How I built my blog using Jekyll and GitHub Pages
18 Nov 2014

In this post I will show you how I used Jekyll and GitHub Pages to setup my blog. This is not a tutorial about Jekyll or Git and GitHub. It is a simple introduction to get you started in the world of blogging.

Let's do it.

Introduction

There are two things you need before you can begin:

- **A GitHub account**
- **Git on your local machine**

If you don't have an account one - get one.

If you don't have Git on your machine - install it.

I am running Linux, so this tutorial is written for Linux. But you can apply the following to any OS you like.

Create repository for GitHub Pages

We will host our blog with GitHub Pages. It is genious. You just need a GitHub repository and your website contents will automatically be deployed. You get to kill two birds with one stone - hosting and version control.

Here is what you need to do:

1. Create a GitHub repository named *username.github.io*, where *username* is your username (or organization name) on GitHub
2. Clone repository on your machine:

```
git clone https://github.com/username/username.github.io
```

The next step is to install the blogging engine Jekyll.

Jekyll: Static websites are dead - Long live static websites!

Jekyll is a tool that lets you write your blog posts

using awesome Markdown syntax. It is simple to use and easily modifiable.

Follow the [installation tutorial](#) from the Jekyll website.

When you are finished you can start to build your blog.

1. Create new Jekyll blog in folder `username.github.io`

   ```
   jekyll new username.github.io
   ```

   This will create the following folders and files:

   ```
   username.github.io/
   ├── about.md
   ├── _config.yml
   ├── css
   │   └── main.scss
   ├── feed.xml
   ├── _includes
   │   ├── footer.html
   │   ├── header.html
   │   └── head.html
   ├── index.html
   ├── _layouts
   │   ├── default.html
   │   ├── page.html
   │   └── post.html
   ├── _posts
   │   └── 2014-11-18-welcome-to-jekyll.markdown
   └── _sass
       ├── _base.scss
       ├── _layout.scss
       └── _syntax-highlighting.scss

   5 directories, 15 files
   ```

   If you check out the contents of the folder `_posts` you can see the file `2014-11-18-welcome-to-jekyll.markdown` . This is a blog post written in Markdown.

   A detailed description of the folder structure and the files can be found [here](#).

2. View site on local machine

   ```
   jekyll serve
   ```

   This will fire up the Jekyll engine, generate you webpages, and you will be able to view your blog on [localhost:4040](#).

Deploy to GitHub Pages

The next step is to commit your changes and push them to Github.

```
cd username.github.io/
git add -A
git commit -am "Initial commit"
git push
```

That's it, you just created your own personal blog.

Your blog has now been pushed to GitHub and will be available on **www.username.github.io** in a few minutes.

Links

You are now ready to start blogging. Here are some links that will help you in the beginning:

- Jekyll Documentation
- GitHub Pages
- Jekyll Tutorial
- Markdown Syntax Cheatsheet

I used the beautiful Lanyon theme for styling.

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