

# Setting up a minimal Quarto blog

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## 1 Introduction

Review this post:

Quarto is an extension of the Rmarkdown ecosystem. It leverages the power of `knitr` and `pandoc`, providing a number of useful additional tools for literate programming, report generation and blogging.

I'm using quarto for my lab's home page with an embedded blog. ([focusionR.org](https://focusionR.org)).

This post will describe some of the core components We'll start with a minimal setup to provide some orientation.



Figure 1: quarto

The recommended method from the `Quarto` documentation initiate a blog, say `qblog`, is to run the command `quarto create-project` in your `~/shr` blog development directory.

```
quarto create-project qblog --type website:blog
```

This command generates a project folder `~/shr/qblog` with the following structure:

```
qblog/
|-- _quarto.yml
|-- about.qmd
|-- index.qmd
|-- posts/
|   |-- _metadata.yml
|   |-- post-with-code/
|       |-- image.jpg
|       `-- index.qmd
`-- welcome/
    |-- index.qmd
    `-- thumbnail.jpg
|-- profile.jpg
`-- styles.css
```

To start blogging the next steps are:

- cd to `~/shr/qblog/posts/`
- for the post, create a new directory, say `sample_post`
- cd to `~/shr/qblog/posts/sample_post`
- create and edit a `index.qmd` file adding content, e.g. using  
`vim vim index.qmd`

Before we go any further let's examine the basic elements of the site. The framework for a quarto blog can be quite minimal. For example the following subset of files is sufficient for a useful blog:

```
minimal_qblog
|-- _quarto.yml
|-- index.qmd
```

Note: Quarto `types` include blogs, websites, manuscripts, books, etc.

Note: A quarto blog can be much more elaborate than this template, but it can also be further minimized

```
`-- posts
  |-- index.qmd
  `-- sample_post.qmd
```

with file contents:

---

#### **Listing 1 \_quarto.yml**

---

```
project:
  type: website
website:
  title: "Thomas Lab home page"
  navbar:
    left:
      - href: posts/index.qmd
        text: Blog
format:
  html:
    theme: cosmo
```

---

---

#### **Listing 2 index.qmd**

---

```
---
title: "Thomas lab"
---

**Director: Professor Ronald G. Thomas**<br>
School of Public Health<br>
UC, San Diego<br>
La Jolla, California

Focused on new and useful data science technologies.
```

---

## **2 Results**

Minimal blog presents as the following:

---

### **Listing 3** posts/index.qmd

---

```
---
```

```
title: "Blog"
```

```
listing: default
```

```
---
```

---

### **Listing 4** posts/post1.qmd

---

```
---
```

```
title: "First post"
```

```
---
```

```
# Introduction
```

```
Minimal text for first post.
```

[Thomas Lab home page](#)   [Blog](#)

## **Thomas lab**

**Director: Professor Ronald G. Thomas**  
School of Public Health  
UC, San Diego  
La Jolla, California

Focused on new and interesting data science technologies.

When run the first time the `quarto` engine generates a web site in the directory `_site`. This site contains CSS code as defined by the `theme` command in the `_quarto.yml` file.

## **3 Appendix**

[mcanouil/awesome-quarto: A curated list of Quarto talks, tools, examples & articles](#)

Consider some ideas from

- Rob Hyndman - [Template of quarto website](#)
- Eric Ekholm - [Modifying the Default Quarto Blog Structure](#)
- Allison Hill - [We don't talk about Quarto](#)
- Nick Tierney - [Notes on Changing from Rmark-down/Bookdown to Quarto](#)
- Samantha Csik \* [Creating your personal website using Quarto](#)
- 2024-06-12 [ Adding a blog to your existing Quarto website ] ( <https://samanthacsik.github.io/posts/2022-10-24-quarto-blogs/> )

### **3.1 Prerequisites**

In development

### **3.2 Step-by-Step Implementation**

In development

### **3.3 Key Takeaways**

In development

### **3.4 Further Reading**

In development