

Development Guide: Growing the 5th C Finance Website

****For: Non-Technical Stakeholders****

What You Have Now

Your website is currently a ****"coming soon" landing page**** that lives on Cloudflare Pages. Think of it like a digital billboard – it's a single page with an email signup form.

****Current Setup:****

- 📄 One HTML file (the page structure)
- 🎨 One CSS file (the styling/colors)
- ⚙️ One JavaScript file (the email form)
- 🖼️ One background image

****How It Works:****

1. You edit files on your computer
2. You run a command to upload them to Cloudflare
3. The website updates immediately at <https://5thc.finance>

When You're Ready to Build the Full Website...

You have ****3 main paths**** forward. Here's the simple breakdown:

Option 1: Keep It Simple (Recommended for Small Sites)

****What:**** Add more HTML pages to what you have now

****Best For:**** 5–10 page websites (About, Services, Contact, etc.)

****How It Works:****

- Create `about.html`, `services.html`, etc. in the same folder
- Copy the header/footer from your current page
- Add a navigation menu with links between pages

****Pros:****

- ✅ Super simple – anyone can edit HTML
- ✅ No new tools to learn
- ✅ Keep your current deployment process
- ✅ Lightning fast website

****Cons:****

- ❌ If you change the header, you update it on every page manually
- ❌ Gets tedious with 10+ pages

****Example Structure:****

```

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public/
├── index.html           (home/coming-soon page)
├── about.html          (about 5th C)
├── services.html       (ag finance products)
├── contact.html        (contact form)
└── assets/             (same CSS/JS/images)
\

```

Option 2: Add a Content Management System (CMS)




****What:**** A dashboard where you can edit content without touching code

****Best For:**** Teams with content editors who don't code



****How It Works:****

- Install a CMS tool (like Decap CMS or CloudCannon)
- Content editors log into a dashboard
- They write/edit pages like using Google Docs
- The system converts it to HTML automatically

****Pros:****

-  Non-coders can update content
-  Visual editor (what you see is what you get)
-  Still deploys to Cloudflare Pages

****Cons:****

-  Initial setup takes a few hours
-  One more system to maintain

****Recommended Tools:****

- ****Decap CMS**** (free, open-source, works with your current setup)
- ****CloudCannon**** (paid, \$45/month, very user-friendly)

Option 3: Use a Static Site Generator

****What:**** A tool that builds your website from templates + content files





****Best For:**** 20+ page sites, or sites that need a blog

****How It Works:****



- You create template files (header, footer, page layouts)
- You write content in simple markdown files
- You run a command that combines them into a full website
- You deploy the generated files to Cloudflare

****Think of it like:**** Mail merge in Word – you have one letter template, and it creates 100 personalized letters.

****Pros:****

-  One header file updates all pages
-  Great for blogs and documentation
-  Still deploys to Cloudflare Pages
-  Content is in simple text files (easy to edit)

****Cons:****

-  Requires running build commands
-  Steeper learning curve

****Popular Tools:****

- ****Hugo**** (super fast, Go-based)
- ****11ty**** (JavaScript-based, flexible)
- ****Astro**** (modern, component-based)

What We Recommend

****Start with Option 1**** (add more HTML pages) until you hit ****5-7 pages****.

****Then:****

- If you need ****non-coders to edit content**** → Add a CMS (Option 2)
- If you're building a ****large site or blog**** → Switch to a generator (Option 3)

What Stays the Same No Matter What

- ✓ ****Hosting:**** Still Cloudflare Pages (free, fast, global)
- ✓ ****Domain:**** Still <https://5thc.finance>
- ✓ ****Deployment:**** Still one command to publish changes
- ✓ ****Your Design:**** All your colors, animations, and branding transfer

Technical Requirements (for whoever does the work)

****You Need:****

- A computer with a code editor (VS Code is free)
- Wrangler CLI installed (Cloudflare's tool)
- Access to the GitHub repository
- Cloudflare account access

****You Don't Need:****

- A web server (Cloudflare handles it)
- A database (unless you want dynamic features later)
- Expensive hosting fees (Cloudflare Pages is free)

Next Steps

1. ****Decide:**** How many pages will the full website have?
2. ****Decide:**** Who will update content? Coders or non-coders?
3. ****Choose:**** Pick Option 1, 2, or 3 based on your answers
4. ****Budget:**** Estimate time (Option 1 = days, Option 2/3 = weeks)

Questions to Ask Your Developer

- "How many pages before we need a better system than plain HTML?"
- "Can we add a CMS to our current setup without rebuilding?"
- "What's the cost difference between these options?" (mostly time, not money)
- "How do I preview changes before publishing?"

Summary (TL;DR)

****Current:**** Single-page static site on Cloudflare Pages

****Future Options:****

1. Add more HTML pages (simple, small sites)
2. Add a CMS (non-coders can edit)
3. Use a site generator (large sites, blogs)

****Recommendation:**** Start simple, upgrade when needed.

****Cost:**** Hosting is free. Development time is the only cost.

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