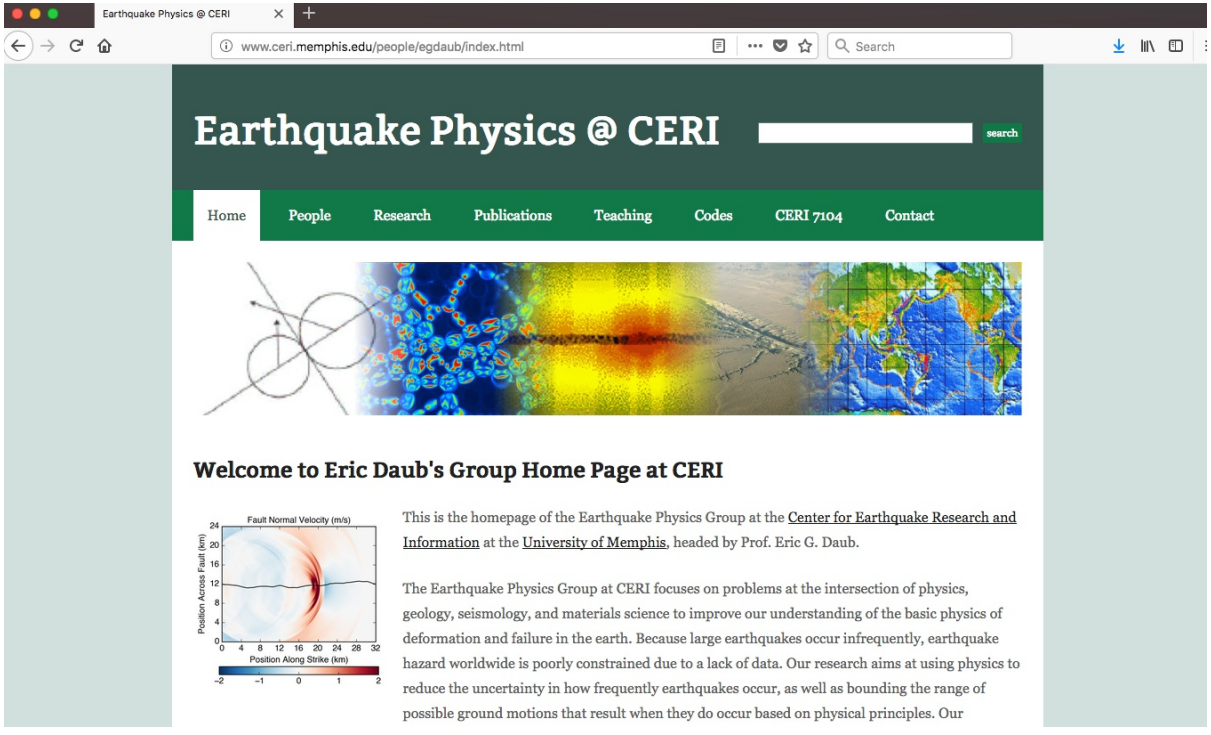
Creating a Website for Graduate Students

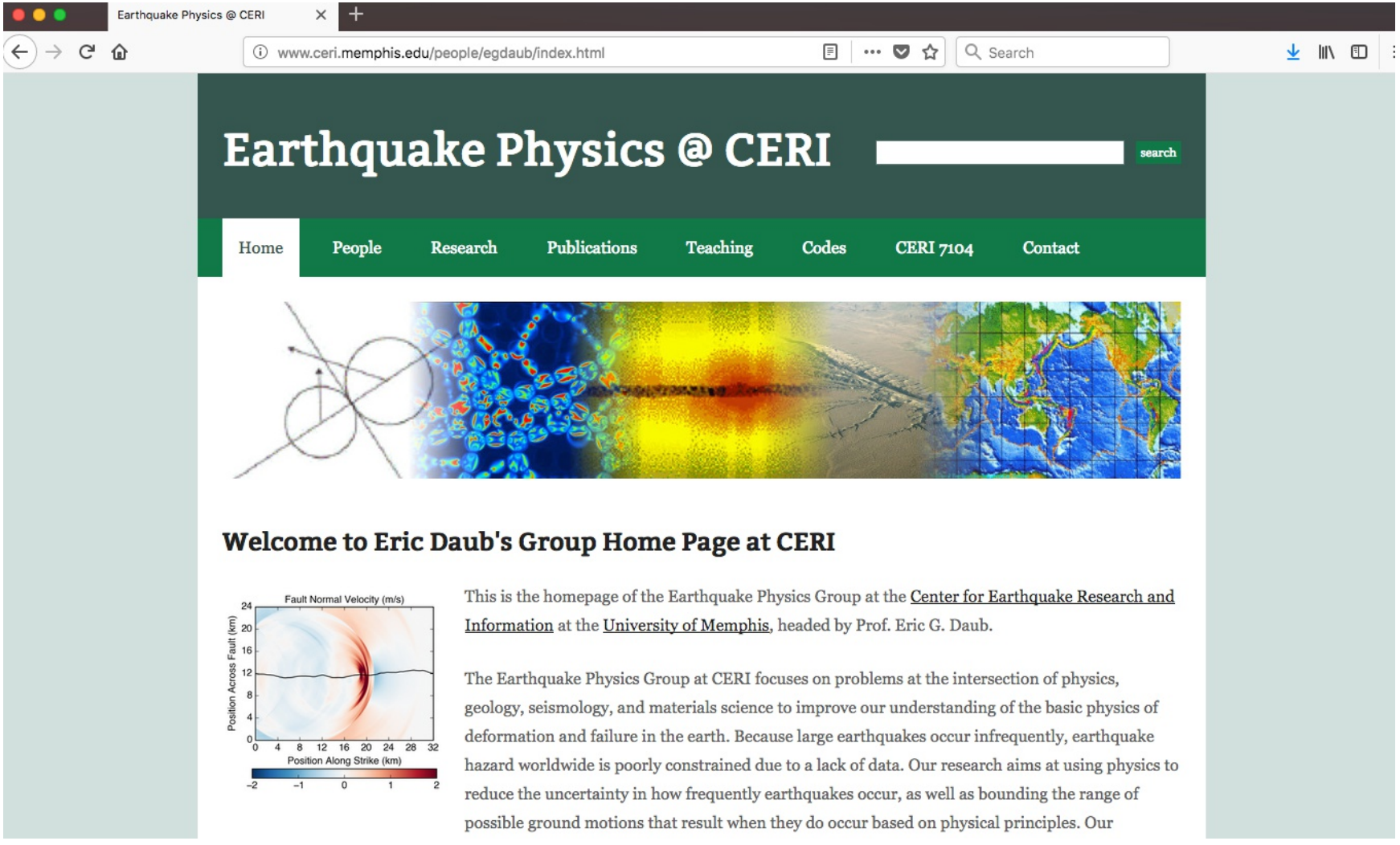
October 5, 2018

Eric G. Daub



Why Do I Need a Website?

Your website should be an interactive version of your CV. Most importantly, a good web page makes it easy for someone to get more information about your accomplishments (i.e. this would be someone that wants to hire you).



Why Do I Need a Website?

A website can give more detail on your CV in a way that is more enjoyable to read. Compare my CV to my website:

ERIC G. DAUB

Center for Earthquake Research and Information — egdaub@memphis.edu
University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, 38152 — +1 901-678-4830
http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/egdaub/

EDUCATION

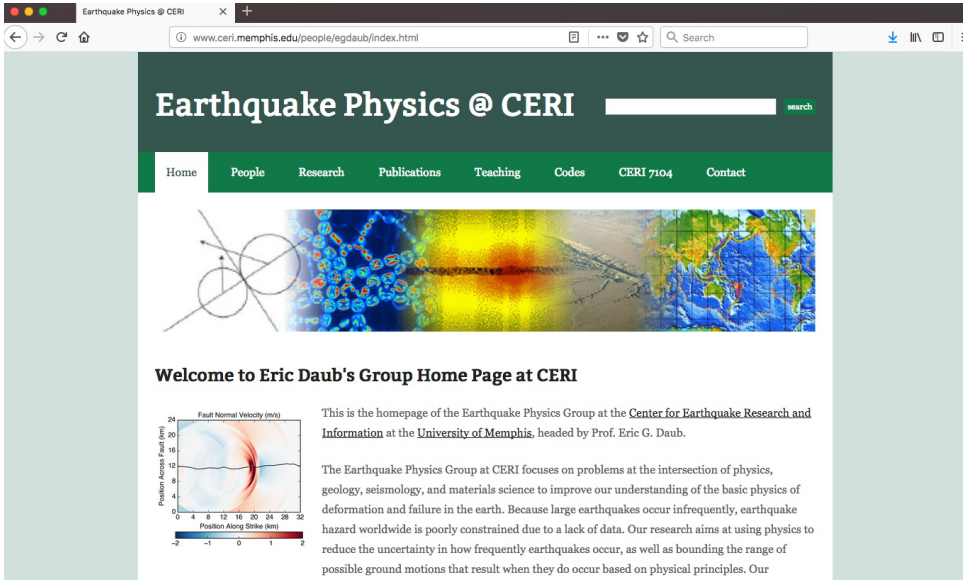
University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
Ph.D. Physics, 2009
Thesis: *Deformation and Localization in Earthquake Ruptures and Stick-Slip Instabilities*
Advisor: Jean M. Carlson

Williams College, Williamstown, MA
B.A. Physics *cum laude*, with Honors in Physics, 2004
Thesis: *The Primary Sequence Limit of pre-mRNA Splice Site Detection*
Advisor: Daniel P. Aalberts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Memphis, Center for Earthquake Research and Information, Memphis, TN
Assistant Professor, January 2014-present

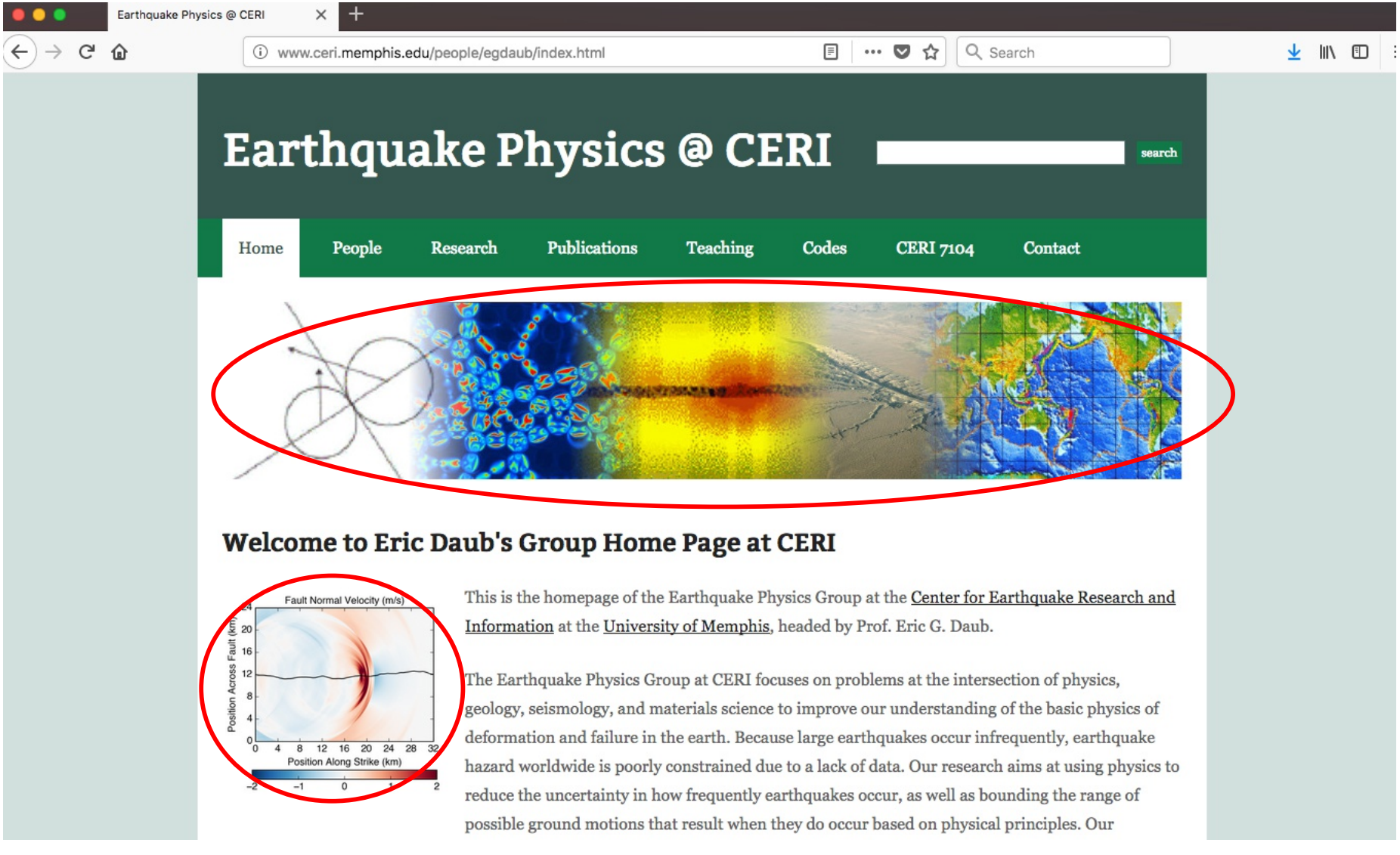
ETH Zurich, Department of Materials, Zurich, Switzerland
Visiting Professor, September 2013-December 2013, Host: Jörg F. Löffler



However, a website is not a replacement for a thoughtfully composed CV -- you should spend time working on both of them.

What Should I Put On My Website?

Your website should make it easy for someone to get details on your accomplishments and experience. Also put images on to make it nicer to browse, such as a photo of you, images from your research, etc.



What Should I Put On My Website?

Note I have links to CERI and UM page. If I were a student or postdoc, I might also link to my advisor's webpage.

Earthquake Physics @ CERI

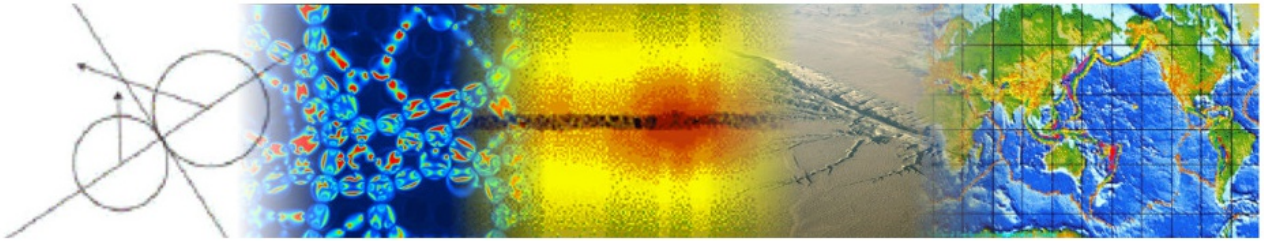
www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/egdaub/index.html

Search

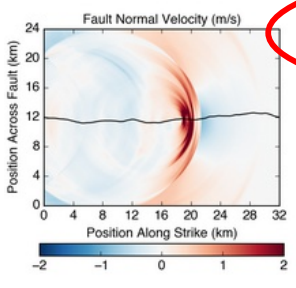
Earthquake Physics @ CERI

search

Home | People | Research | Publications | Teaching | Codes | CERI 7104 | Contact



Welcome to Eric Daub's Group Home Page at CERI

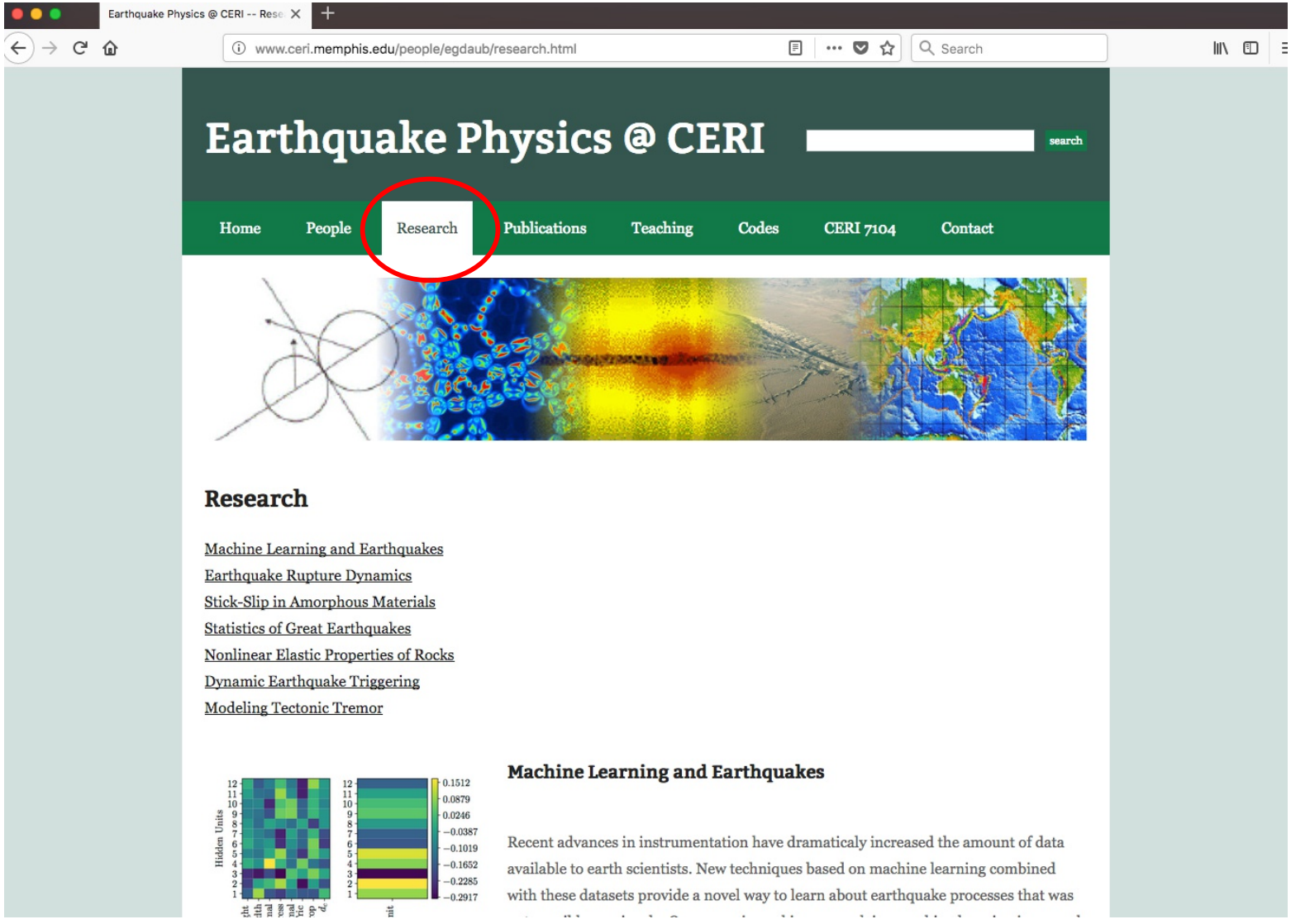


This is the homepage of the Earthquake Physics Group at the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis, headed by Prof. Eric G. Daub.

The Earthquake Physics Group at CERI focuses on problems at the intersection of physics, geology, seismology, and materials science to improve our understanding of the basic physics of deformation and failure in the earth. Because large earthquakes occur infrequently, earthquake hazard worldwide is poorly constrained due to a lack of data. Our research aims at using physics to reduce the uncertainty in how frequently earthquakes occur, as well as bounding the range of possible ground motions that result when they do occur based on physical principles. Our

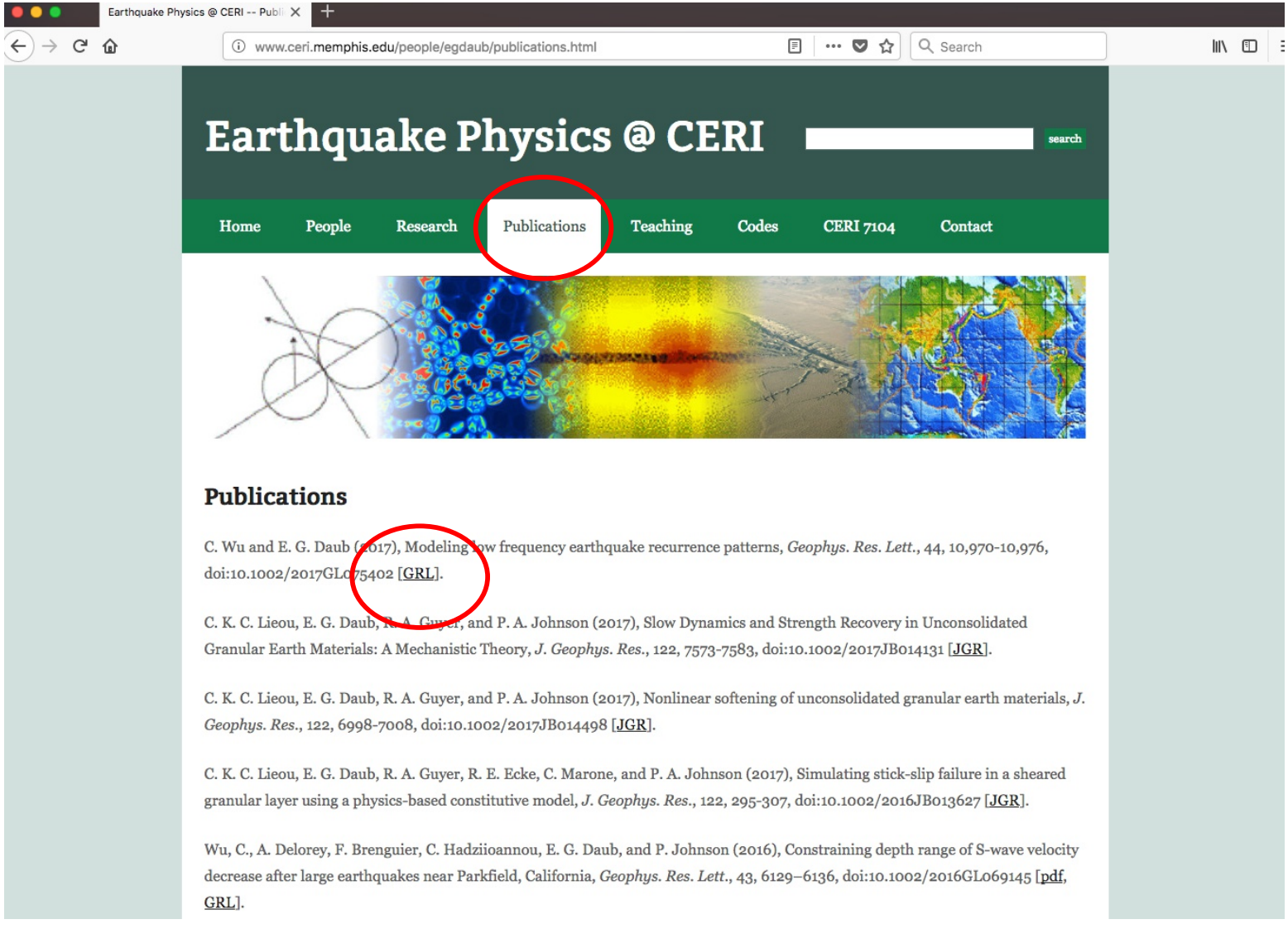
What Should I Put On My Website?

I also have a page describing my research projects and why they are interesting and important.



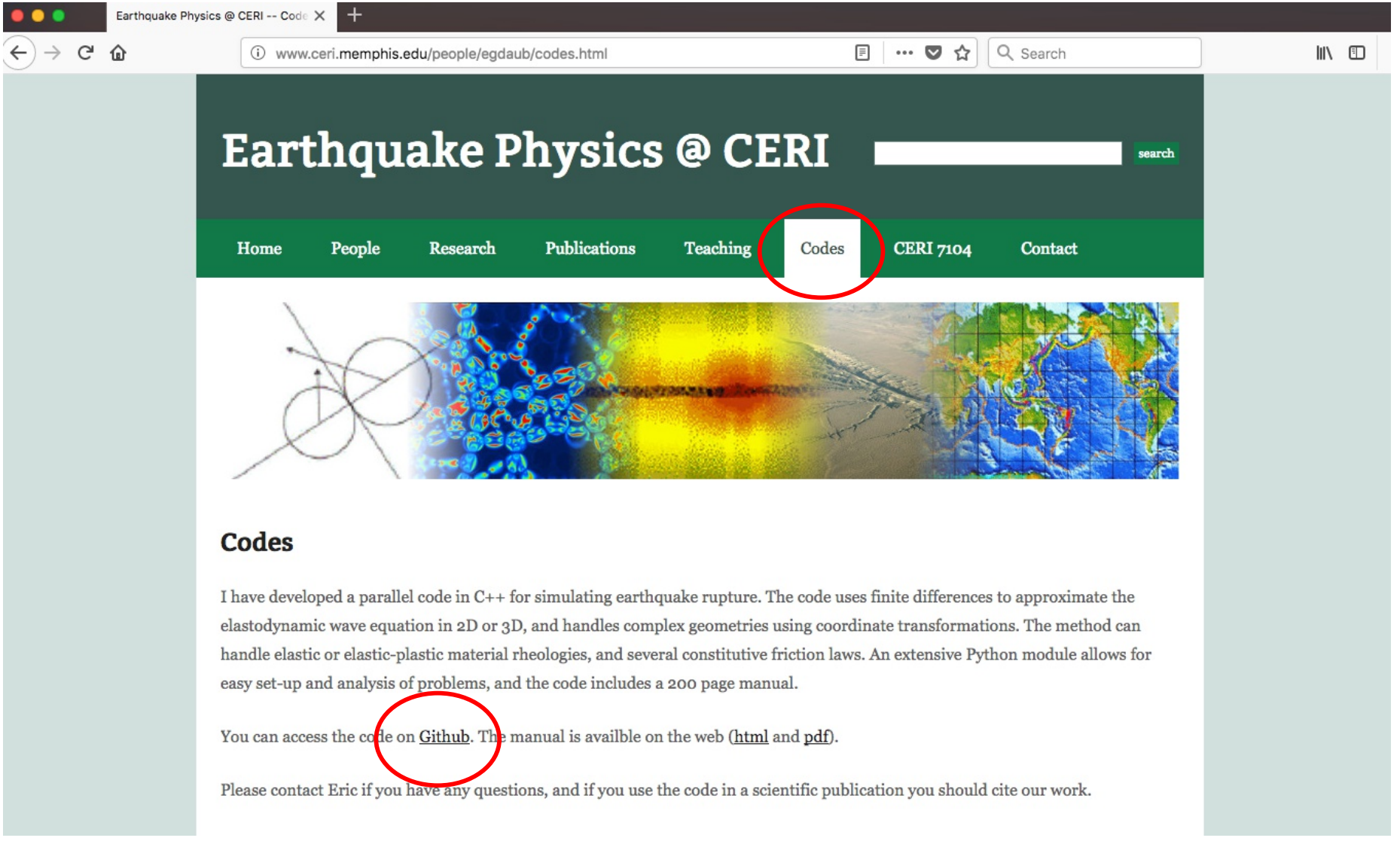
What Should I Put On My Website?

And most critically, I have complete citations and links to all of my publications. No one wants to go digging through JGR or BSSA back issues to find your publications.



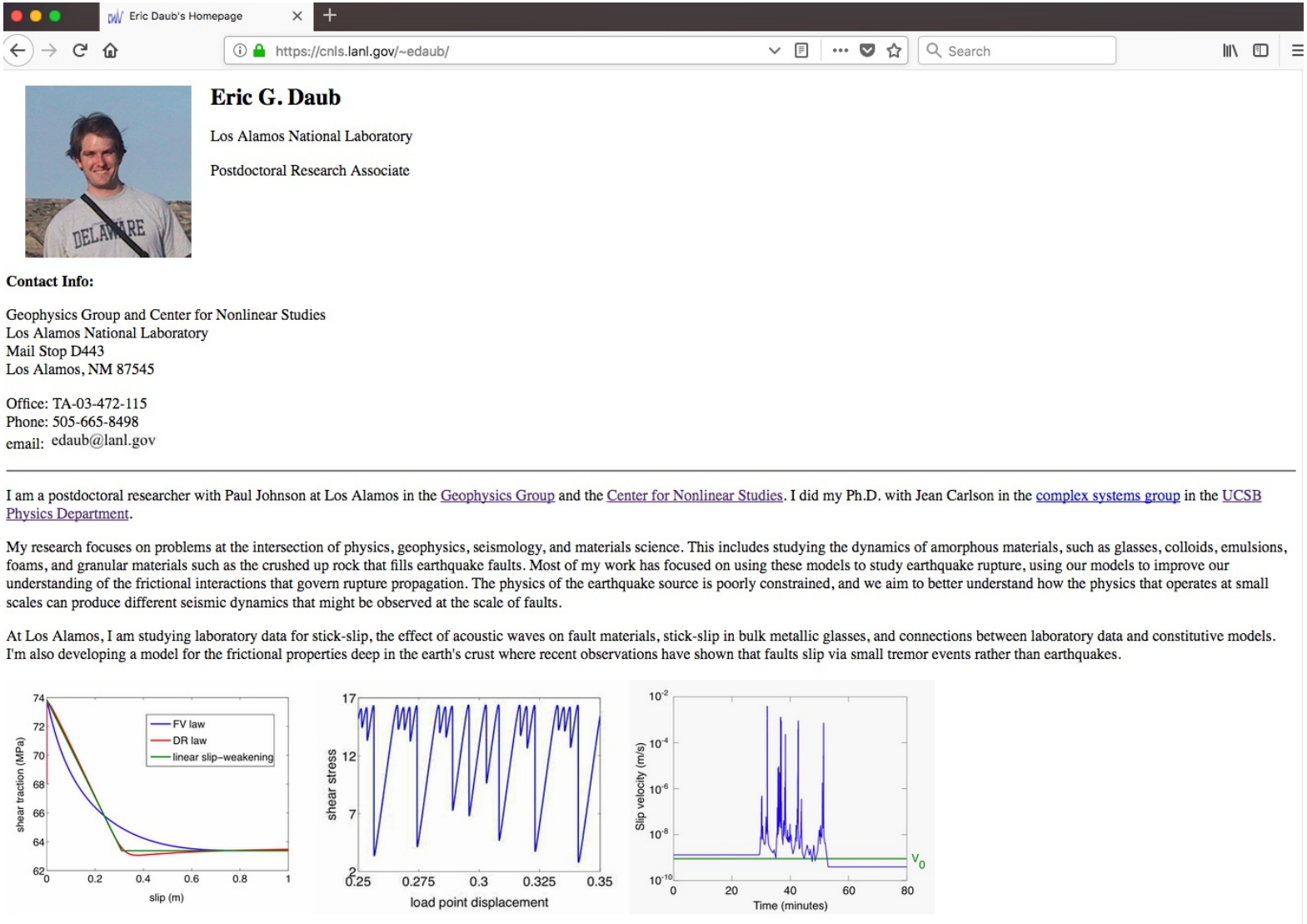
What Should I Put On My Website?

Another good thing to put on your website is scientific software projects you have completed. Direct links to code files, Github, etc., are all good options. Also consider putting course projects up.



What Should I Put On My Website?

As a simpler example, my web page from when I was a postdoc at LANL still exists on the web at https://cnls.lanl.gov/~edaub/



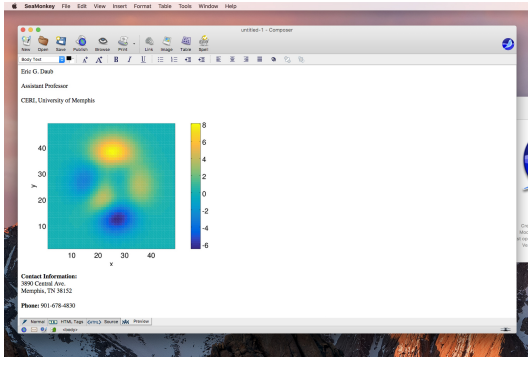
How Do I Create My Website?

Websites are written in HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). Plain text format with special "tags" that tell the web browser how to display the content. You do not need to know any HTML to make a web page, but you have more control over the results if you do.

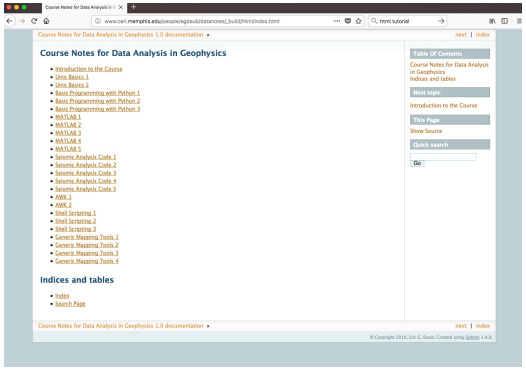
Four possible ways to make a page that I will discuss:

No HTML:

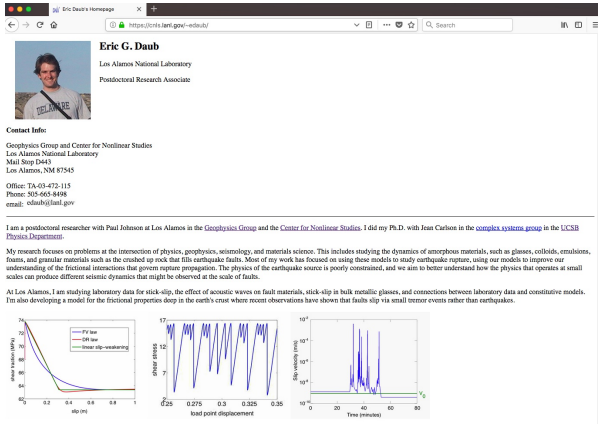
WYSIWYG



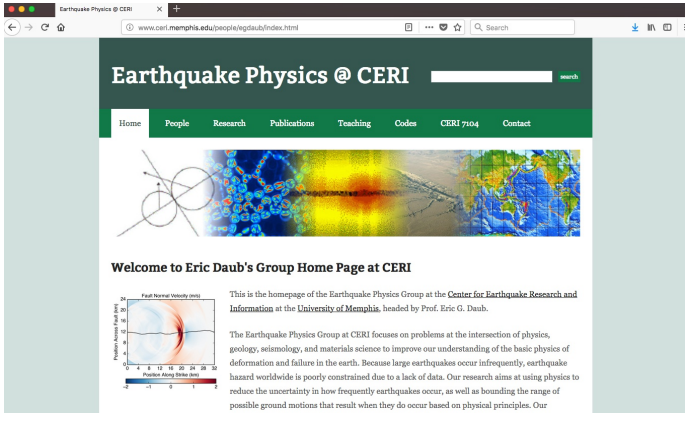
Sphinx



With HTML:



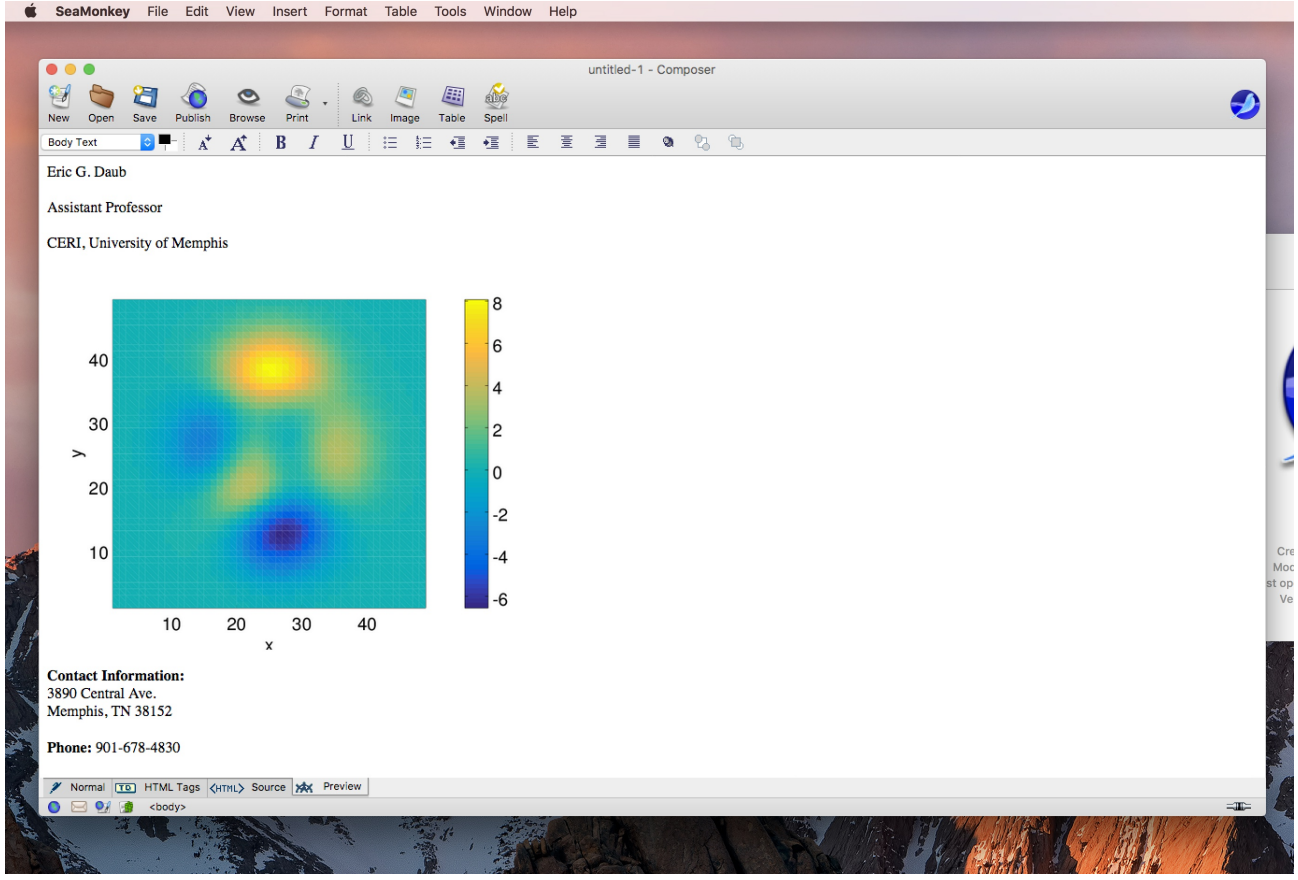
Roll your Own



Template

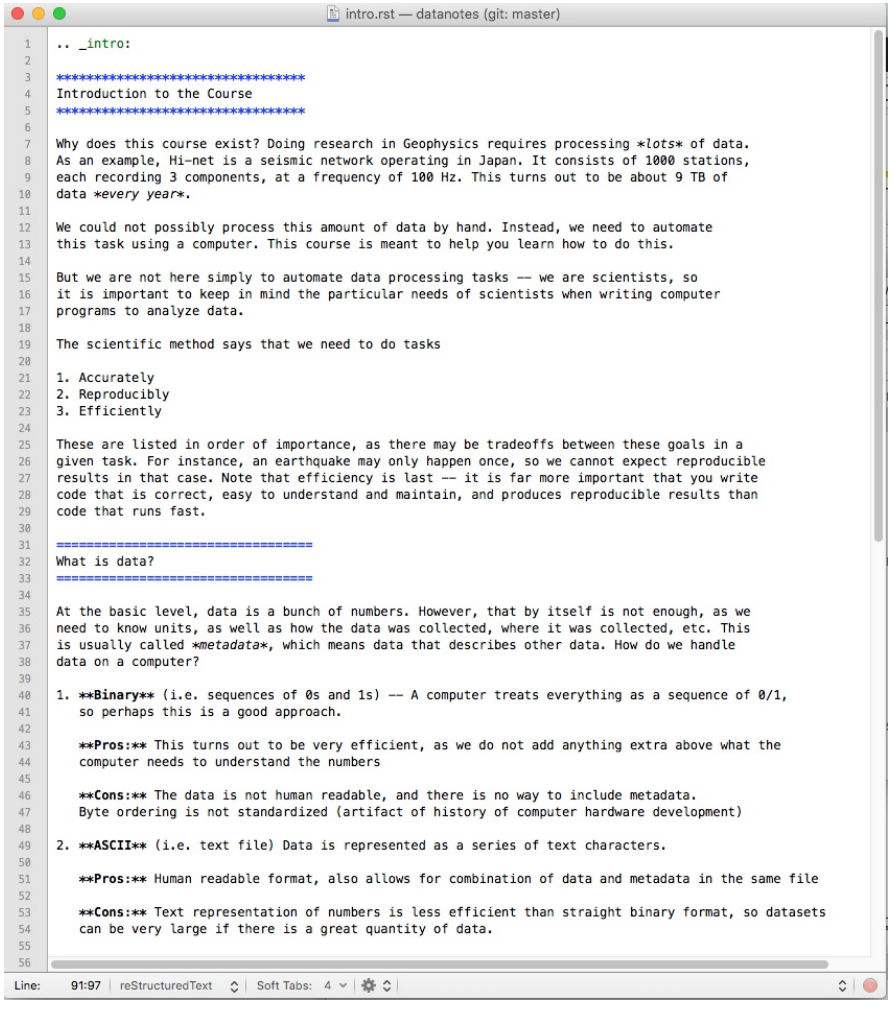
WYSIWYG

WYSIWYG = What You See Is What You Get. Here, use a GUI to edit a document directly to create your website. Can be limiting, but you are not trying to create a visual masterpiece here, so can often be the best choice for a simple site, usually easiest if your site is a single page. SeaMonkey is a well-known example, installed on Mac Lab computers.



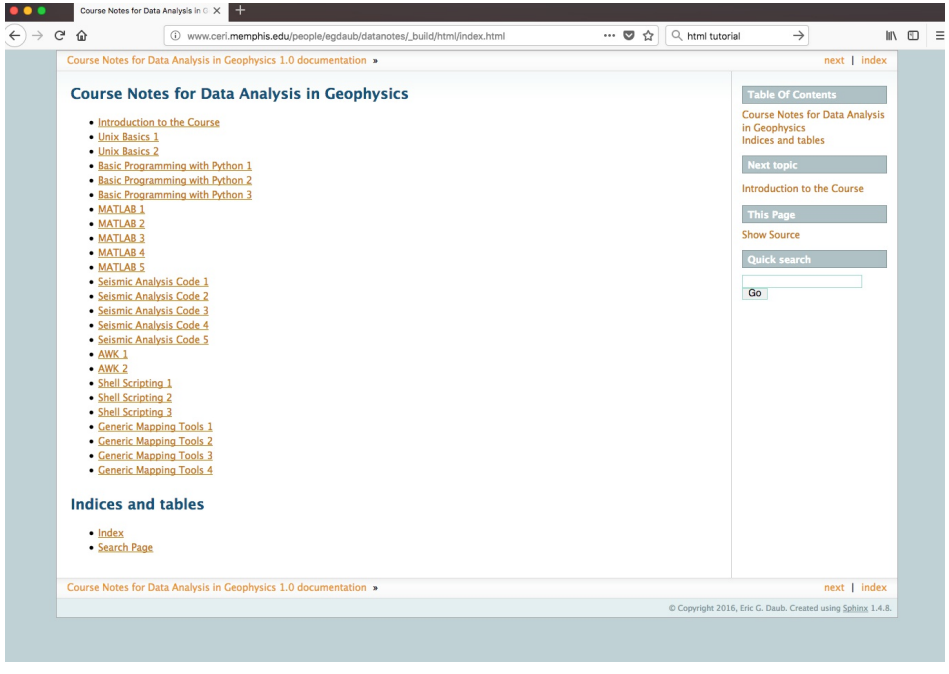
Sphinx

If you have taken my Data Analysis class in the past 3 years, you have seen a site made with Sphinx. Write content in a special text format (ReStructured Text, RST), which is automatically transformed into HTML. RST is simpler than HTML and easier to read directly, but still requires learning a new syntax. If you don't know RST, probably not a good solution.



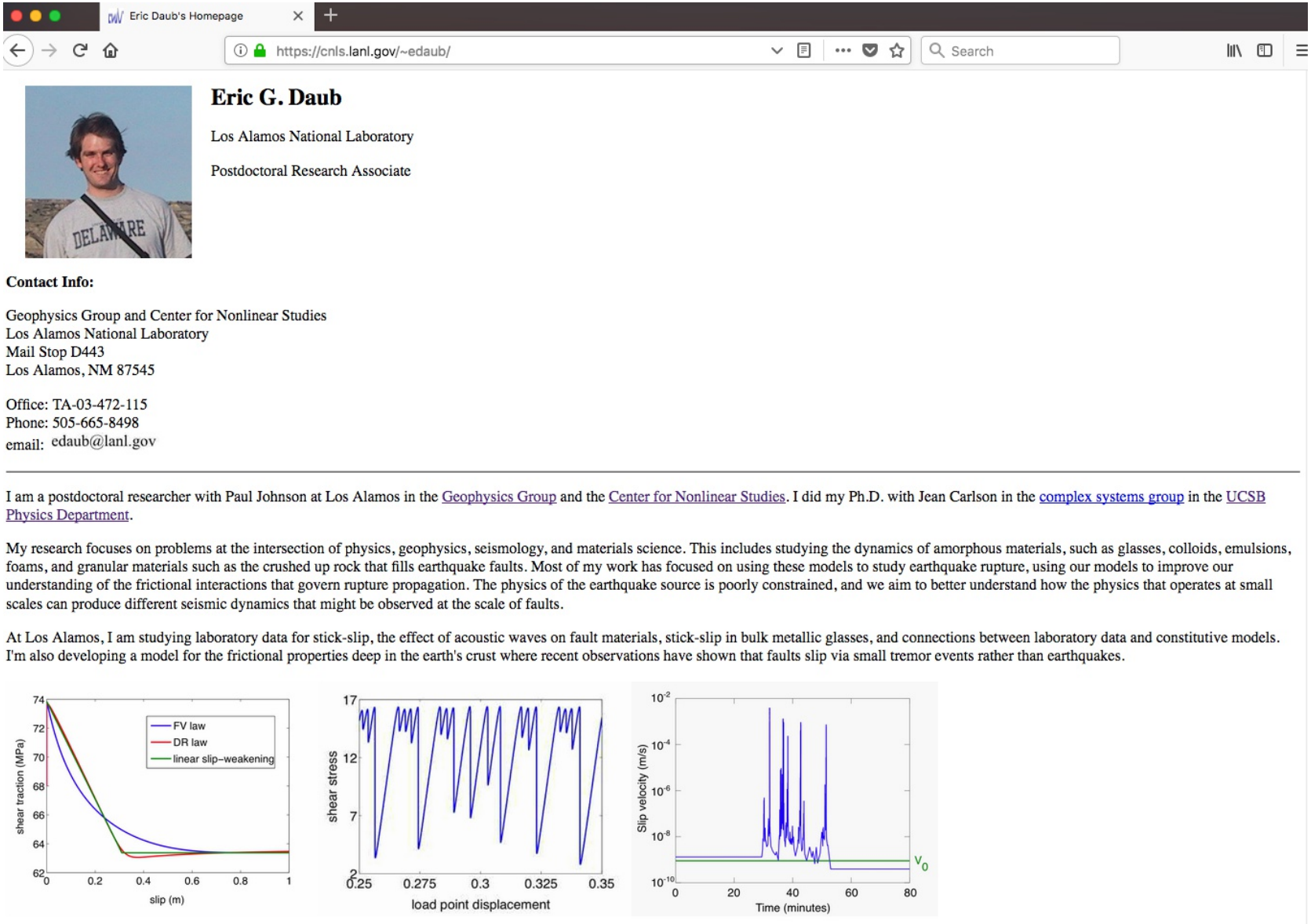
ReStructured Text

→ HTML



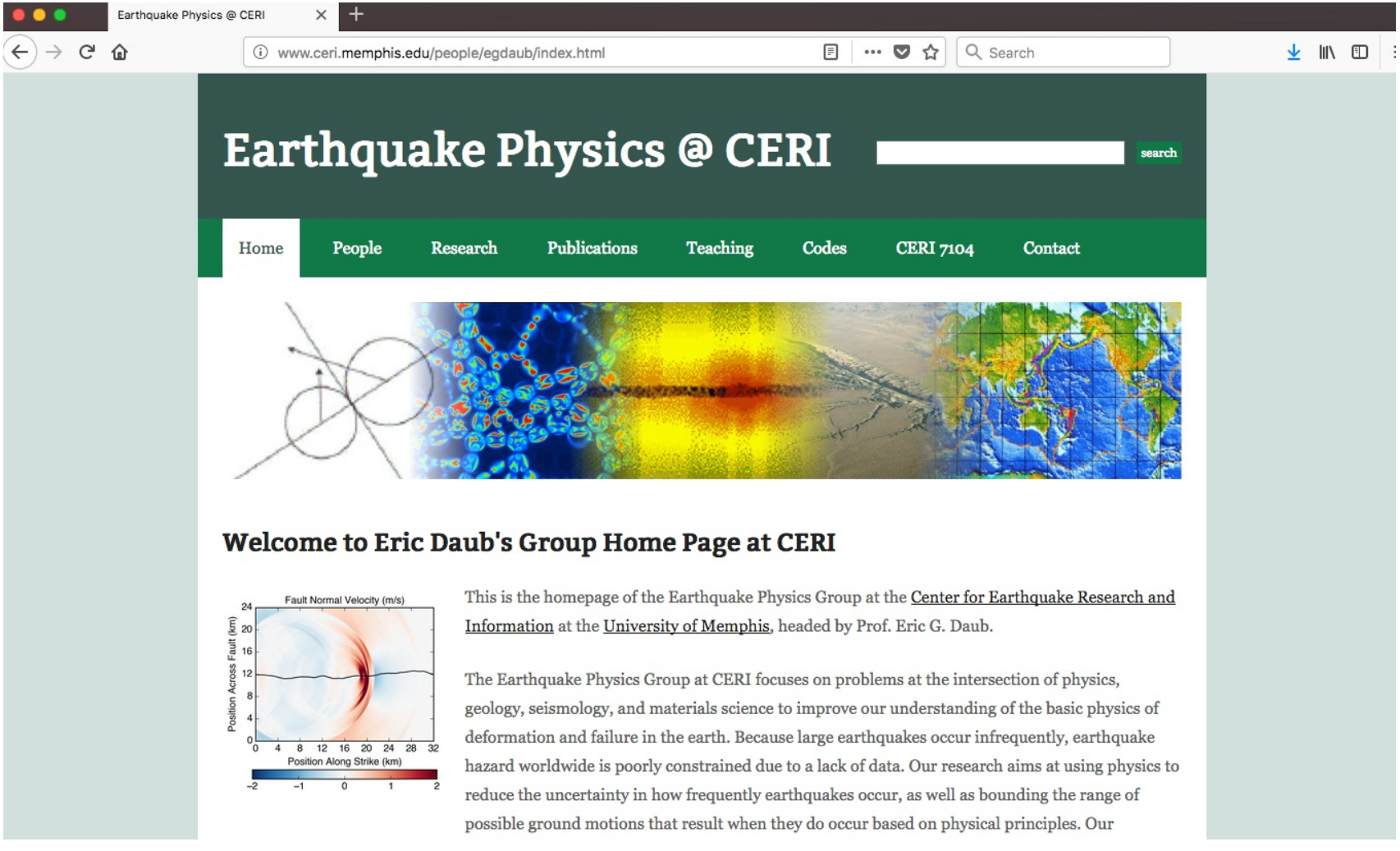
Roll Your Own

It is not too difficult to learn enough basic HTML to make a simple webpage on your own. My LANL page was done this way.



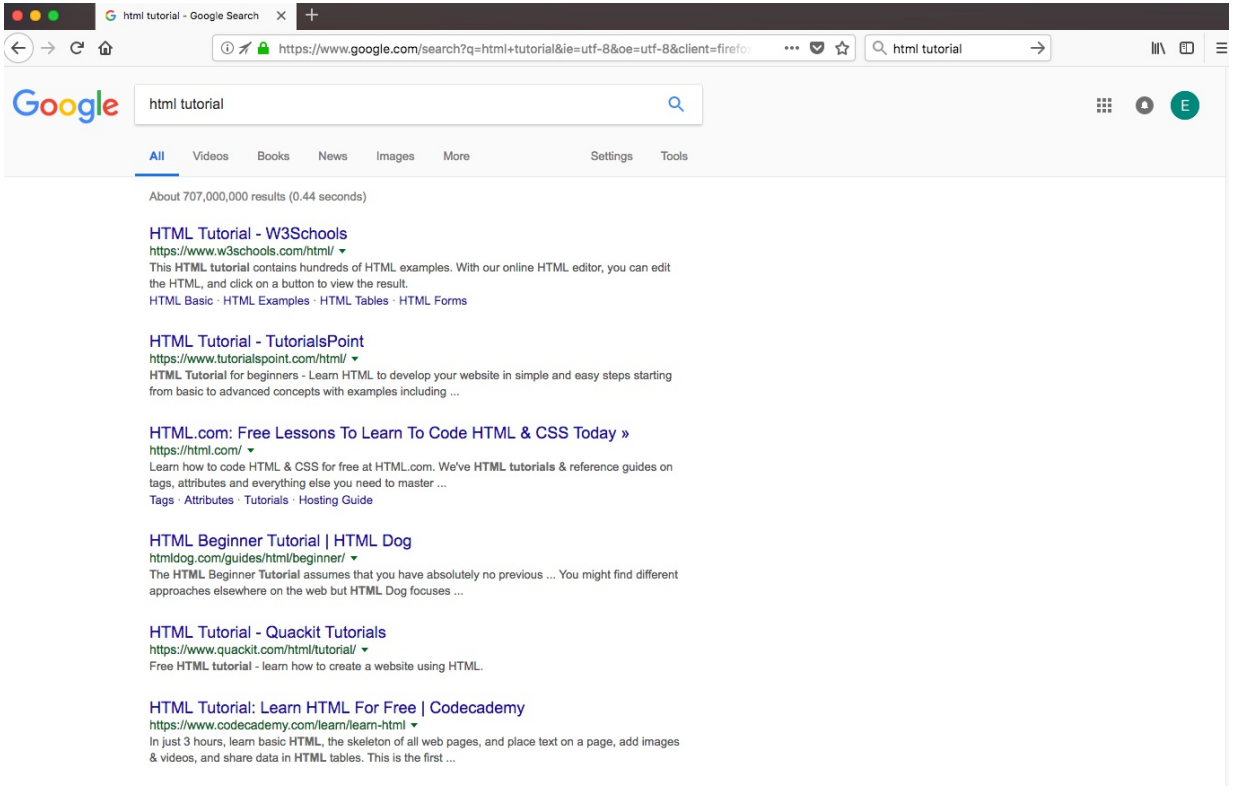
Template

Advanced version of Roll Your Own: find a free template online (there are many that are free to use), modify the HTML yourself. Can be trickier than a simple page, as templates often use advanced HTML tags that you might not understand as a beginner. My CERI page is an example.



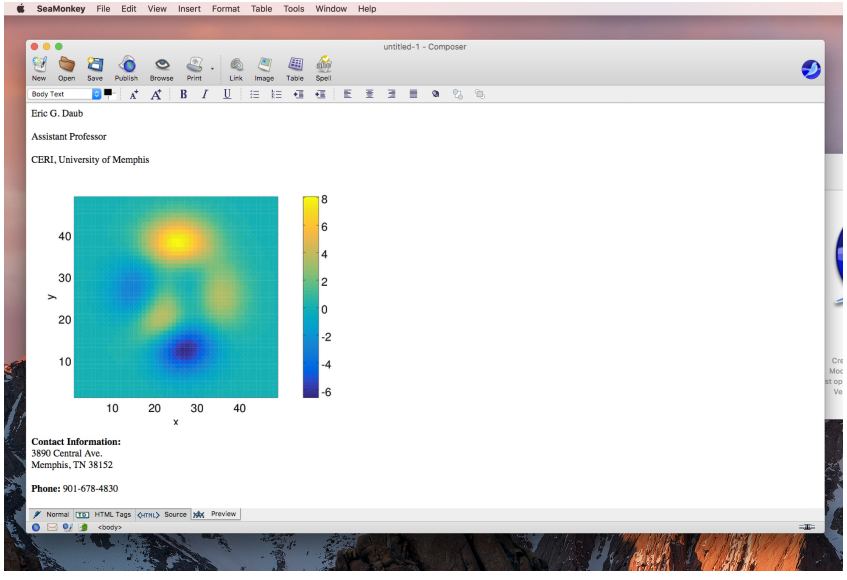
How Do I Learn HTML?

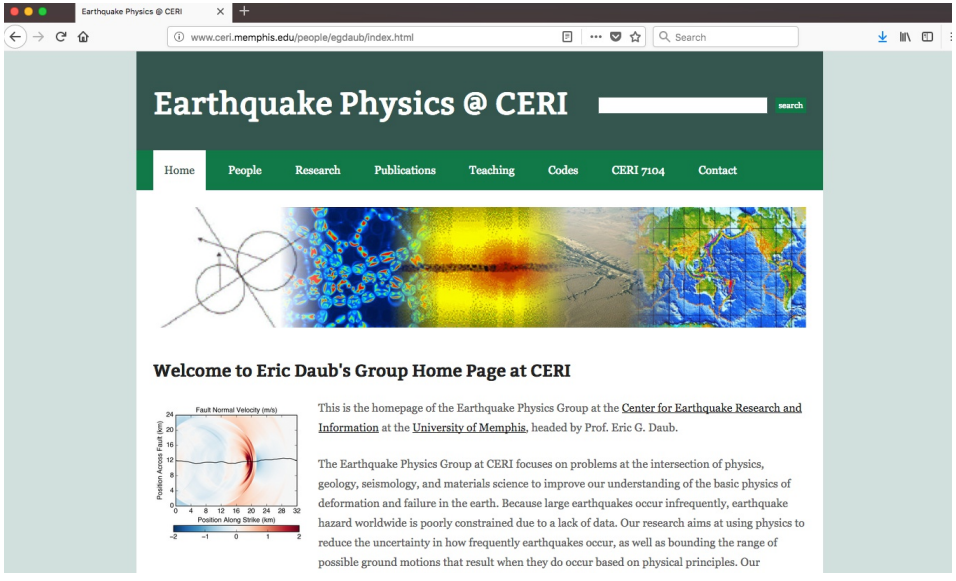
You can easily teach yourself enough HTML to make a site working a bit each day over a couple of weeks. Search for HTML Tutorials online. Also helps to find a simple example (such as my LANL page) and look at the HTML code to figure out the basics.



A Few More Details

You can make your site a single page (easiest) or multiple pages (more work, but not too difficult). If you make it a single page, split it up into the sections described above.

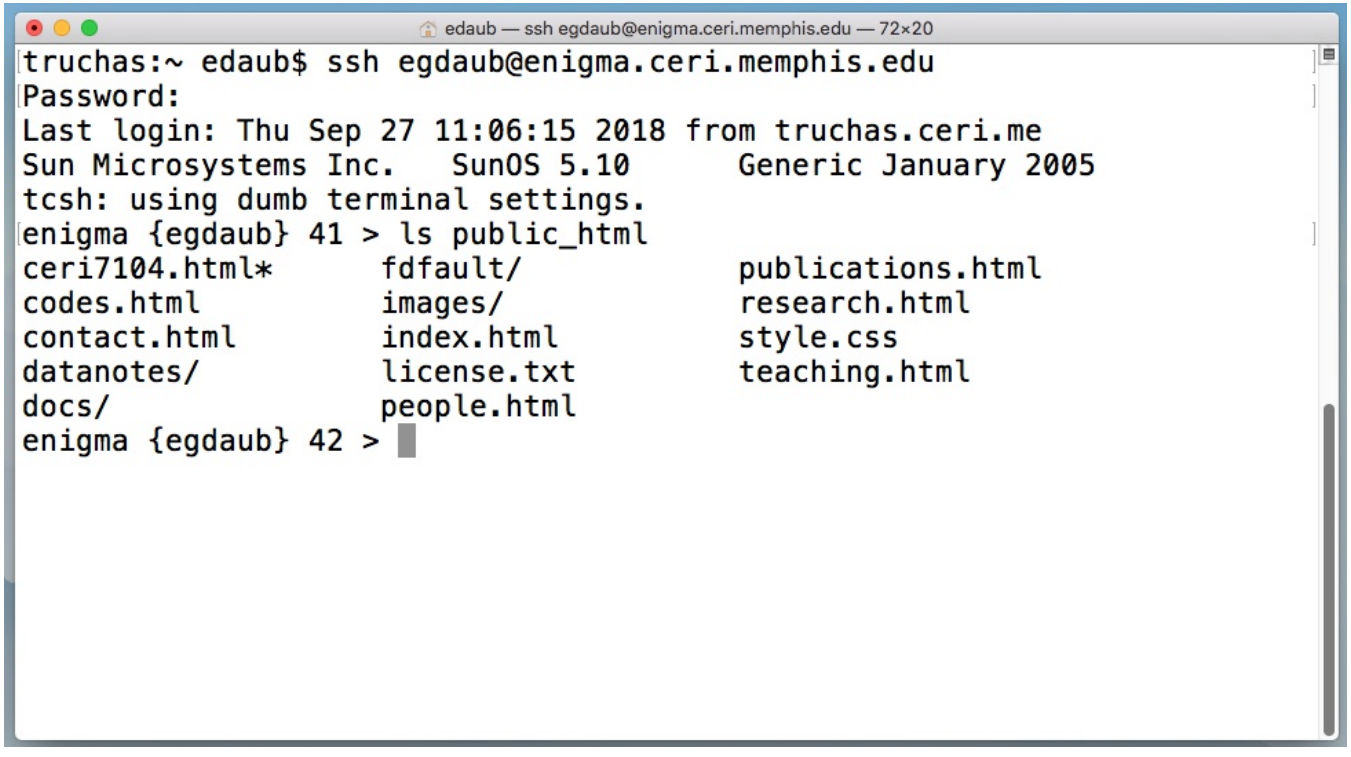




If you want multiple pages, create a separate page for each topic, and be sure to have links between all of them. Good example is on my page above, where there is a main page, research, publications, codes, etc. More pages mean that there are more interdependent links to check to be sure they work, so it is extra work to maintain.

Where Do I Put It On The Web?

Once you create your page, you need to put it on a server where people can access it. Best thing to do is use the web server here at CERI (my page is hosted there).



Note: Mitch said some things about the Suns being put behind a firewall last year, and that web hosting might be moved to another server. If hosting moves, basic premise is the same: put all files for the site in some "public_html" directory on the server via scp or sftp.

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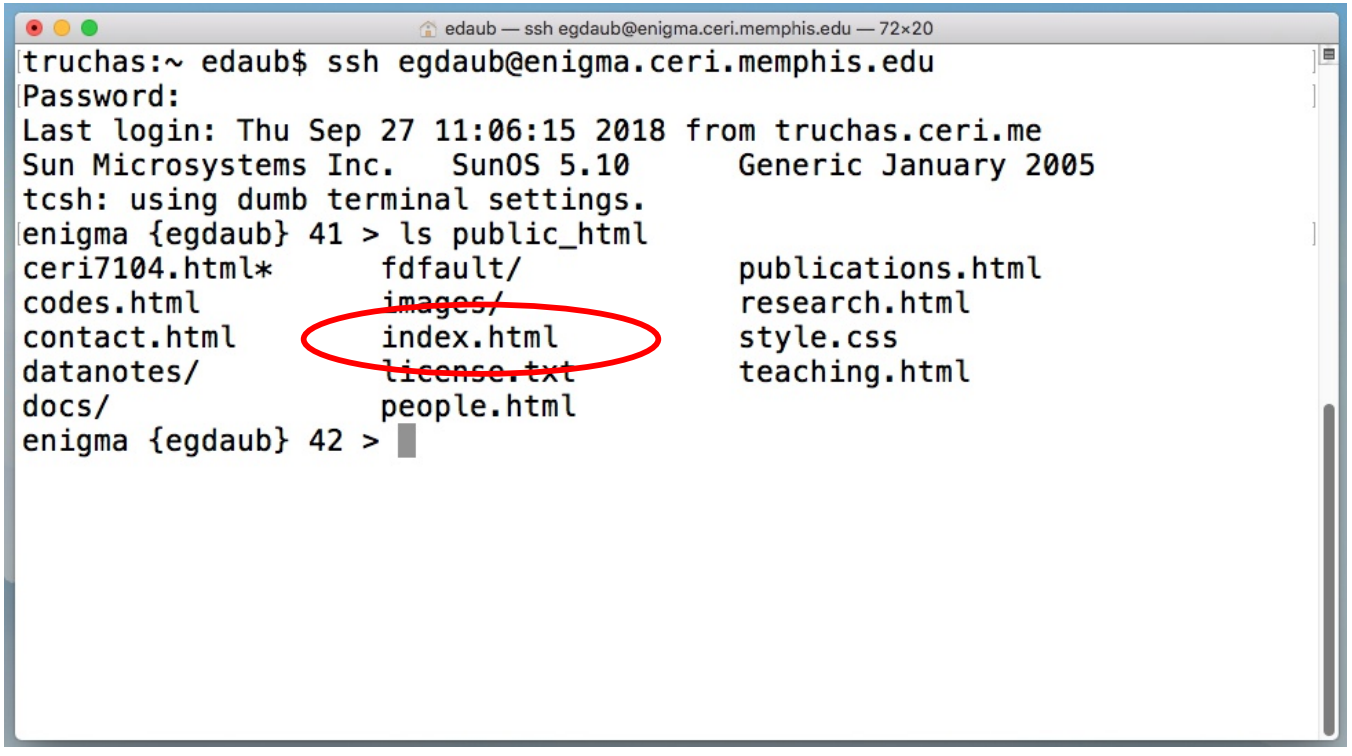

Your main page should be named "index.html" and will be the main site that comes up when someone enters
https://www.ceri.memphis.edu/people/<username>/
into their browser. Everything else is up to you as to how it is organized.

Where Do I Put It On The Web?

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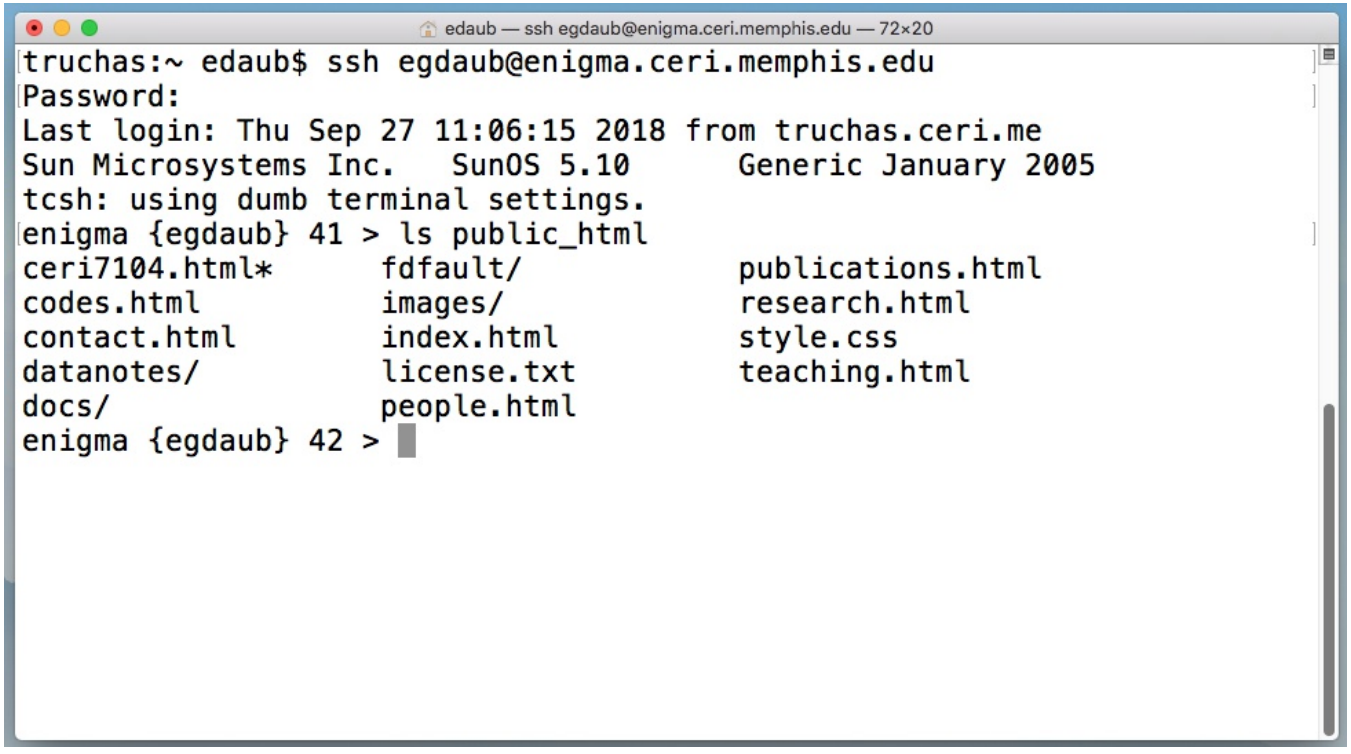
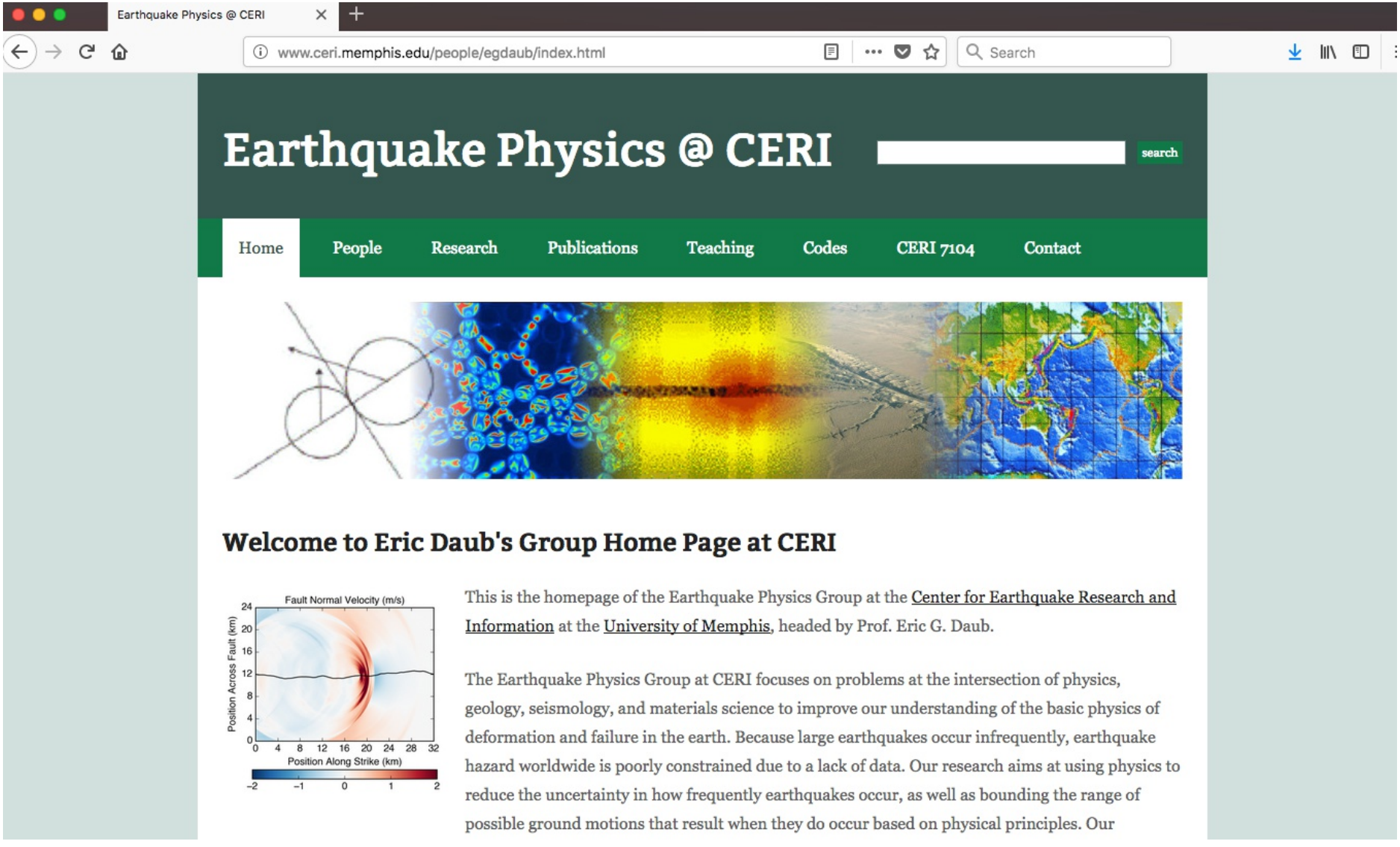


For example, I have individual pages (all ending in ".html") for the sub-pages on my site, a CSS file (a separate file that describes the visual layout of each page), plus directories for other pieces of the site such as images, documents, code manuals, and the Data Analysis notes.

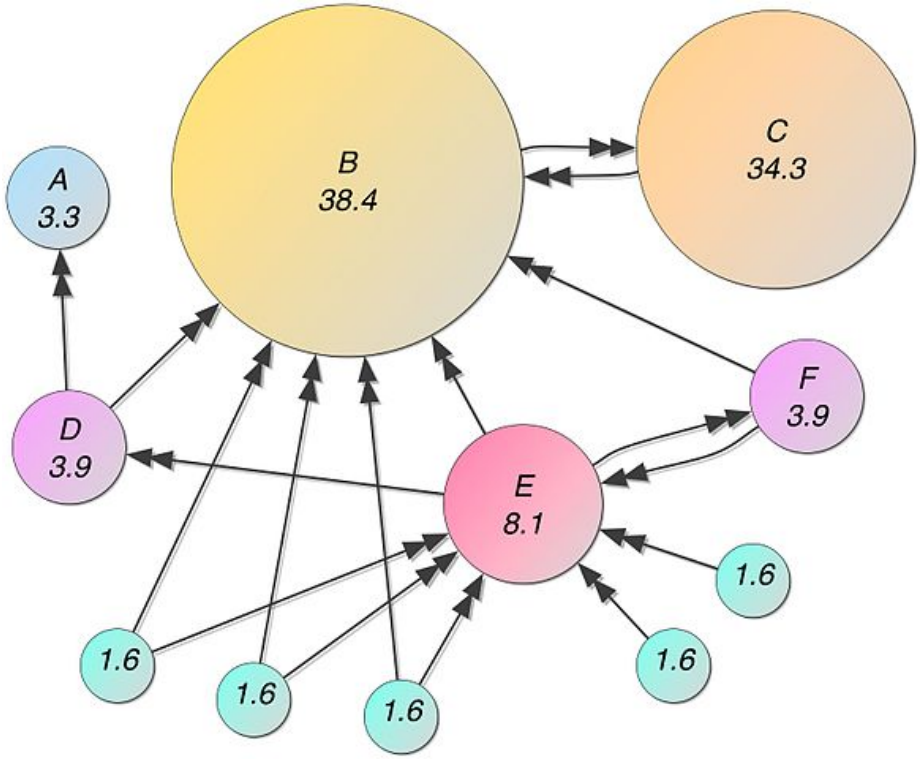
Where Do I Put It On The Web?

Once you have your site up and running, check that it works. That means you need to manually click on EVERY link on EVERY page to be sure it goes where you want. (This is why a single page is easier!)



Important: Have Others Link To You!

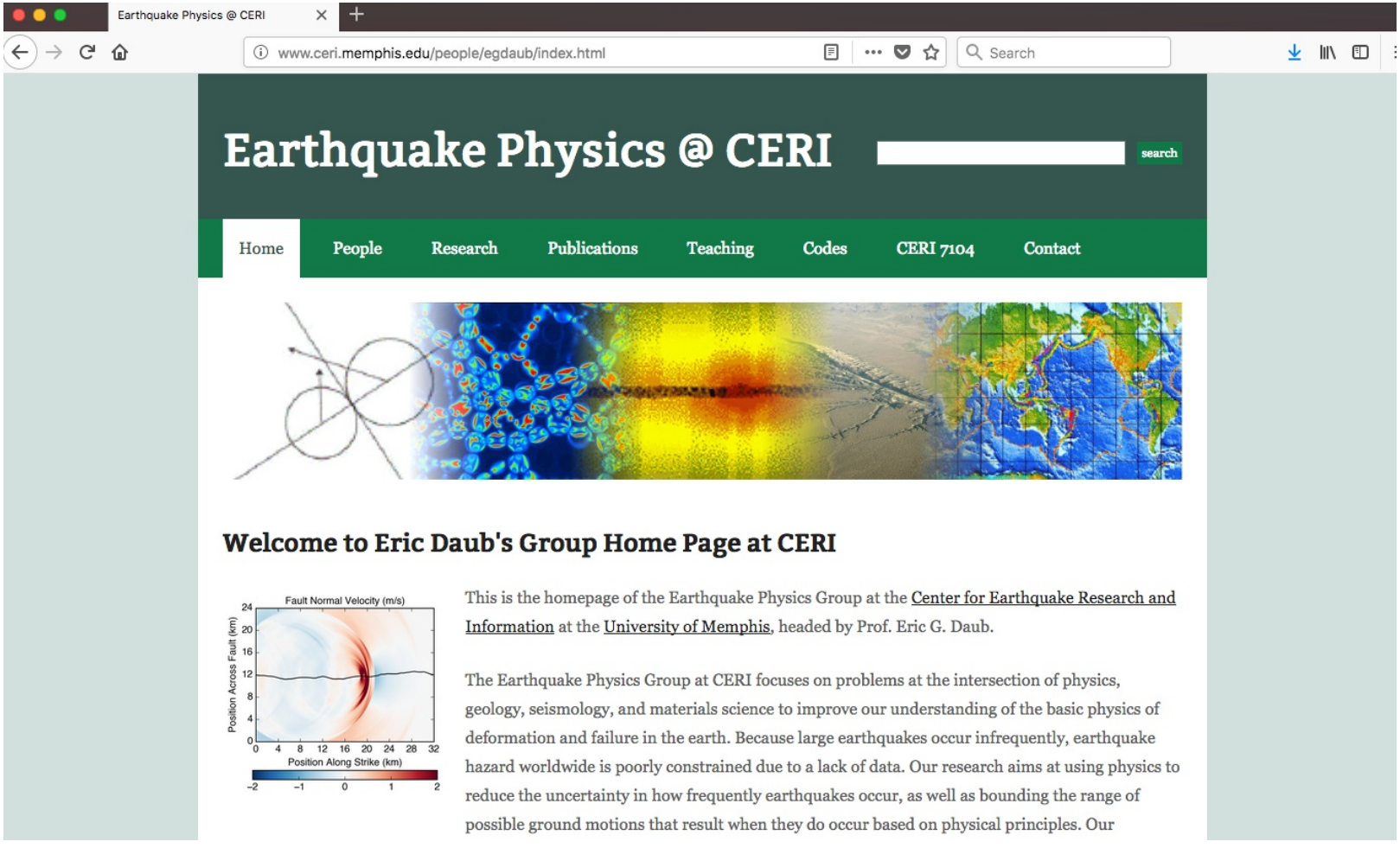
Google returns results based on how many links point to a page and their importance. The more links, the more likely it is to come up in a search.



Thus, it is important to tell Kent or someone with access to the CERI site to link to you. Also have your advisor link to your page (my students included!). Check that "Your Name" "Your Name CERI," "Your Name Geophysics," "Your Name Seismology," etc return your page in a search.

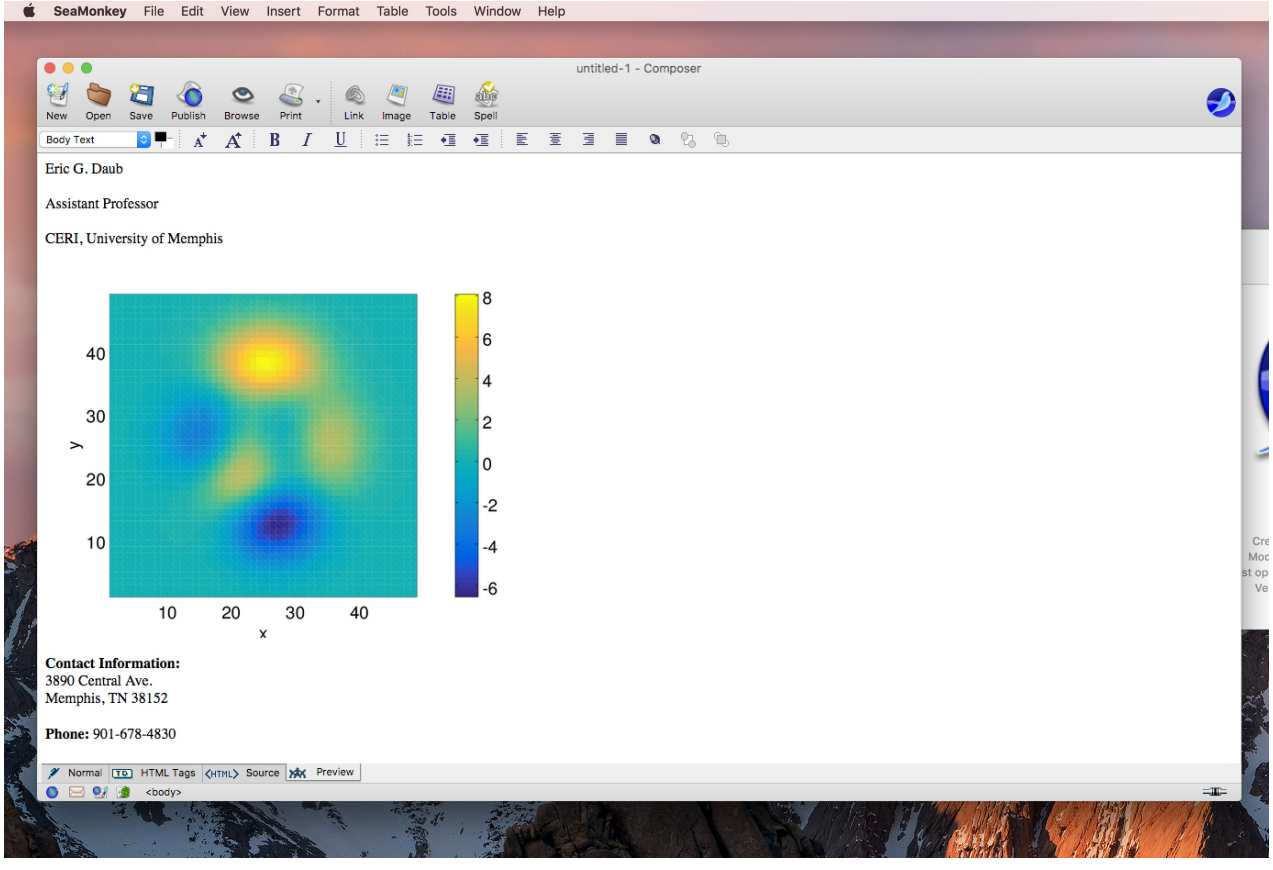
Important: Make It Easy to Update!

We are having this workshop partly because some faculty don't keep their sites up to date. I try to update at the beginning of every semester, and I put a "last updated" note at the bottom to keep me honest. The best system is one that makes it easy to update. Write scripts to automate as much as possible (e.g. I have one that syncs all files to the web server).



Live Example

I will demonstrate using SeaMonkey to make a simple web page from start to finish. Page will be a basic single page and include a photo of me, an image from my research, my PhD thesis (i.e. a publication), and a link to a github project. Will construct it from scratch and then upload to the server.



One technical note: make sure that your images and links to publications are ***relative*** links. I will show how this is done in my demo, but this is the one thing that can trip you up when making your site on one computer and then uploading to a different server.