Boostrap Tutorial Step 1: Setup and Overview

In order to use Bootstrap, you first need to integrate it into your development environment, aka web page. For that, you have two different possibilities: load it remotely or download and use Bootstrap locally. However, for both, you first need something to load it into.

1. Create an HTML Page

As a first step in this tutorial, we will create a simple HTML template as a base where we will use Bootstrap. For that, the first thing you want to do is create a folder on your computer or server for the project files. In this case, we will simply call it *bootstrap*. Here, create a new text file and call it *index.html*. Open it with a text editor of your choice (e.g. Notepad++) and then paste the code below into it.

```
!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<title>Bootstrap Tutorial Sample Page</title>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
</head>
<body>
</body>
</html>
```

Don't forget to save your file before moving on.

2a. Load Bootstrap via CDN

As already explained, Bootstrap consists mainly of style sheets and scripts. As such, they can be loaded in the header and footer of your web page like other assets such as custom fonts. The framework offers a CDN (content delivery network) access path for that. You can find it on the Bootstrap download page when you scroll down.

To get Bootstrap into your page, simply paste the code below into the `<head>` section of your template.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.5.3/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css"
integrity="sha384-TX8t27EcRE3e/ihU7zmQxVncDAy5uIKz4rEkgIXeMed4M0jlfIDPvg6uqKI2xXr2"
crossorigin="anonymous">
```

Be sure to take the actual link from the download page in order to make sure you are using the latest version of Bootstrap.

When you now save the file, any browser that opens it will automatically load the Bootstrap assets.

Using the remote method is a good idea as many users will already have the the file in the cache of their browser from loading other Bootstrap-based websites. If that is the case, they won't have to reload it when coming to your site, leading to faster page loading time. As a consequence, this is the recommended method for live sites.

However, for experimenting and development, or if you want to be independent of an Internet connection, you can also get your own copy of the files. This is what we're doing for this Bootstrap tutorial because it also results in less code we need to post.

2b. Host Bootstrap Locally

An alternative way to set up Bootstrap is to download it to your hard drive and use the files locally. You find download options in the same

place as the links to the remote version. Be sure to get the compiled CSS and JS files. You don't need the source files.

Once you have finished downloading it, unzip the file and copy its contents into the same directory as *index.html*. After that, you can load the Bootstrap CSS into your project like this:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="bootstrap/css/bootstrap.min.css">
```

You will notice that this includes the file path at which to find the Bootstrap file. In your case, make sure your path corresponds to your actual setup. For example, the names of the directories might differ if you downloaded a different version of Bootstrap.

3. Include jQuery

In order to get the full functionality of Bootstrap, you also need to load the jQuery library. Here, too, you have the possibility to load it remotely or host it locally.

You find the link to the latest version of the jQuery library here (click on any of the links to get the remote URL). You can use it to load the library into your page by putting the line of code below right before where it says `</body>` on your page.

```
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.5.1.min.js" integrity="sha256-9/aliU8dGd2tb6OSsuzixeV4y/faTqgFtohetphbbj0=" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
```

Alternatively, download jQuery (right-click > *Save Link As…*), unzip, and put it into the project folder. Then, include it in the same place of your file in this way:

```
<script src="jquery-3.5.1.min.js"></script>
```

Again, make sure the path corresponds to your location and version of jQuery.

4. Load Bootstrap JavaScript

The last step in setting up Bootstrap is to load the Bootstrap JavaScript library. It's included in the downloaded version of the framework and you also find links to remote sources in the same place as mentioned above. However, we will load it in a different place than the style sheet. Instead of the header, it goes into the page footer, right after the call for jQuery.

You can call it remotely like this:

```
<script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.5.3/dist/js/bootstrap.min.js" integrity="sha384-w1Q4orYjBQndcko6MimVbzY0tgp4pWB4lZ7lr30WKz0vr/aWKhXdBNmNb5D92v7s" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
```

Or locally like so:

```
<script src="bootstrap/js/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
```

5. Put it All Together

If you have followed the steps above correctly, you should end up with a file that looks like this for the remote solution:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<title>Bootstrap Tutorial Sample Page</title>
<meta charset="utf-8">
```

```
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.5.3/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css"
integrity="sha384-TX8t27EcRE3e/ihU7zmQxVncDAy5uIKz4rEkgIXeMed4M0jlfIDPvg6uqKI2xXr2"
crossorigin="anonymous">
</head>
<body>
<script src="https://code.jquery.com/jquery-3.5.1.min.js" integrity="sha256-
9/aliU8dGd2tb6OSsuzixeV4y/faTqgFtohetphbbj0=" crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
<script src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@4.5.3/dist/js/bootstrap.min.js" integrity="sha384-
w1Q4orYjBQndcko6MimVbzY0tgp4pWB4lZ7lr30WKz0vr/aWKhXdBNmNb5D92v7s"
crossorigin="anonymous"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

And here is what you should have for the version that loads all assets locally:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<title>Bootstrap Tutorial Sample Page</title>
<meta charset="utf-8">
<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="bootstrap/css/bootstrap.min.css">
</head>
<body>
<script src="jquery-3.5.1.min.js"></script>
<script src="bootstrap/js/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

If that looks like what's in your file and you saved your work, you are now ready to move on to the next step.