

Quarkus Guides Navigation Redesign — One-Pager

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The problem

The guides landing page organizes 268 guides by Diataxis content type, but 69% fall into a catch-all “General Guides” section. Users arrive thinking “*I need to connect to a database*” — not “*I need a how-to guide*.” Once inside a guide, there is no persistent navigation: the only way to find another is to go back and re-scan the page. Contributors report keeping 12+ browser tabs open as a workaround ([issue #418](#)).

The proposal

Two orthogonal changes, delivered using pure Jekyll — no external service changes:

- **15 JTBD domains:** Group guides by user task (“Access and Manage Data,” “Deploy to the Cloud”) instead of content type. Diataxis types become secondary badges.
- **Persistent left sidebar:** A collapsible domain tree on every guide page, plus prev/next navigation between guides.

Implementation steps

Step	Description	Depends on
1. Define domain taxonomy	Create <code>domains.yaml</code> with 15 domains and guide assignments. Review with SMEs.	—
2. Build guide sidebar	<nav> sidebar using <details>/<summary> — pure HTML/CSS, no JS.	Step 1
3. Redesign landing page	Replace card grid with domain-grouped compact list. Retain search components.	Step 1
4. Cross-guide navigation	Prev/next links at the bottom of each guide, driven by <code>domains.yaml</code> ordering.	Step 2
5. Update guide titles	JTBD-compliant titles (“Configure data sources” not “Configuring Data Sources”).	Step 1

Steps 2, 3, 5 run in parallel. Critical path: **Step 1 → Step 2 → Step 4**. Each step is independently revertible.

The 15 domains (preliminary — refined with SMEs during Step 1)

Get Started (13) · Build Backend APIs (31) · Build Web UIs (6) · Access and Manage Data (35) · Secure Your Application (40) · Send and Receive Messages (21) · Deploy to the Cloud (38) · Observe Your Application (16) · Understand the Runtime (22) · Automate and Integrate (9) · Use Build Tools (13) · Use Spring APIs (9) · Write Extensions (15) · Contribute to Quarkus Docs (4) · Build AI Applications (placeholder)

Full guide mapping tables: [guides-landing-page-domains.md](#)

Key design decisions

- **Topic clusters, not subdomains:** Large domains (Security: 40, Deploy: 38) use visual groupings within a flat list, not nested collapsible sections. Fewer clicks, coherent learning paths, lower editorial overhead.
- **Search compatibility:** `<qs-guide>` elements are restyled via CSS, not replaced — Vue 3 search components work without modification.
- **Version-aware:** Sidebar resolves titles from the version-appropriate `quarkus.yaml`; guides absent from older versions are silently omitted.
- **Phase 2 (future):** Makes the sidebar dynamic with search/filtering via `search.quarkus.io` web components. Not part of this request.

The ask

Approve the Phase 1 plan (Steps 1–5) and commit engineering time to execute it.

Full plan: [guides-landing-page-plan.md](#) · Domain taxonomy: [guides-landing-page-domains.md](#)