

# 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. ([focusonR.org](https://focusonR.org)).

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

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.

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



Figure 1: quarto

```
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`

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

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  
|-- 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

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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 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](#)
- 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/> )