

GitHub Actions Workflow for Hugo Website Deployment

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BY ANTHROPIC

HP

Please explain the following GitHub Actions YAML file line-by-line:

```
"##### ## Build and
Deploy Hugo Website to GitHub Pages ## Author: Jérémie Lumbroso
<lumbroso@seas.upenn.edu> ## Date: 2024-02-24
##### name: 🏗️ Build
and Deploy GitHub Pages on: push: branches: - main # Set a branch to deploy jobs:
deploy: runs-on: ubuntu-22.04 steps: - name: 🔄 Check Out Source Repository uses:
actions/checkout@v3.5.1 with: submodules: true # Fetch Hugo themes (true OR
recursive) fetch-depth: 0 # Fetch all history for .GitInfo and .Lastmod - name: 🔧
Initialize Hugo Environment uses: peaceiris/actions-hugo@v2.6.0 with: hugo-version:
"0.144.1" extended: true - name: 🏗️ Compile Hugo Static Files run: hugo -D --gc --
minify - name: 🚀 Publish to GitHub Pages uses: peaceiris/actions-gh-pages@v3.9.3
with: github_token: ${ secrets.GITHUB_TOKEN } publish_branch: gh-pages
user_name: "github-actions[bot]" user_email: "github-
actions[bot]@users.noreply.github.com" ## NOTE: uncomment below if using a
custom domain ## cname: mydomain.com"
```

I'll explain this GitHub Actions workflow file that builds and deploys a Hugo website line by line:

yaml

```
# Header comment block providing basic information about the workflow
name: 🏗️ Build and Deploy GitHub Pages # Workflow name with emoji for
visual identification

on: # Defines when the workflow should run
  push: # Triggers on push events
    branches:
      - main # Only runs when changes are pushed to the 'main' branch

jobs: # Defines the jobs to run
  deploy: # Single job named 'deploy'
    runs-on: ubuntu-22.04 # Specifies the runner environment - Ubuntu
22.04

    steps: # List of steps to execute
      - name: 📄 Check Out Source Repository # First step - checkout
code
        uses: actions/checkout@v3.5.1 # Uses GitHub's checkout action
v3.5.1
        with:
          submodules: true # Fetches Hugo themes stored as submodules
          fetch-depth: 0 # Fetches complete git history for .GitInfo and
.Lastmod

      - name: ⚙️ Initialize Hugo Environment # Second step - setup Hugo
        uses: peaceiris/actions-hugo@v2.6.0 # Uses peaceiris' Hugo setup
action
        with:
          hugo-version: "0.144.1" # Specifies Hugo version
          extended: true # Uses Hugo Extended version which includes
SCSS/SASS support

      - name: 🏠 Compile Hugo Static Files # Third step - build site
        run: hugo -D --gc --minify # Runs Hugo command to build site
        # -D: include draft content
        # --gc: runs garbage collection
        # --minify: minifies output files

      - name: 🚀 Publish to GitHub Pages # Fourth step - deploy to
GitHub Pages
        uses: peaceiris/actions-gh-pages@v3.9.3 # Uses peaceiris' GitHub
Pages action
        with:
          github_token: ${ secrets.GITHUB_TOKEN } # Uses auto-
generated GitHub token
          publish_branch: gh-pages # Deploys to gh-pages branch
```

```
    user_name: "github-actions[bot]" # Sets commit author name
    user_email: "github-actions[bot]@users.noreply.github.com" #
Sets commit author email
    # Optional CNAME configuration commented out
    # cname: mydomain.com
```

This workflow does the following in sequence:

1. Checks out your repository with full history and submodules
2. Sets up Hugo with version 0.144.1 (extended version)
3. Builds your Hugo site with drafts enabled and minification
4. Deploys the built site to GitHub Pages using the gh-pages branch

The workflow is triggered automatically whenever code is pushed to the main branch. It uses GitHub's ubuntu-22.04 runner and leverages several popular GitHub Actions (checkout, Hugo setup, and GitHub Pages deployment) to automate the entire process.



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