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# Static Site Generation for Pythonistas

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Aru Sahni

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# What are statically generated sites?

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A collection of static web pages compiled by transforming source content files using predefined templates.

tl;dr: text x templates  $\Rightarrow$  website

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# How are they used?

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- Blogging
  - Documentation
  - Tutorials
  - Help sites
  - Photo galleries
  - Presentations
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# Why not Wordpress/Tumblr/Medium?

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- Ownership
- Security
  - WP has [177 listed vulnerabilities](#)
- Simplicity
- Extensibility
  - Use modern languages that you know and enjoy
- Use preferred editors & tools



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**Questions?**

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**So, what's out there?**

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# Jekyll

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★ 15k

- Ruby
  - Markdown
  - Powers GitHub pages
  - Template directory x converters → website
  - Simple but effective
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# Octopress

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★ 8k

- Ruby
  - Markdown
  - Based on Jekyll
  - Attractive default templates
  - Extensible and well-supported
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# Hexo

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★ 2.3k

- JavaScript (Node.js)
  - Markdown out of the box
  - Multithreaded compilation
  - High Octopress plugin compatibility
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# Sphinx

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👁 600

- Python
  - reStructured text only
  - Jinja templating
  - Compiles to HTML, LaTeX, et al.
  - Designed for Python documentation
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# Pelican

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★ 3.5k

- Python
  - rST, Markdown & AsciiDoc
  - Jinja templating
  - Extensible
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# Nikola

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★ 554

- Python
  - Lots of input formats out of the box
  - Mako & Jinja templates
  - Built on other Python tools like doit & yapsy
  - Extensible
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# Great. Which one is the best?

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- Whichever meets your needs
  - What did I look for?
    - Python
    - At least Markdown and rST
    - Support for embedded code, and YouTube videos
    - Ease of theming
    - Accessible development community
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**I chose Nikola.**

(nothing wrong with the others, though)

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**Questions?**

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# Publishing

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- Demo: Compose and compile a blog post



# Getting started

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- Demo: Create & configure a new site

# Extending Nikola

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- Several hooks for plugins
    - Commands (command line modules)
    - Templating (allows for other template formats)
    - Tasks (called during the build lifecycle)
    - RestExtension / MarkdownExtension
    - TaskMultipliers (Yo dawg...)
    - ... And more!
  - Demo: Write an extension
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# iPython love

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- Demo: Publish an iPython notebook

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**Questions?**

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# Plugs

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NIKOLA 

- <http://getnikola.com>

HUMANgEO


- <http://thehumangeo.com>

We're hiring! [careers@thehumangeo.com](mailto:careers@thehumangeo.com)

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# Me

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