

# BSA Workshop: Building a personal website

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# Outline

Acknowledgements

Overview

Step-by-step instructions

Customizing

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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` (see next slide if receive error)
  - ▶ Open `localhost:4000` in browser
- ▶ Add, commit, push changes to Github
  - ▶ To push changes, may need to use personal access tokens or other type of authentication
- ▶ Go to Github repo → settings → pages → specify branch
- ▶ Live! Visit `<username>.github.io`

# Error

- ▶ Some in the workshop received an error when running `bundle exec jekyll serve` about time zones.
- ▶ If you receive this error, there should be a link in the error message with a fix
- ▶ If I remember correctly, the fix should involve something like running `gem install <some time zone thing>` and editing Gemfile to include `gem "<the time zone thing you installed>"`.
- ▶ Then do `bundle install` again and then `bundle exec jekyll serve` should work

# Understanding structure of website files

- ▶ The `_config.yml` file controls global settings for your website
  - ▶ In particular, this comes up for your author profile (left hand panel)
- ▶ There are numerous `<thing>` top-level folders that correspond to the pages in the top navigation panel
  - ▶ Click into these folders to edit / create Markdown files `.md` file extensions. (Markdown is just R Markdown but without the R). These Markdown files correspond to links or elements on the page.
  - ▶ Many Markdown cheat sheets available online e.g. [here](#)
- ▶ Some content will also be in `_pages` e.g. your homepage (`about.md`) is here. The markdown files here specify the actual content of the corresponding page. They read in the contents from the top-level folders mentioned in the previous bullet point
- ▶ If you want to add/remove pages in the top navigation panel, go to `_data/navigation.yml` and add / comment out lines as necessary

# 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/>
- ▶ Further customization off any template will probably require some use of CSS and HTML. HTML is what builds websites and CSS specifies stylings e.g. colors, etc.

## Other customizing

- ▶ See some follow-up posts from Rob Williams
- ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/07/customizing-website/>
- ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/08/website-content/>
- ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/09/jekyll-html>
- ▶ <https://jayrobwilliams.com/posts/2020/10/jekyll-footnotes>



## Other resources

- ▶ Kevin H Wilson
  - ▶ <https://kevinhayeswilson.com/website.pdf>
  - ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RF9kx8PPt\\_s](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/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Jekyll/comments/18wmrag/unable_to_get_jekyll_working_in_arch_linux/)