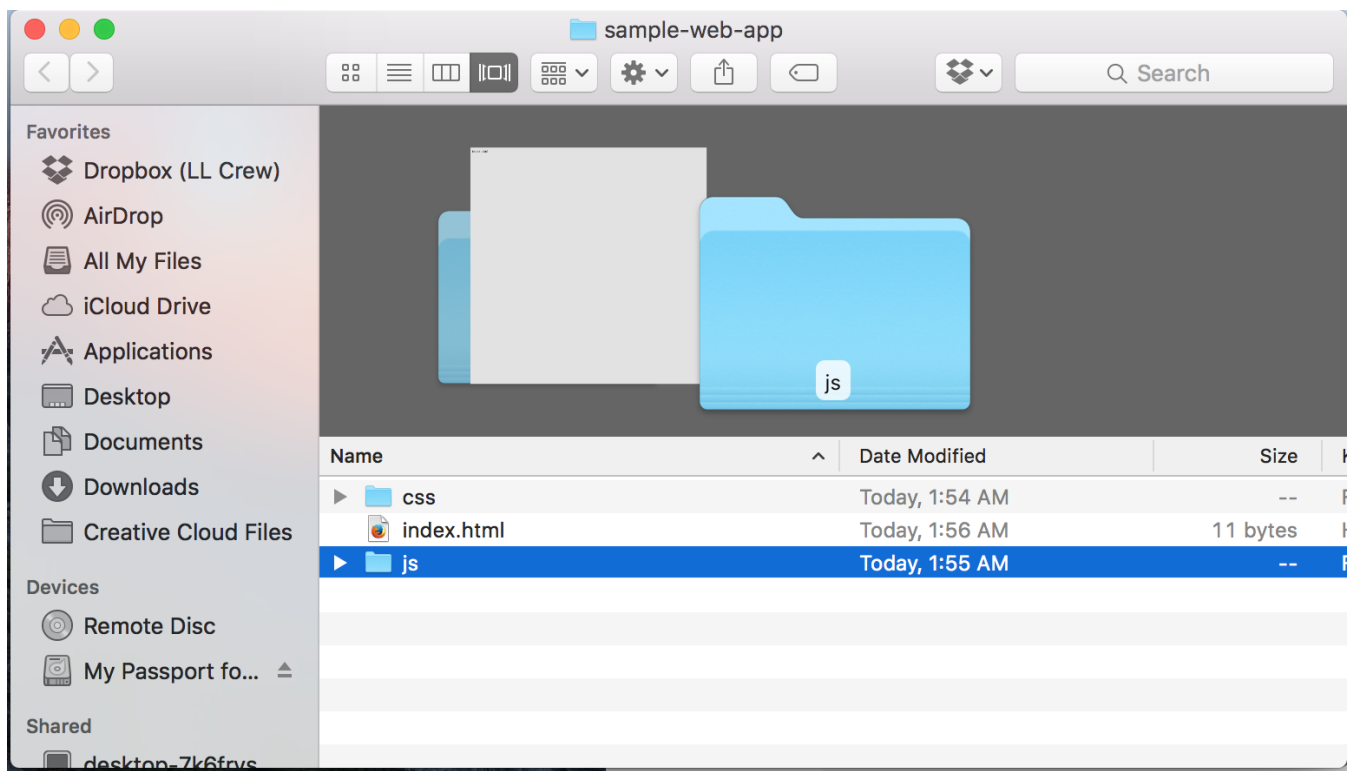
So, where to start? I want to help you deploy your first web app static site and show you how great it is. Follow along below:

Step One: Sign Up for Netlify

If you haven't already, sign up for Netlify here.

Step Two: Make A Project

The next step — making a project — is on you. You don't have to see the full staircase to take the first step. What you do need, though, is a *root folder* — better known as, a site directory, or a parent folder to hold all of your html, css, and js files — and you're good to go. Here's what it looks like:
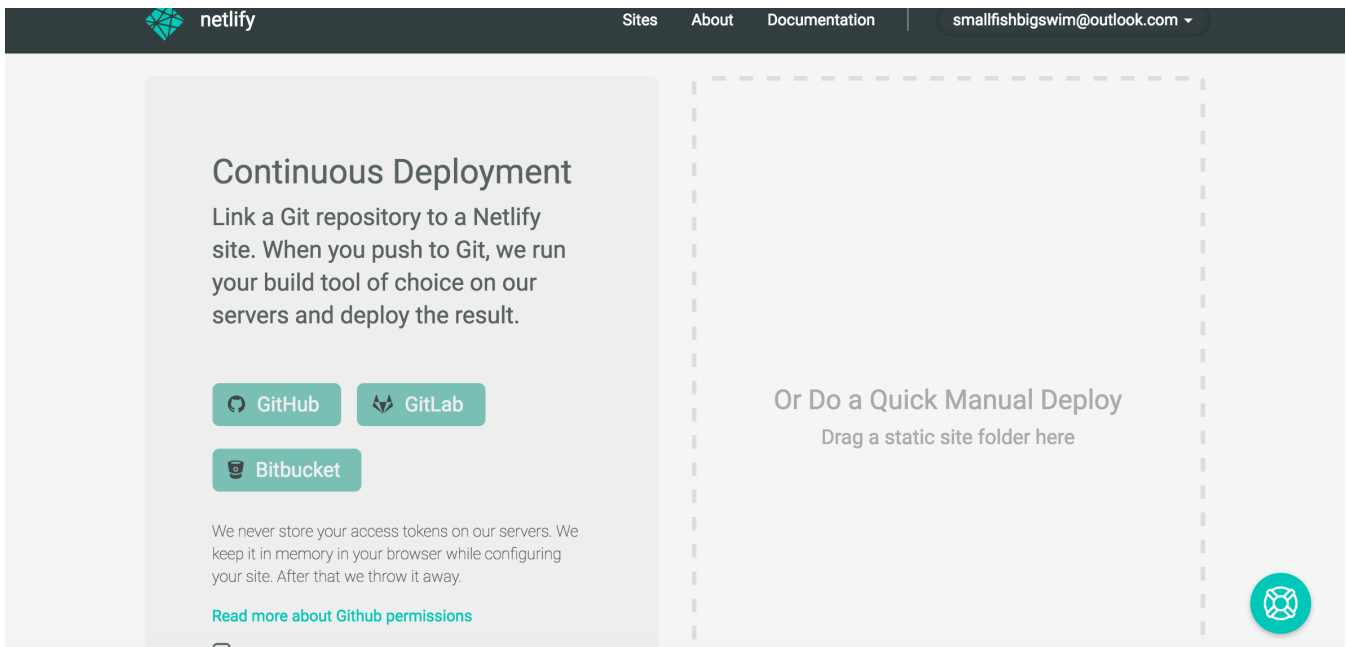

You'll be able to add files to your directory and preview changes live in your browser. More to come on this in future steps.

Step Three: Manage Your Directory File Somewhere and Deploy

Next, you want to decide on how you want to manage this directory. You have some options here.

Option One: You can manage your site's directory file manually, right from your Netlfly account using the Web UI. Just drag and drop your directory file to the file uploader.

Option Two: Sign up for Github, GitLab, or Bitbucket — free repository management services — and upload or "push" your repository to your new account. Then, just link your account to your Netlify site, and preview your results. Every time you make changes to your repository via, say, Github, your changes will be reflected on your site. Netlify does all the heavy lifting.

Note: in order to manage private repositories, you'll have to get a paid account. If you need help with setting up your Github, give me a shout in the comments, and I'll be happy to reach out to you personally and get things going.

Option Three: save your directory on your local machine (i.e., on your Desktop, your main hard drive, etc.) and use a terminal to navigate to your root folder at its file path. Developers tend to like this approach, because it gives you more control over the development environment. Netlify provides command line tools so you can access Netlify features right from the terminal. Here's what it looks like:

```
npm install netlify-cli -g
cd my-site-folder
netlify deploy
```

Done. That's all you need to have your static website up and running with Netlify! Consider this a pretty simple and straightforward example.

If you're looking to setup your SSL certificate next (and get yourself that HTTPS address, for example), look out for upcoming posts from me on how to go about it.

Ssl   Lets Encrypt   Netlify

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