

03 JAN 2014

BLOG REBOOT USING JEKYLL & GITHUB PAGES

Can you believe it's been **5 years** ago since I've written another post? Let's change that by rebooting it with **Jekyll** and **GitHub Pages**.

Instead of looking back and talking about why the blog has been dead for so long, let's talk about how you can get it up and running on the same stack as well.

REASONS

You might ask, *why do I care?* Well, first of all, it's a really **back-to-basics** way of blogging, all about content, less about the platform. You write your posts in plain text, commit them to GitHub, and that's it.

How is that any different from posting a blog to a hosted Wordpress solution? *Easy*, it doesn't use a database to start with, there really is nothing else besides the files in your own repository. My inner geek just *loves* this.

Second of all, it's less like blogging, and more like coding. You're used to source control, and text files, why not leverage this, you already made the learning curve.

I could've just said, because **Cloud**, but.. *meh*

JEKYLL

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One of the parts responsible for getting this done, is **Jekyll**, a static-site generator. It turns the raw repo into a completely static site. That should account for some nice performance for the visitor, no need to generate pages on the fly. Combine that with some caching and a light layout and you got yourself a blazingly fast site.

GITHUB PAGES

The second part comes in the form of free hosting by the guys at **GitHub**. They are offering a service where you can serve a specific repository as a website.

Another thing they did, is integrate Jekyll into this service, causing your content to get generated upon each commit. This way you don't even need to have Jekyll on your own machine at all.

GETTING STARTED

So, you want to give this a shot? Let's set everything up that's needed.

- The first thing we need is a GitHub account, if you don't have one yet, **go create one**.
- Next, fork <https://github.com/CumpsD/jekyll-bootstrap>, you can **follow this link to fork straight away**.
- Go to your new fork, and on the right select *Settings*.
- Use *your username.github.io* as your new *Repository Name*.

If you now browse to http://your_username.github.io/ you have your Jekyll blog up and running! Do note it can take **10 minutes** for it to become available.

At this point you can either clone your repository locally, or just use the GitHub interface to add new *.md* files to the *_posts* directory in your repo.

When you commit a new file, or edit an existing one, GitHub Pages will automatically regenerate your blog. Again, it might take a little while for the update to appear.

Posts are written using the **Markdown syntax**.

RESOURCES

Now you are ready to tweak the layout and learn more about Jekyll.

- [Read the documentation](#)
- [Get some themes](#)
- [And some more themes](#)

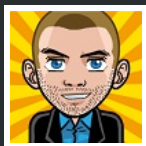
Or [get some non-Jekyll themes](#) and turn them into one for your own blog.

CONCLUSION

Now you've seen how easy it is to get a Jekyll blog up and running fast. The rest is just limited by your imagination.

Found some nice nuggets of Jekyll-knowledge? Be sure to comment and let me know.

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