**STEP BY STEP GUIDE**

Want to figure it out on your own but want to have a basic idea of what it takes? Then check out my “Big Picture” guide for an overview of the process.

<picture-coverimage01>

So, you want to build and host your own website, huh? Well, in this step-by-step guide I will walk you through from the beginning all the way to end of having a basic professional website built and hosted. There are many potential routes you could follow (of varying costs and difficulties), but I will present to you just one of them that I have found to be super helpful for myself to get a grasp on the process and branch out from there.

The entire base cost of the following method costs me about ~$11/year, but that can be more or less depending on the cost of the domain name you choose and if you opt for any of the non-free alternatives I will mention in this guide.

As a basic outline, I will present \_ main stages and a total of \_ steps that could be done to get a static site up in just a matter of hours. Let’s get started.

**Stage 0: Understand the Basic Function of the Internet**

*[write basic overview of how the internet works]*

Want a little more depth?

Below is a fantastic three video arc giving an entire crash course on the internet and how it functions. I would highly recommend watching these to gain a greater understanding of the basics behind all of the stages within this guide.

Video 6 - Computer Networks: Crash Course Computer Science #28:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QhU9jd03a0>

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/3QhU9jd03a0" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Video 3 - The Internet: Crash Course Computer Science #29: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEaKrq3SpW8>

[<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/AEaKrq3SpW8" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>]

Video 5 - The World Wide Web: Crash Course Computer Science #30: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guvsH5OFizE>

[<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/guvsH5OFizE" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>]

NOT THIS ONE Video 1 – How the Internet Works in 5 Minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_LPdttKXPc>

[<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/7\_LPdttKXPc" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>]

NOT THIS ONE Video 2 - How does the INTERNET work? | ICT #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3c1ih2NJEg>

[<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/x3c1ih2NJEg" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>]

NOT THIS ONE Video 4 - What is the Internet?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxcc6ycZ73M>

[<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/Dxcc6ycZ73M" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>]

**Stage 1: Set Up the Hosting Environment**

*[introduction to the hosting environment and the function it will play for the site]*

Step 1.1 – Sign Up for GitHub

Head over to github.com <github.com> and click “Sign Up” on the upper left-hand side of the page. Keep in mind that the username you choose here will be publicly visible on the internet and will be in the URL of your site (<i>yourusername</i>.github.io until you change it to the domain name you choose in Stage 2.

Choose the free plan as there is no need for a paid plan for this and, for that matter, most other non-professional uses. What you decide on the “Tailor you experience” part of signing up is completely up to you and what you would like to put.

After you have made it past these sign-up steps, go check and verify your email and move on to the next step!

Step 1.2 – Create GitHub Repository

To create the spot where we will be putting the code for your website, you will need to create a new “repository” (this is slightly different than a project, so make sure you click the correct one). To do so, go to the upper right-hand corner of the page, click the “+” button and “New repository.”

Getting this next step correct is very import for getting your site connected correctly. For your repository name, make sure you name your project exactly “YOURUSERNAME.github.io”. For example, if your username is “billgates” your repository name should be “billgates.github.io”. This tells GitHub that you are creating a webpage for your project. Accordingly, GitHub only allows a user to have one repository in this way.

Step 1.3 – Install GitHub Desktop

While you could certainly work out of your repository directly on GitHub’s website, this would become quite tedious as you try to create and update your website code. To download, head to <https://desktop.github.com/> and download the correct one for your OS (this is currently available for Mac or Windows, but not Linux).

Step 1.4 – Clone Your Repository to Your Desktop

Now, within the GitHub website, you are going to want to set up in your desktop by clicking on the “Code” tab, click “Clone or download”, and click “Open in Desktop”. Your browser should launch GitHub Desktop (or ask you to launch GitHub Desktop in which you would just click “Yes” in your browser).

From here, a window should pop up on GitHub Desktop that pre-fills your Repository URL and Local Path. Feel free to change your local path if you would like to save it somewhere handy, like your Documents folder, for example.

Click “Clone” and it should open to something that looks mostly like this.

<picture-GitHubDesktop##>

Now you are ready to move on to the second stage, but keep all of this available as we will circle back to it shortly after the next stage! Note that you could technically skip Stages 2 and 3 and come back to it after setting up your site as you will still be able to view your site by typing “YOURUSERNAME.github.io” in the URL part of your browser. Do this if you are unsure of you want to commit to purchasing a domain name already or just want to make sure you can get it to work beforehand.

ALTERNATIVES:

*[potential alternatives to GitHub ->*

*While GitHub is…*

*AS you may notice on the next stage, Namecheap offers hosting…]*

**Stage 2: Get a Domain Name**

*[introduction to what a domain name is and the function it will play for the site]*

The default domain name of the GitHub repository you just created, for example, is currently *name\_you\_chose*.github.io, which should also be your repository name.

Step 2.1 – Create a Namecheap Account

Step 2.2 – Search for and Select a Domain

Step2.3 – Purchase the Domain

You will notice several different options available with everything from the normal .com and .org to ones such as .to or .me.

*[potential alternatives to Namecheap -> GoDaddy and Gandi]*

**Stage 3: Configure Domain Name for GitHub Pages**

*[introduction to what this means and the function it will play for the site]*

Step 3.1 – Set Up DNS Settings

It may take up to 24-48 hours for local ISPs to update their DNS cache so that everyone can see your website.

*[potential alternatives to this -> this will vary based on which host you choose and where you get your domain name. Consider seeing if any documentation existis for how to configure this in your selected use-case (for example: GitHubs Documentation <*<https://help.github.com/en/github/working-with-github-pages/managing-a-custom-domain-for-your-github-pages-site>> or < <https://help.github.com/en/github/working-with-github-pages/configuring-a-custom-domain-for-your-github-pages-site>

> *for configuring a custom domain name), or simply Google and see what resources/guides might be out there.*

*]*

**Stage 4: Create Your Basic Site**

*[introduction to what this means and the function it will play for the site. Give template to work with here and explain how to get others]*

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LICENSE GOVERNING BUILD-YOUR-OWN-WEBSITE STEP-BY-STEP MATERIALS

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If you’re wanting to step it up a little but still keep it simple like this one, I would recommend moving up to HTML5 UP’s Astral Template<”<https://html5up.net/astral>”> or checking out any one of their numerous other templates <”<https://html5up.net/>”>. They are distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License, so be sure and be conscious of attributing the work to HTML5 UP. Alternatively, you could pay as little as $19 one-time for forever attribution-free use of over 95 different templates with Pixelarity <<https://pixelarity.com/?ref=6672547917>>.

Step 4.1 –

<https://fontawesome.com/icons>

Font Awesome Free - Version 5.9.0

<https://favicon.io/>

*[potential alternatives to this ->]*

**Stage 5 and Beyond**

You now have a fully functioning site that you can link to wherever your heart desires!

Google Analytics

If you liked this guide, please share it so others can see.

<share webpage button>

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