

# Static Website Generators: An Overview

A **static website** is made up of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. It does not use any server-side language, and is delivered to the end user as it exists on the web server.

A **static website generator** is a tool that is used to create these websites.

These tools can be **well suited for** blogs, project overviews, documentation, conference sites, or collection highlights.

Some <b>benefits</b> of using static generators include:	Some <b>drawbacks</b> of using static generators include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ No back-end scripting or databases required</li><li>▶ Often more secure</li><li>▶ Most are open-source</li><li>▶ Excellent performance</li><li>▶ Built-in servers for development</li><li>▶ Pre-built theme options</li><li>▶ Quick to create simple sites</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Lack of visual editing</li><li>▶ Some have a large number of dependencies</li><li>▶ Can be challenging to manage for larger sites</li><li>▶ Some have poor extensibility</li><li>▶ More difficult to install in Windows environments</li></ul>

A static website generator typically **consists of...**

- ▶ A template language(s) for creating page templates
- ▶ A lightweight markup language (e.g. Markdown) for creating content
- ▶ A structure and markup (e.g. YAML) for providing configuration and metadata
- ▶ A set of rules or structure for organizing and naming files that are exported/compiled, files that are not, and how these files are handled
- ▶ A way to compile templates and markup into HTML (generally support for CSS or JavaScript preprocessors is also included)
- ▶ A built-in server for testing and development



**Jekyll** | jekyllrb.com

<> Ruby

© MIT

★ 28828

🔗 6419

⚙️ Liquid

- ▶ Plugin support
- ▶ Large community
- ▶ Admin plugin
- ▶ Github pages integration



**Hugo** | gohugo.io

<> Go

© APL 2

★ 15203

🔗 2240

⚙️ Go templates

- ▶ Fast build time
- ▶ No dependencies
- ▶ Multilingual built-in
- ▶ Easy install



**Hexo** | hexo.io

<> JS

© MIT

★ 14901

🔗 2285

⚙️ EJS, Swig

- ▶ Plugin support
- ▶ Multilingual built-in
- ▶ Deployment options
- ▶ International community



**Gitbook** | gitbook.com

<> JS

© APL 2

★ 14404

🔗 1795

⚙️ Jinja2

- ▶ Gitbook hosting
- ▶ Gitbook editor app
- ▶ Export doc formats
- ▶ Multilingual built-in



**Pelican** | getpelican.com

<> Python

© AGPL

★ 6609

🔗 1351

⚙️ Jinja2

- ▶ Plugin support
- ▶ Import options
- ▶ Multiple markup formats
- ▶ Multilingual built-in

### Sources

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