# Portfolio Checklist

The 10 most important things to include in your web developer portfolio
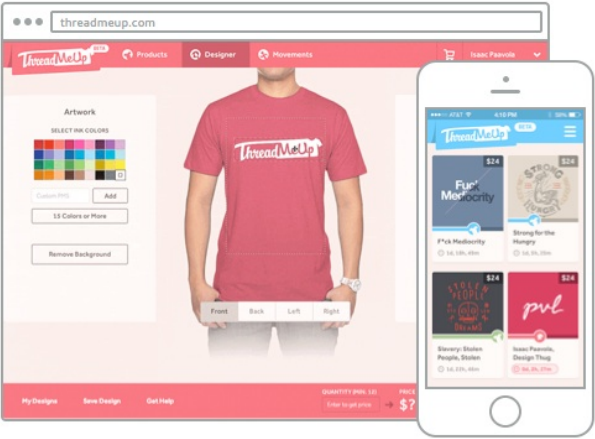
☐ **1. Immediate access to your work**

Putting projects you've worked on front and center will ensure visitors find what they're looking for as quickly as possible.

☐ **2. At least three projects**

Your portfolio only serves to demonstrate the great work you've done. Including any less than three projects will show that you don't have much experience yet. If that's the case, invest your time in building something, then come back to building your portfolio later. If you really want to create a portfolio for just two projects, creating a single page site will help make your portfolio look less bare.

☐ **3. Information for each project**

- a brief one paragraph description of the project, including your role, the technologies you used, and who the work was for (e.g. client, employer, or self-initiated project)

- at least one high resolution screenshot

- the date you finished working on the project

- a link to the live site (if available)

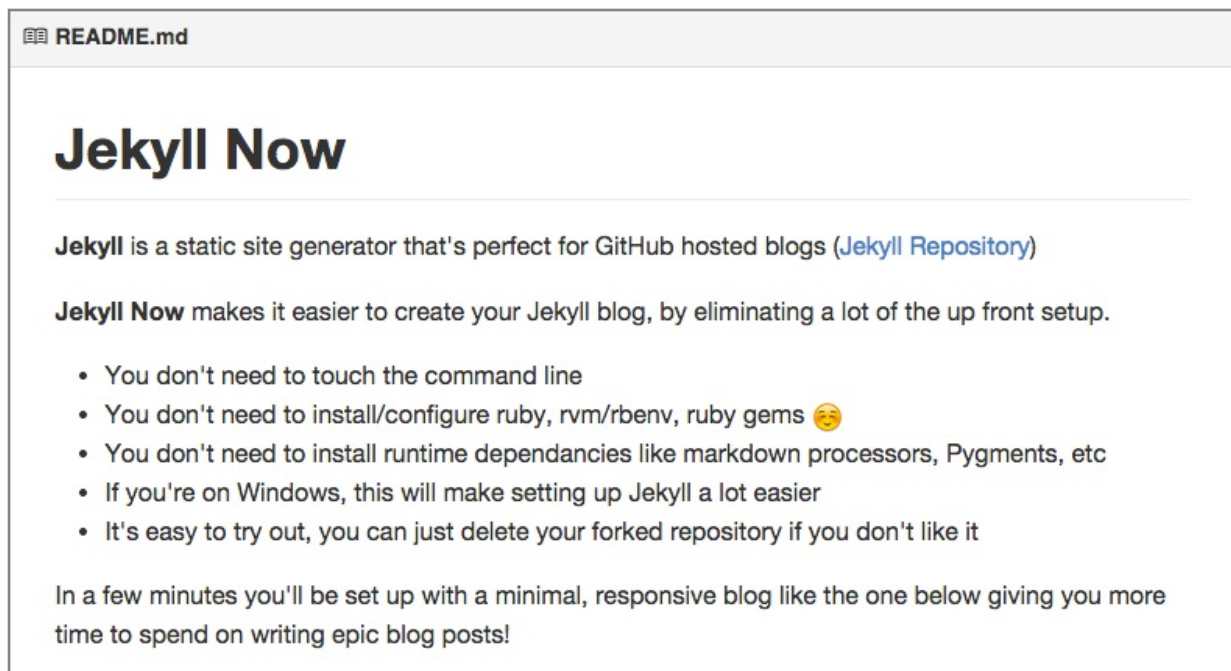- a link to the source code (if available)



http://isaacpvl.com/

### 4. A high resolution screenshot for each project

Screenshots give visitors a feel for the project much more effectively than paragraphs of well crafted text—and they're much quicker too!

If you aren't allowed to share a project UI screenshot (maybe a contract forbids you?), consider incorporating a different graphic, like the logo of the company you worked for. It'll increase perceived credibility and help visitors scan through your work easier.

### 5. Documented source code

There's nothing worse than visiting a project with no documentation whatsoever and having to click through source code to try to figure out what it is. Adding a simple readme.md within your GitHub repositories will help people understand what the project is about. An example of how I've done this in a recent side project:



📖 **README.md**

# Jekyll Now

**Jekyll** is a static site generator that's perfect for GitHub hosted blogs (Jekyll Repository)

**Jekyll Now** makes it easier to create your Jekyll blog, by eliminating a lot of the up front setup.

- You don't need to touch the command line
- You don't need to install/configure ruby, rvm/rbenv, ruby gems 😌
- You don't need to install runtime dependancies like markdown processors, Pygments, etc
- If you're on Windows, this will make setting up Jekyll a lot easier
- It's easy to try out, you can just delete your forked repository if you don't like it

In a few minutes you'll be set up with a minimal, responsive blog like the one below giving you more time to spend on writing epic blog posts!

https://github.com/barryclark/jekyll-now

## ☐ 6. Relevancy to the employer

When viewing your portfolio an employer is hoping to see work that's similar to their current projects. If you're applying to a Ruby position, and have only Wordpress sites in your portfolio it's worthwhile working on a couple of small Ruby projects first, so that you can show the employer you have the skills that they're looking for.

## ☐ 7. No dead links

Be sure to check your portfolio for errors before sending it out. Run it through a spell checker and clicking on each of your links to make sure that they work.

## ☐ 8. Curated social links

Including links to your GitHub, Stack Overflow, Twitter, Dribbble, or anywhere else that you leave a trail of awesomecrumbs will help to expose these to visitors.

## ☐ 9. A pic of yourself



Including a good picture of yourself either on your homepage or tucked away in your about page shows people who they'll be working with, giving them more of a connection with you.

## ☐ 10. Your email address

Including your email address makes it easier for people to get in contact with you. There are a few places where you can opt put this: your about page, a contact link in your navigation, or including email address in your footer.

# Bonus: 3 ways to make your portfolio stand out from the crowd

### 1. Testimonials (a.k.a. ask people to say nice things about you)

Asking friends or past co-workers to write a one or two sentances describing why they think you're great to work with will increase your credibility and give visitors an insight into what you're like to work with. Add these to your portfolio site with a small headshot of each recommender, their position, and the company they work at. Front-end Developer, Galen Vinter does a great job of this:



http://galenvinter.com

### 2. Source code snippets with your projects

What code are you proud of? Including the snippet of it on your project page and writing a paragraph walking through why it's awesome will give visitors an insight into your coding thought process. Don't be afraid to put your code out there for people to see.

### 3. An easter egg in your markup

It's likely that the person reviewing your portfolio might take a look at source code of your website. Including a comment to them in the <head> of your site is a fun way to be memorable, and it'll make them feel smart when they can reference it when they reach out to you.

source: http://www.barryclark.co/portfolio-examples/