# Serving Web Content with Spring MVC

This guide walks you through the process of creating a "hello world" web site with Spring.

## What you'll build

You'll build an application that has a static home page, and also will accept HTTP GET requests at:

```
http://localhost:8080/greeting
```

and respond with a web page displaying HTML. The body of the HTML contains a greeting:

```
"Hello, World!"
```

You can customize the greeting with an optional `name` parameter in the query string:

```
http://localhost:8080/greeting?name=User
```

The `name` parameter value overrides the default value of "World" and is reflected in the response:

```
"Hello, User!"
```

## What you'll need

- About 15 minutes
- A favorite text editor or IDE
- JDK 1.8 (http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html) or later
- Gradle 2.3+ (http://www.gradle.org/downloads) or Maven 3.0+ (http://maven.apache.org/download.cgi)
- You can also import the code from this guide as well as view the web page directly into Spring Tool Suite (STS) (/guides/gs/sts) and work your way through it from there.

## How to complete this guide

Like most Spring Getting Started guides (/guides), you can start from scratch and complete each step, or you can bypass basic setup steps that are already familiar to you. Either way, you end up with working code.

To **start from scratch**, move on to Build with Gradle.

To **skip the basics**, do the following:

- Download (https://github.com/spring-guides/gs-serving-web-content/archive/master.zip) and unzip the source repository for this guide, or clone it using Git (/understanding/Git): `git clone https://github.com/spring-guides/gs-serving-web-content.git (https://github.com/spring-guides/gs-serving-web-content.git`
- cd into `gs-serving-web-content/initial`
- Jump ahead to Create a web controller.

**When you're finished**, you can check your results against the code in `gs-serving-web-content/complete`.

## ▶ Build with Gradle

## ▼ Build with Maven

First you set up a basic build script. You can use any build system you like when building apps with Spring, but the code you need to work with Maven (https://maven.apache.org) is included here. If you're not familiar with Maven, refer to Building Java Projects with Maven (/guides/gs/maven).