

Creating a Website With Jekyll

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What is Jekyll?

Jekyll is a program that takes static content files and creates a website from them. Jekyll provides the ability to reuse website layouts, reuse data, and customize URLs without access to a formal backend.

The layout of a Jekyll website is stored separately from the content of the website. This means that the layout can be updated from only one location, rather than needing to update many pages individually. Jekyll also allows for multiple layouts, meaning a website can have several designs to fit various types of content. If a layout needs bit of unique data from content pages, such as a blog post title, that data can be stored in a variable and accessed from the layout.

Variables store data that can be reused throughout the website. These variables can store data from the site URL to specific information for a blog post. By storing data in a variable, the data can be updated across the site with one simple change to the variable, instead of having to update every page on the website. Other site information is also stored in variables, such as all of the site's posts, pagination, and a posts URL.

URLs fairly customizable with the help of Jekyll. Jekyll does link posts via their paths, but links posts via their filename. This allows for the path to each post to be changed easily when desired. The URL pattern for posts are fully customizable. Customized URLs are impossible without a backend, so this feature is very useful for a static website.

For more information, the official Jekyll documentation is available at <http://jekyllrb.com/>.

Install Jekyll

Jekyll must be installed on a development computer in order to test your website. The Jekyll installation takes about 10-20 minutes.

Things were installed

Chaos ensued.

Jekyll Folders

Jekyll expects certain types of files to be stored in specific folders. There are six folders that need to be created.

Folders

Name	Stores
_data	Data files (like CSV, YML or JSON)
_drafts	Unpublished posts
_includes	Snippets of HTML or posts that can be reused
_layouts	The various layouts for the website
_posts	Completed posts
_site	Automatically used when Jekyll makes your completed website

Create a Configuration File

The configuration file has settings that can affect many aspects of the website, including customization of URLs and declaring custom variables.

The configuration file is required for a Jekyll site to function. It can be customized so the Jekyll site works as desired. Default variables, build settings, server settings and extensions are all configured in the configuration file.

1. Create a `_config.yml` in your site's root directory.
2. Create a section to store your default Jekyll variables, as described in [Create Variables](#) on page 5

```
defaults:
  -
    scope:
      path: ""
      type: "pages"
    values:
      layout: "default"
```

3. Set any language processing variables, such as Github Flavored Markdown (GFM).

```
kramdown:
  input: GFM
```

4. Add any other customized settings, such as extensions, into the file. These settings are available in [Config File Settings](#) on page 4

Config File Settings

The configuration file can be customized so the Jekyll site works as desired. These settings can affect many aspects of the website, including customization of URLs and declaring custom variables.

Configuration Settings

Setting	Description	Options
source	Jekyll will look for files in this directory.	source: DIR
destination	Jekyll will create the website in this directory.	destination: DIR
exclude	Jekyll will ignore these files or directories.	exclude: [DIR, FILE, ...]
include	Jekyll will explicitly include these files or directories.	include: [DIR, FILE, ...]
timezone	Overrides the time set by the computer with a different IANA Time Zones	timezone: TIMEZONE
host	hostname of server	host: HOSTNAME
port	Website Port	port: PORT

Setting	Description	Options
baseurl	URL the website will be served from	<code>baseurl: URL</code>

What are Variables?

Jekyll provides the ability to pass variables between files. Variables can be used to pass customized data from a post, or used to set a default value for the entire website.

Jekyll variables are stored in two ways: as a variable belonging to the site, or as a variable belonging to the page.

Site variables will be consistent across all pages. The title of the site or home URL would be good site variables: they don't change depending on the page being viewed. These variables can be declared in the `config.yml` file.

Page variables do change based on an individual page. The title of a blog post or the date the post was written would be effective uses of a page variables. Page variables are declared in the YAML Front Matter.

Create Variables

Variables can be declared in the configuration file to be reused throughout the website.

Default Variables

was not declared

Override Variables

Variables declared in the configuration file can be overwritten in posts. This lets data be customized based on the content the reader is viewing.

Post Variables

Aren't as needed.

What is YAML Front Matter?

YAML Front Matter is used to tell Jekyll how to display and use a post. Front Matter is used to override default variables, and set the values of other properties.

Front Matter must be the first few lines in a file. Jekyll detects that a file starts with Front Matter and knows that the file needs to be processed. Jekyll then parses the YAML found in the Front Matter and deals with the variables.

Front matter is separated from the rest of the file by three dashes on their own line at the start and the conclusion of the YAML. There may only be one section of Front Matter in each file.

Create a Layout

Jekyll allows the website layout to be reused throughout webpages, even on a static website. There are several features that let the layout be more reusable.

DITA made this layout

It works.

Write A Post

A post is a Markdown, HTML or other text-based file filled with site content. Posts are inserted into the layout by Jekyll when it creates the website.

Posts go into the `_posts` folder and can be a variety of file types. Markdown and HTML are the most common.

Jekyll can use a variety of file types, but the filename of a post must follow a specific format. This format indicates the date the post was made, and the topic of the post. The following format for the filename is required:

```
YEAR-MONTH-DAY-title
```

1. Create a file with a filename fitting the required format and of an appropriate file type in the `_posts` folder.
2. Open the file in a text editor of your choice.
3. Create any customized, default variables as described in [Create Variables](#) on page 5
4. Write content for your post and save it.
5. Open the post in your browser and double check that it looks correct.

Testing Websites

Websites can be tested with the Jekyll Server command.

I am not sure there are steps here, but maybe. Run the command, grab the URL, go to it.

this is a task.

What are GitHub Pages?

GitHub Pages is a free webhosting service offered by GitHub. GitHub Pages works with Jekyll websites, and with customized domains.

The official GitHub Pages documentation is available at <https://pages.github.com/>.

GitHub is a service and tool located at github.com. This service provides a place to upload computer files and keeps a history of the file's changes. It is commonly used to store computer programs, but can also be used to store text and other documents. It is a popular service, used by over 4.5 million.

GitHub will host static webpages for free using a service called GitHub Pages. There is one website available per GitHub user. There is also one website per repository, known as a Project Page.

Host with Github Pages

GitHub Pages will host sites using Jekyll for free. This can be set up in 10-20 minutes.

This might not be included in the submitted project

Because we do this already.

Set Up Github.io Repo

In order to display your project as a webpage, GitHub requires a [username].github.io repository be created.

Things were installed

Chaos ensued.

Set Up Project Pages

Project Pages can be created for any GitHub repository by storing a website in the gh-pages branch.

Make branch. Enter Code. Magic. Magic everywhere.

Chaos ensued.