

Setting up a minimal Quarto blog

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1 Introduction

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 and blogging.

I'm using quarto for my lab's home page with an embedded blog. ([focusonR](#)).

This post will describe some of the most useful and interesting quarto tools presented in the context of a **Palmer Penguins** data set analysis. We'll start with a minimal setup and add additional components for navigation and aesthetic purposes.

The recommended method in the **Quarto** documents to initiate a blog, call it `qblog`, is to run the command `quarto create-project` in your `~/prj` development directory.



Figure 1: quarto

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

Quarto types include blogs, websites, manuscripts, books, etc.

This generates a project folder `~/prj/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
```

Next steps:

- `cd` to `~/prj/qblog/posts/`
- for the first post, create a new directory, say `sample_post`
- `cd` to `~/prj/qblog/posts/sample_post`
- edit the `index.qmd` file and add content. `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 to start a useful blog:

```
minimal_blog  
|-- _quarto.yml  
|-- index.qmd  
|-- 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 interesting data science technologies.
```

Minimal blog presents as the following:

Listing 3 posts/index.qmd

```
---
title: "Blog"
listing: default
---
```

Listing 4 posts/post1.qmd

```
---
title: "Setting up R, vimtex and Ultisnips in vim on a Mac"
description: "Detailed configuration for optimal interaction and efficiency"
categories: [vim, R, Tex, Ultisnips]
date: last-modified
---
```

Introduction

Start by installing `vim` (neovim),
[R](<https://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/>)
[tex](<https://www.tug.org/mactex/mactex-download.html>)
[vimtex](<https://github.com/lervag/vimtex.git>)
[ultisnips](<https://github.com/SirVer/ultisnips.git>)

See post "Setting up a minimal neovim... "
for details on installing plugins with Neovim.

[Thomas Lab home page](#) [Blog](#)

Thomas lab

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2 Appendix

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

Consider some ideas from

- Rob Hyndman - [Template of quarto website](#)
- Eric Eklholm - [Modifying the Default Quarto Blog Structure](#)
- Allison Hill - [We don't talk about Quarto](#)
- Nick Tierney - [Notes on Changing from Rmarkdown/Bookdown to Quarto](#)