Centralizing Site-Building Tools in `C:\mgu\software`

At MGU, we recommend keeping all your static site generators (Eleventy, Hugo, etc.) in a single location for maintainability. This avoids scattering them across individual project folders.

1 Set up a global software workspace

All site-building tools live under:

```
C:\mgu\software
├── eleventy
├── hugo
└── other-build-tools
```

Your project content (Markdown, templates, CSS) stays in `C:\mgu\library`.

2 Install Eleventy locally

Open PowerShell and run:

```
cd C:\mgu\software\eleventy
npm init -y
npm install @11ty/eleventy --save-dev
```

What this does:

- `cd …` → go to your Eleventy workspace
- `npm init -y` → create a `package.json` for tracking packages
- `npm install @11ty/eleventy --save-dev` → install Eleventy locally

3 Build your site from centralized tools

Run:

```
npx @11ty/eleventy --input "C:/mgu/library/eleventy/src" --output
"C:/mgu/library/eleventy/_site"
```

Explanation:

- `--input` → points to your source content (Markdown, templates)
- `--output` → folder for the generated HTML site

Optional: To serve the site locally and watch for changes:

```
npx @11ty/eleventy --input "C:/mgu/library/eleventy/src" --output
"C:/mgu/library/eleventy/_site" -serve
```

Your site will rebuild automatically when you edit files.

4 Create an automated build script

Save this as `build-eleventy.ps1` in `C:\mgu\software\eleventy`:

```
# Navigate to Eleventy folder
cd C:\mgu\software\eleventy

# Start Eleventy in serve mode
Start-Process powershell -ArgumentList {
    npx @11ty/eleventy --input "C:/mgu/library/eleventy/src" --output
"C:/mgu/library/eleventy/_site" --serve
}

# Wait a few seconds for the server to start
Start-Sleep -Seconds 5

# Open the site in your default browser
Start-Process "http://localhost:8000"
```

Run it via PowerShell:

```
cd C:\mgu\software\eleventy
.\build-eleventy.ps1
```

 This will serve your site and open it automatically in your browser.

5 Optional: Create a double-click shortcut

1. Right-click in `C:\mgu\software\eleventy` → New → Shortcut

2. Enter:

```
powershell.exe -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File "C:\mgu\software\eleventy\build-
eleventy.ps1"
```

3. Name it: `Build Eleventy`

4. Double-click to run — no PowerShell window needed.

6 Benefits

- Keeps software centralized
- Projects stay organized in `library`
- Multiple projects can share the same tools
- Avoids duplication and messy setups