

# Toucan Static Site Generator: Quick Installation Guide

Toucan is a Swift-based static site generator designed for simplicity and performance. This guide walks you through the installation process and helps you get started with creating your first static website.

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## Prerequisites

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Before installing Toucan, ensure your environment is properly set up:

**1. Install Swift:**

- Toucan requires Swift to be installed on your machine.
- [Download Swift](#) and follow the installation instructions for your operating system.

**2. Verify Swift Installation:**

- Open a terminal and type:

```
swift --version
```

- You should see the installed Swift version. If not, check for installation errors to ensure Swift is correctly set up.
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## Installation Steps

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### Step 1: Clone the Repository

1. Open your terminal.
2. Clone the Toucan repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/toucansites/toucan.git
cd toucan
```

## Step 2: Build and Install Toucan

1. Use `make` to build and install Toucan:

```
make install
```

- This command compiles the Toucan source code and installs it on your system.

2. Verify the installation:

```
which toucan
```

- The output should display the path where Toucan is installed. If it doesn't, check the installation logs for errors.
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## Getting Started with Toucan

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### Step 1: Initialize a New Site

1. Create a new site by running:

- Run the following command in your terminal, replacing **my-site** with your desired project folder name:

```
toucan init my-site
```

- Toucan will generate a folder with your chosen name, including default configuration files and templates.

2. Navigate to your new site folder:

```
cd my-site
```

Once your site is initialized, your project will have the following structure:

```
my-site/
├── LICENSE           # License file for the project
├── Makefile          # Makefile for building and managing the project
├── README.md         # Project README file
├── docs/             # Folder containing generated static files (HTML,
└── src/              # Source files for content and templates
```

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## Step 2: Generate Your Site

1. Run the following command to generate the static files:

```
toucan generate
```

- Toucan processes your content and templates, producing static HTML files in the `docs` directory.

## Step 3: Watch for changes (only for macOS for now)

The `watch` command monitors a source directory for changes and automatically regenerates the site whenever changes are detected.

1. Run the following command to enable file watching:

```
toucan watch
```

## Step 4: Serve Your Site Locally

1. Start a local development server:

```
toucan serve
```

2. Open your browser and navigate to:

```
http://localhost:3000
```

- This allows you to preview your site locally.

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## Copy Theme and Default Contents

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1. Copy all files from the **try-o-theme-0.0.4/theme** folder in the ZIP file and paste them into the **my-site/src/themes/default folder**. If prompted, you may overwrite or replace existing files.
2. Copy all files from the **try-o-theme-0.0.4/contents** folder in the ZIP file and paste them into the **my-site/src/contents** folder. If prompted, you may overwrite or replace existing files.

After successful file copies, your project will have the following structure:

```
my-site/
└── docs
└── src/
    ├── contents/
    │   ├── 404
    │   ├── about
    │   ├── assets
    │   ├── authors
    │   ├── home
    │   ├── lists
    │   ├── posts
    │   ├── tags
    │   └── index.yml
    └── themes/
        └── default/
            ├── assets
            ├── templates
            └── types
```

3. Once all files are successfully copied, regenerate your site to apply the changes:

- First run the following command:

```
toucan generate
```

- After successful generation, run the following command:

```
toucan serve
```

4. Open your browser and go to <http://localhost:3000>.

5. Go to the **Authors** page to verify that the new author is displayed.

The theme comes with a variety of sample content to help you quickly understand how to structure and manage your site. These include:

1. Tags:
  - Multiple tags are provided in **src/contents/tags/**.
  - This demonstrates how tags are created and displayed.
2. Authors:
  - A test author is included in **src/contents/authors/**.
  - This shows how to add and customize author profiles.
3. Posts:
  - Several sample posts are included in **src/contents/posts/**.

- These showcase how to write Markdown-based posts with metadata and images.
4. 404 Page:
    - A preconfigured “Page Not Found” template is located in **src/contents/404/**.
  5. About Page:
    - A sample “About” page is included in **src/contents/about/** to demonstrate static page creation.
  6. Assets:
    - Default images and icons are stored in **src/contents/assets/**.
    - Includes logos, placeholders, and theme-specific assets.
  7. Home Page Content:
    - A preconfigured home page setup is included in **src/contents/home/**.

You can use these sample files as a reference or starting point for your project. Once you’re familiar with the structure, replace them with your own custom content.

Happy building with Toucan!

## Troubleshooting

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If you encounter any issues during installation or setup, try the following steps:

- Ensure Swift is installed and correctly configured.
  - Check your `PATH` to ensure the Toucan binary is accessible.
  - Review the logs for any error messages and report issues on the [Toucan GitHub Issues page](#).
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## Resources

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- **Official Repository:** <https://github.com/toucansites/toucan>
- **Swift Downloads:** <https://swift.org/download/>