

# An Introduction to Jekyll

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A quick introduction to Jekyll!

## What are Static Websites?

- No *databases*
- Fast, Secure.
- Light footprint

Compared to websites that are served dynamically, static websites are faster and more secure. The main reason is the lack of *databases*. HTML files are created for each page in the website. The footprint is light and it serves best for personal websites and blogs.

## What is Jekyll?

A static site generator based on ***Ruby*** Jekyll is a static site generator based on the language **Ruby**. Ruby is a scripting language like Python, but is supposed to be even more user-friendly.

## What is a static site generator?

- Automatically generate HTML files for a site.
- Easily add content (eg: using **Markdown**)

To create a website, one needs a bunch of HTML pages. But, usually, there's also a fair bit of CSS and JavaScript. A static site generator takes care of the *boring* parts and lets you worry only about the *content*. The content is usually written in user-friendly markup languages like **Markdown**.

## Is Jekyll unique?

No, there are other options!

Jekyll	Ruby
Hugo	Go
Pelican	Python

Jekyll is *popular*; **strong** community! Jekyll is definitely the most popular, followed by Hugo. Jekyll has a strong community, which is really important.

## Getting Started with Jekyll

- Follow installation instructions from <https://jekyllrb.com>. Briefly:
  - Install Ruby
  - Install Jekyll
  - (Optional) Install Git

One first needs to install Jekyll. It's possible on all platforms. Version controlling using Git will also be very useful (this enables hosting via GitHub too)

## Live Demo

*Fingers crossed!*

## In case that's taking longer to load

Let's talk about gems.

- “packages”; <https://rubygems.org>
- Themes can be gem-based

## If it's taking even longer

Let's talk about bundles.

- It's exactly what it sounds like; <https://bundler.io>
- Very useful; simple versions management

## Still longer?

Time to copy-paste the result from a previous run.

## Recap

Here's a quick summary of the demo:

### Creating a new site

- The command to execute is `jeekyll new <name-of-the-site>`
- To locally serve the new website, use `bundle exec jeekyll serve`

### Modifying the site

- Change `_config.yml` to change site settings.
  - Must restart server after updating this file!
- Add new posts to `_posts` directory.
  - Make sure to follow the correct naming scheme
  - The frontmatter is important
- Create pages using the `page` layout
- Add content using Markdown.
  - It's okay to add HTML in the middle too!

### Themes, GitHub Pages and more!

- Use `gem` based themes or custom themes.
- Host on GitHub Pages (for free)
  - Be sure to check if you're using a project site or your user site!
- Many many more things to do! Check <https://jeekyllrb.com> for a start.

## Have fun!

Questions? Comments? I was a big noob, and I paid for it when I had to update my software. I want to help you as you get started. Do reach out.

## Not everything is awesome.

- Check: <https://medium.com/@mythreyi/the-agony-of-setting-up-jekyll-on-macos-catalina>
- The learning curve was deceptively simple, but it's possible that you'll run into many issues as you learn. Keep at it, it will get better eventually.
- I'm planning to learn Hugo: <https://gohugo.io>. If you're interested in joining, let me know.