Building static websites with Jekyll

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Who am I?

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Jekyll is a simple blog-aware static site generator written in Ruby.

Why Jekyll?

Simple: No database, no updates

Blog-aware: Built in permalinks, categories, pages,

posts & custom layouts

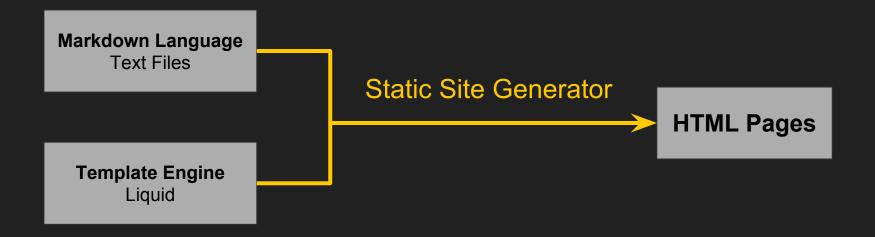
Faster: Pre-rendered pages

Safer: No database or server side exploitable code

When NOT to use Jekyll?

- Database is required
- Complex back-end tasks
- No intent on writing markdown

Static Site Generator



Installation

Needed Dependencies:

- Ruby with development headers
- Ruby gems

Run:

\$ gem install jekyll

or

\$ gem install github-pages

Themes

Grab a theme from:

- http://jekyllthemes.io/
- http://jekyllthemes.org/
- http://themes.jekyllrc.org/

Start from scratch using the command: | \$ jekyll new project name

I will use: Clean Blog

(http://blackrockdigital.github.io/startbootstrap-clean-blog-jekyll/)

Let's look around Jekyll's structure...

Structure

_site/: folder for your generated site -Generated on built

_layouts/: folder containing your layouts

_includes/: folder for partials -think HTML includes

_post/: folder for your posts

_config.yml: config file

index.html: home page

Config.yml

Website's possible variables - Main configuration

- Title
- Url
- Baseurl
- Description
- Social media links
- Build options for Jekyll (e.x. port, ssl, exclude)

Posts

Post = Front matter + Markdown text

Front Matter

layout: post

title: 'My First Blog'

Optional info

- Permalink
- Published
- Category
- tags

Markdown

Lightweight Markup Language

8

Plain Text Formatting Syntax



designed to be converted to HTML (and other formats).

Markdown Example

Syntax		Preview
# Header	→	Header
An unordered list: - Item 1 - Item 2		An unordered list: • Item 1 • Item 2
bold	→	bold

Markdown Example



Layouts

Liquid Templates "Base" for each page

*Write pure HTML if there is no need for the template features

Liquid Basic

```
Tag {% if user %}

Object Hello {{ user.name }} 

Tag {% endif %}

Tag {% include footer.html %}
```

Assets

css/: folder for your css (SASS and LESS are also supported)

js/: folder containing your javascript files

assets/: folder for the rest of the assets (images, pdfs e.t.c.)

Running Locally

1. Run a jekyll server that tracks changes:

\$ jekyll s -w

2. Visit http://localhost:4000/

Plugins

Run custom ruby code without having to modify the Jekyll source itself.

*Warning:
Github allows only
specific plugins for
security reason.

If you must run a custom plugin

build the site on computer, then upload.

Upload to Github

- 1. Create a github repo
- Upload your Jekyll project
- Navigate to username.github.io/ProjectName
 (Don't forget to replace Username & ProjectName)

*More info about github-pages: https://pages.github.com/

Further reading

Liquid: https://shopify.github.io/liquid/basics/introduction/

Markdown: https://guides.github.com/features/mastering-markdown/

Config.yml options: https://jekyllrb.com/docs/configuration/

Github supported plugins: https://pages.github.com/versions/

Migrate from an existing cms: http://import.jekyllrb.com/

Sources

- https://jekyllrb.com/
- https://wolfr.github.io/intro-to-jekyll
- http://jekyllbootstrap.com/api/jekyll-liquid-api.html
- http://code.tutsplus.com/articles/building-static-sites-with-jekyll--net-22211
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWowJBRMtpc
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markdown
- http://whatismarkdown.com/
- https://www.sitepoint.com/wordpress-vs-jekyll-might-want-make-switch/
- http://cloudcannon.com/jekyll/2015/03/04/5-reasons-you-should-use-jekyll.html

THANK YOU!

Slides: acm.web.auth.gr