

# Improving Kev.Studio Portfolio – Performance, Design, and Workflow Enhancements

**Kev.Studio** (currently built on Cargo) can be significantly improved by moving to a lightweight static site and refining its design/UX for a high-end, fast experience. Below is a comprehensive set of suggestions, organized by key areas:

## 1. Static Site Generators & Frameworks (GitHub Pages Compatible)

Moving off Cargo to a custom static site can greatly boost performance and flexibility. Static sites are pre-built into flat files (HTML/CSS/JS) with no server processing, making them *faster, more secure, and easier to maintain* than dynamic platforms <sup>1</sup>. GitHub Pages natively supports static content (and Jekyll builds), and you can deploy any generator's output to it. Consider these developer-friendly static site generators:

- **Jekyll (Ruby):** GitHub Pages has first-class support for Jekyll — you can push your Jekyll project to GH Pages and it will build automatically. Jekyll is mature, supports Markdown content and Liquid templates, and has many themes/plugins. *If you're looking to launch a free static website, Jekyll + GitHub Pages is a fantastic combination* <sup>2</sup> for a portfolio. This would let you write projects in Markdown and have GH Pages generate the site for you, no external build steps needed.
- **Eleventy (JavaScript):** Eleventy (11ty) is a modern, zero-dependency static site generator that is *highly customizable* and very performant. It doesn't impose a specific framework – you can use template languages like Nunjucks, Markdown, etc. If you're comfortable with JS, *Eleventy will reward you with some of the best performance among static site generators* <sup>3</sup>. It has fast build times and an active community <sup>4</sup>. Eleventy gives you full control to tailor the site and avoids adding any JS to output by default (great for a minimal, speedy site <sup>5</sup>). You'd need to build the site locally or via CI (GitHub Action or Netlify) and publish the static files to GH Pages. Many designers favor Eleventy for portfolio sites due to its simplicity and flexibility <sup>6</sup>.
- **Hugo (Go):** Hugo is an extremely fast SSG (builds sites in milliseconds) and is language-agnostic for content. It's a bit more complex to learn but very powerful for larger sites. Hugo would let you generate pages at *blazing speed (often under 1s builds)* <sup>7</sup> and has robust theming. You'd also deploy the output to GH Pages (Hugo isn't built-in to GH, but easy to integrate with a CI build). Hugo could be overkill for a small portfolio, but it ensures your site is future-proof if it grows.
- **Astro (JavaScript, Hybrid):** Astro is a newer framework that lets you use React/Vue/Svelte components but outputs static HTML by default (no JS, unless added). It uses an "islands" architecture for partial hydration. In practice, Astro can produce a *zero-JavaScript static site* for fast loads <sup>8</sup>. This might be interesting if you ever plan interactive components, but for now it may add needless complexity. Still, Astro is GitHub Pages-friendly (build then deploy) and has a growing ecosystem of templates.