

BSA Workshop: Building a personal website

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Outline

Acknowledgements

Overview

Step-by-step instructions

Customizing

Other resources

Troubleshooting

Acknowledgements

- ▶ Most content from blog posts from Rob Williams
 - ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/06/academic-website/>
 - ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/08/website-content/>
 - ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/07/customizing-website/>
- ▶ All mistakes my own

Why a website?

- ▶ Common in academia
- ▶ Place to organize your work
 - ▶ Links to papers, Github, Google Scholar, LinkedIn, Twitter / X
 - ▶ Contact information
 - ▶ CV / resume
 - ▶ Blog posts
- ▶ Promote yourself and your work
- ▶ Make yourself identifiable

Options

- ▶ Google Sites (simplest)
 - ▶ Claim (Kevin H Wilson): Some large employers block access to Google Drive or Dropbox so hosting files (e.g. cv) using just Google Sites maybe not good idea; suggests linking to Github instead
- ▶ Wordpress or similar (simple, ads?)
- ▶ University hosted (temporary)
- ▶ **Github pages** (customizable, easy-ish with our skillset)
 - ▶ Write code, math, etc.
 - ▶ Jekyll to build static website and host on Github pages

Aside on Hugo vs Jekyll

- ▶ Jekyll has built-in support for Github pages
- ▶ Jekyll has been around a little longer, more templates, etc.
- ▶ Hugo more customizable, faster
 - ▶ Can build using `blogdown` package in R and push to Github
 - ▶ <https://bookdown.org/yihui/blogdown/>

Pre-reqs

- ▶ Some familiarity with the following will be helpful but not required:
- ▶ Git
- ▶ Terminal
- ▶ Text editors

Overview

- ▶ Install software / set up Github account
- ▶ Copy Jekyll template
- ▶ Adjust template to include your information
- ▶ Build website and examine on local server
- ▶ Push website to Github and render
- ▶ Done!

Preliminaries

- ▶ Github account (username will be website name i.e. <your username>.github.io)
- ▶ Install Git
 - ▶ Mac: `xcode-select --install` in terminal
 - ▶ Windows: <https://gitforwindows.org/>
 - ▶ Linux: already installed or use package manager
- ▶ Bundler + Ruby
 - ▶ Mac:
 - ▶ Probably ruby all set if installed git using xcode command above
 - ▶ Otherwise `brew install ruby` in terminal
 - ▶ `gem install bundler`
 - ▶ Windows: <https://rubyinstaller.org/>
 - ▶ Linux: use package manager

Step-by-step instructions

- ▶ Fork template on Github
 - ▶ `https://github.com/academicpages/academicpages.github.io`
 - ▶ Name it `<your username>.github.io`
- ▶ Clone locally
- ▶ Open and edit `_config.yml`
- ▶ Edit other files as needed i.e. upload picture, etc.
- ▶ Preview website
 - ▶ Navigate to directory in terminal
 - ▶ `bundle install`
 - ▶ `bundle exec jekyll serve`
 - ▶ Open `localhost:4000` in browser
- ▶ Add, commit, push changes to Github
- ▶ Go to Github repo → settings → pages → specify branch
- ▶ Live! Visit `<username>.github.io`

Unpublishing and re-publishing

- ▶ Unpublish button on Github repo pages page (click three dots next to visit site)
- ▶ To re-publish, go to Actions on top bar, click "pages build and deployment", "re-run all jobs" in top right corner

Custom domain name

- ▶ `https://docs.github.com/en/pages/
configuring-a-custom-domain-for-your-github-pages-site`

Themes

- ▶ Jekyll
 - ▶ <https://jekyllrb.com/docs/themes/>
 - ▶ <https://jekyllthemes.io/free>
- ▶ Hugo
 - ▶ <https://themes.gohugo.io/>

Other resources

- ▶ Kevin H Wilson
 - ▶ <https://kevinhayeswilson.com/website.pdf>
 - ▶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF9kx8PPt_s
- ▶ Many other tutorials / guides online
- ▶ Use ChatGPT or similar

QR Code

- ▶ In DuckDuckGo search `qr <username>.github.io`
- ▶ QR code generator also built in Chrome



Troubleshooting

- ▶ Write permissions for Ruby / Bundler
 - ▶ <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/75391111/how-to-solve-bundlerpermissionerror-there-was-an-error->
- ▶ Ruby path
 - ▶ <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/53979362/you-dont-have-path-in-your-path-gem-executables-will-no>
 - ▶ <https://askubuntu.com/questions/406643/warning-you-dont-have-a-directory-in-your-path-gem-exec>
- ▶ Arch specific issue?
 - ▶ Add gem "json" to gem file
https://www.reddit.com/r/Jekyll/comments/18wmrag/unable_to_get_jekyll_working_in_arch_linux/