
Teaching an old blog new tricks

from Wordpress to a Jekyll Static Page

Central Iowa Linux Users Group
August 2021
Andrew Denner

About Me

- Senior Scientific Software Developer
- President of CIALUG
- <http://denner.co>
- Twitter @adenner



Andy's Thoughts

it's like /dev/null but with more content



Bash style history in Power Shell

October 30, 2020

[Leave a comment](#)





RECENT POSTS

- [Bash style history in Power Shell](#)
- [OpenMP Scheduling \(default is default for a reason\)](#)
- [Clearing WordPress comments via a SQL Query](#)
- [ohshit-docker \(or helping a friend through some docker issues\)](#)
- [ELCA Lutheran Churches in the greater Des Moines IA Area](#)



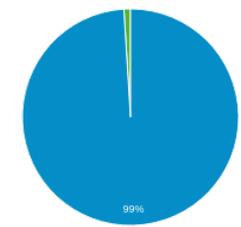
Users vs. Select a metric

Hourly Day Week Month



Users 203	New Users 203	Sessions 206	Number of Sessions per User 1.01	Pageviews 366	Pages / Session 1.78
Avg. Session Duration 00:00:52	Bounce Rate 93.69%				

New Visitor Returning Visitor



Demographics

- Language
- Country
- City

Country

	Country	Users	% Users
1.	Indonesia	188	92.61%
2.	United States	10	4.93%
3.	Germany	2	0.99%

Current Stack

- LAMP (Linux Apache MySQL PHP)
- Docker Compose
- Ubuntu LTS
- VM in a Datacenter
- Cloudflare

Pros and Cons of Current Stack

PRO:

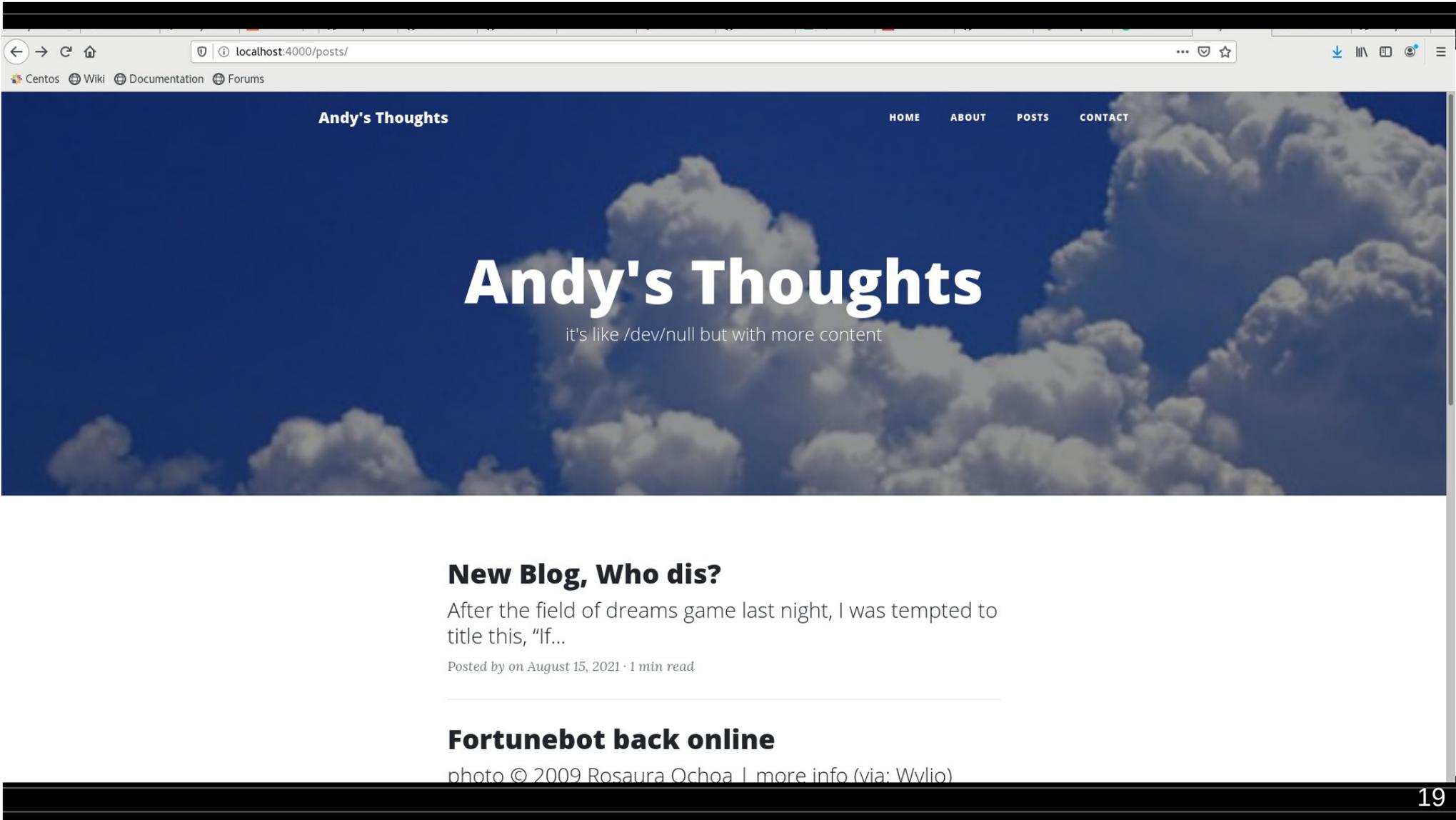
- Wordpress Ecosystem
- Easy WYSIWIG edits
- Posting from web
- Future Posts automagic
- Dynamic

Cons:

- Attack Surface
- Updates
- Fighting Wordpress
- Not Really html

In-progress State...

- Updated from Cent OS8 to Rocky 8
 - Mostly painless (<https://docs.rockylinux.org/guides/migrate2rocky/>)
- Podman instead of Docker
 - SE Linux Hell (<https://github.com/containers/podman/issues/6592>)
 - `podman run --rm -it -v $PWD:/web --security-opt label=disable --network=host jekyll/jekyll bash`
- Slowly porting old posts to markdown and cleaning up dead links





Andy's Thoughts

HOME ABOUT POSTS CONTACT

New Blog, Who dis?

Posted by on August 15, 2021 · 1 min read

After the field of dreams game last night, I was tempted to title this, "If you build it, will they come?" But I figured that was a bit much, and a little self-deprecating. After years of faithful wordpressing, I came to the realization that there was really no good reason to. With the advent of many very serviceable static website generators, as well as nice sites like GitLab sites to host it, there is really no good reason to keep the attack vector of WordPress around. This does eliminate the ability to give comments but, in the years of WordPress, I don't know of any actual legit ones.

This will also serve as an experimental spot for me to work out the details as we move the Central Iowa Linux Users Group site over as well.

Future State

- Static HTML-Generated by Jekyll
- Gitlab pages
- Gitlab runner CI/CD
- Git Source Control
- Still Cloudflare (less important)

Pros and Cons of Future State

Pros:

- Static site/Serverless
- Git version Control
- Less attack radius

• Cons:

- Static Site/Serverless
- No WYSIWIG
- Compiled

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://jekyllrb.com> ... 📄 ⌵ 🌐 📧 ☰

Centos Wiki Documentation Forums

 **HOME** DOCS RESOURCES SHOWCASE NEWS 🔍 Search the docs V4.2.0 GITHUB

Transform your plain text into static websites and blogs.

Simple

No more databases, comment moderation, or pesky updates to install—just *your content*.

[How Jekyll works →](#)

Static

Markdown, Liquid, HTML & CSS go in. Static sites come out ready for deployment.

[Jekyll template guide →](#)

Blog-aware

Permalinks, categories, pages, posts, and custom layouts are all first-class citizens here.

[Migrate your blog →](#)

Get up and running *in seconds*.

Quick-start Instructions

```
~ $ gem install bundler jekyll
~ $ jekyll new my-awesome-site
~ $ cd my-awesome-site
~/my-awesome-site $ bundle exec jekyll serve
# => Now browse to http://localhost:4000
```



Free hosting with GitHub Pages

Sick of dealing with hosting companies? [GitHub Pages](#) are powered by *Jekyll*, so you can easily deploy your site using GitHub for free—[custom domain name](#) and all.

Browser address bar: <https://jekyllrb.com>

Navigation: Centos Wiki Documentation Forums

Logo: 

Menu: HOME DOCS RESOURCES SHOWCASE NEWS

Search: Search the docs

Version: V4.2.0 GITHUB

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Markdown

- Created in 2004 by John Gruber
- <https://www.markdownguide.org/getting-started/>
- Unobtrusive
- Plain text publishable and readable as-is
- “Easy Button”

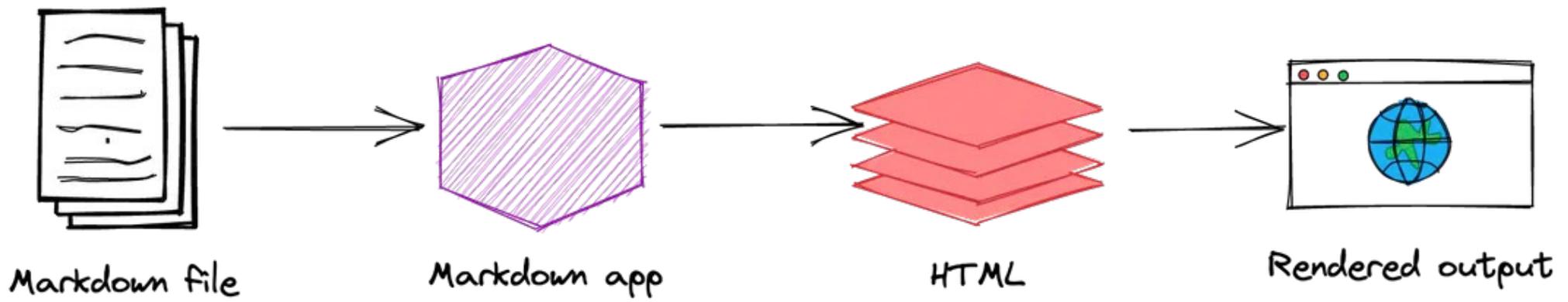
```
what-is-markdown.md — markdown-guide

EXPLOR... [Icons] ... what-is-markdown.md M X [Icons] ...

> _basic-syntax
> _data
> _extended-syntax
▼ _getting-started
  ↳ additional-resources.md
  ↳ flavors-of-markdown.md
  ↳ how-does-it-work.md M
  ↳ kicking-the-tires.md
  ↳ what-is-markdown.md M
  ↳ whats-markdown-good-for...
  ↳ why-use-markdown.md
> _includes
> _layouts
> _site
> _tools
> .git-metadata

_getting-started > ↳ what-is-markdown.md > [Icon] ## What is Markdown?
1  ## What is Markdown?
2
3  Markdown is a lightweight markup language that you can use to add formatting elements to
  plaintext text documents. Created by [John Gruber](https://daringfireball.net/projects/
  markdown/) in 2004, Markdown is now one of the world's most popular markup languages.
4
5  Using Markdown is different than using a [WYSIWYG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
  WYSIWYG) editor. In an application like Microsoft Word, you click buttons to format
  words and phrases, and the changes are visible immediately. Markdown isn't like that.
  When you create a Markdown-formatted file, you add Markdown syntax to the text to
  indicate which words and phrases should look different.
6
7  For instance, to denote a heading, you add a number sign before it (e.g., `# Heading
  One`). Or to make a phrase bold, you add two asterisks before and after it (e.g.,
  `**this text is bold**`). It may take a while to get used to seeing Markdown syntax in
  your text, especially if you're accustomed to WYSIWYG applications. The screenshot below
  shows a Markdown file displayed in the [Visual Studio Code text editor](/tools/vscode/).
8

master* [Icons] 0 0 2 ✓ markdown | ✓ what-is-markdown.md Ln 13, Col 303 Spaces: 2 UTF-8 LF Markdown [Icons]
```



Demo Markdown online editor

- <https://dillinger.io/>

Liquid Template Engine

- Created by Shopify with following goals:
 - Simple Markup and Beautiful results
 - Non Eval & Secure—Don't trust the users
 - Stateless
 - Works for email as well as Web

← → ↻ 🏠 <https://jekyllrb.com> ... 📄 ⌵ 🌐 📧 ☰

Centos Wiki Documentation Forums

 [HOME](#) [DOCS](#) [RESOURCES](#) [SHOWCASE](#) [NEWS](#) [V4.2.0](#) [GITHUB](#)

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File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help

EXPLORER

2021-08-15-newblog.md • 2008-12-16-headstand.md 2008-12-16-eggdrop.md 2008-12-13-chrome.md 2008-09-23-lmahara-at-isu.md 2008-09-24-ScienceMusicGeek.md 2008-09-26-coolcam.md

OPEN EDITORS 2 UNSAVED

- 2021-08-15-newblog.md blog...
- 2008-12-16-headstand.md blo...
- 2008-12-16-eggdrop.md blog.d...
- 2008-12-13-chrome.md blog.d...
- 2008-09-23-lmahara-at-isu.md...
- 2008-09-24-ScienceMusicGeek...
- 2008-09-26-coolcam.md blog.d...
- 2008-09-27-guyfawkes.md blo...
- 2008-10-3-election.md blog.de...

WEB

- 2008-12-20-loveandcsm.md
- 2008-12-13-chrome.md
- 2008-12-13-mootools.md
- 2008-12-16-eggdrop.md
- 2008-12-16-headstand.md
- 2008-12-25-merrychristmas.md
- 2009-01-20-aptprox.md
- 2009-01-20-change.md
- 2009-01-25-engaged.md
- 2010-06-20-wedding.md
- 2010-07-01-honeymoon.md
- 2010-11-18-irc.md
- 2011-03-22-firefox.md
- 2011-03-22-greatplains.md
- 2011-03-23-fortunebot.md
- 2021-08-15-newblog.md
- 2021-08-16-oldtech.md
- > _site
- > jekyll-cache
- > img
- > posts
- > something
- ! _config.yml
- .gitignore
- <> 404.html
- about.md
- contact.md
- Gemfile
- Gemfile.lock
- <> index.html

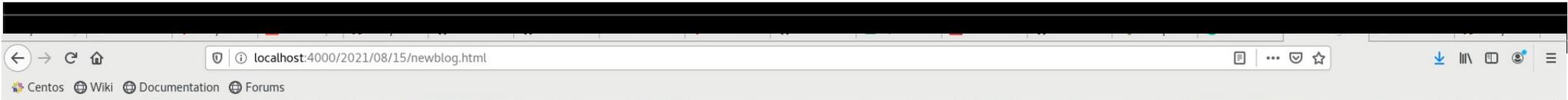
OUTLINE

blog.denner.co > _posts > 2021-08-15-newblog.md

Front Matter

```
1 ---
2 layout: post
3 title: "New Blog, Who dis?"
4 date: 2021-08-15 20:32:14 -0500
5 background: /img/writekey.jpg
6 ---
7
8 After the field of dreams game last night, I was tempted to title this, "If you build it, will they come?" But I figured that was a bit much, and a little
9 self-deprecating.
10
11 After years of faithful wordpressing, I came to the realization that there was really no good reason to. With the advent of many very serviceable static website
12 generators, as well as nice sites like GitLab sites to host it, there is really no good reason to keep the attack vector of WordPress around. This does eliminate the
13 ability to give comments but, in the years of WordPress, I don't know of any actual legit ones.
14
15 This will also serve as an experimental spot for me to work out the details as we move the Central Iowa Linux Users Group site over as well.
16
17 I expect that I will port the rest of the previous blog posts over in time and expect to see additional posts about how I made the magic happen. |
```

CONTENT



New Blog, Who dis?

Posted by on August 15, 2021 · 1 min read

After the field of dreams game last night, I was tempted to title this, "If you build it, will they come?" But I figured that was a bit much, and a little self-deprecating. After years of faithful wordpressing, I came to the realization that there was really no good reason to. With the advent of many very serviceable static website generators, as well as nice sites like GitLab sites to host it, there is really no good reason to keep the attack vector of WordPress around. This does eliminate the ability to give comments but, in the years of WordPress, I don't know of any actual legit ones.

This will also serve as an experimental spot for me to work out the details as we move the Central Iowa Linux Users Group site over as well.

Visual Studio Code interface showing a file explorer on the left and a code editor on the right. The code editor displays a Markdown file named "2010-06-20-wedding.md" with the following content:

```
1 ---
2 layout: post
3 title: "Wedding"
4 date: 2010-06-20 20:32:14 -0500
5 categories: old
6 ---
7
8 <p>June 12, 2010 I got married to the love of my life...</p>
9 <p><a title="AB061210DHW-323CD by Andrew Denner, on Flickr" href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/denner/5021600682/"></a></p>
10 <p>We were married at <a href="http://www.storycounty.com/Default.aspx?DN=399,390,15,6,1,Documents">Mc Farland Park</a> in Ames Iowa by <a href="http://www.luthersem.edu/story/default.aspx?article_id=117&issue_id=13">Fritz</a> <a href="http://www.simpson.edu/religiouslife/chaplain/">Wehrenburg</a> (My Former Pastor at University Lutheran Church now Chaplin at Simpson).<br>
11 <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/denner/5021637208/" title="AB061210DHW-475CD by Andrew Denner, on Flickr"></a></p>
12 <p>For more photos see my <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/denner/sets/72157624901966733/with/5021600682/">flickr album</a>.</p>
13 <p><a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/denner/5021012503/" title="AB061210DHW-403CD by Andrew Denner, on Flickr"></a></p>
14 <p>Photos taken by <a href="http://www.amybeckerphotography.com/">Amy Becker Photography</a> used with permission</p>
```

The file explorer on the left shows a directory structure with various Markdown files, including "2010-06-20-wedding.md" which is currently selected.

You can even include HTML that will pass through

Prerequisites

Jekyll requires the following:

- Ruby version **2.5.0** or higher
- RubyGems
- GCC and Make

See [Requirements](#) for guides and details.

Instructions

1. Install all [prerequisites](#).

2. Install the jekyll and bundler [gems](#).

```
gem install jekyll bundler
```

3. Create a new Jekyll site at `./myblog`.

```
jekyll new myblog
```

4. Change into your new directory.

```
cd myblog
```

5. Build the site and make it available on a local server.

```
bundle exec jekyll serve
```

6. Browse to <http://localhost:4000>

!! If you are using Ruby version 3.0.0 or higher, step 5 may fail. You may fix it by adding `webrick`

Command Line Usage
Configuration
Rendering Process

CONTENT

Pages
Posts
Front Matter
Collections
Data Files
Assets
Static Files

SITE STRUCTURE

Directory Structure
Liquid
Variables
Includes
Layouts
Permalinks
Themes
Pagination

GUIDES

Plugins
Blog Migrations
Upgrading
Deployment

It gets even easier with containers

- Podman

- `podman run --rm -it -v $PWD:/web --security-opt label=disable --network=host jekyll/jekyll bash`

Run
interactively
Remove
when done

Mount
directory
into
container

Gets us out of SE
Linux Hell

Use host
network
stack



An aside, or what the **** is Podman

- Daemonless container engine for OCI
Containers in linux
- Root or Rootless (today we are rootless)
- Drop in replacement for docker

Demo

- Create new site
<https://asciinema.org/a/ruLMhDXiMICyclLLX0zuderG1>
- Dynamic Build and serve locally (bundle exec jekyll serve)
<https://asciinema.org/a/zK8KGzIDDeeaVSZlhV0Kbczlt>

Themes

- <https://jekyllthemes.io/free>

The screenshot displays the 'Free Jekyll Themes' website. At the top, it says 'Free Jekyll Themes' and 'The most up to date collection of free Jekyll themes created by the open source community.' Below this is a 'SORT BY:' section with buttons for 'Stars', 'Last Commit', 'Name', and 'Forks'. The main content is a grid of theme cards. Each card shows a preview of the theme's homepage and includes the theme name, a brief description, and statistics like stars, forks, and last commit date. The themes shown are: Minimal Mistakes (Flexible two-column Jekyll theme), Now (A quick-start Jekyll theme), Beautiful (Simple personal website theme), Hyde (A clean and elegant Jekyll theme), Just the Docs (Focus on writing good documentation), and Lanyon (Simple and elegant Jekyll theme).

Theme Name	Description	Stars	Forks	Last Commit
Minimal Mistakes	Flexible two-column Jekyll theme	7902	14309	26 April 2021
Now	A quick-start Jekyll theme	7312	31201	26 April 2021
Beautiful	Simple personal website theme	3316	10541	20 April 2021
Hyde	A clean and elegant Jekyll theme	-	-	-
Just the Docs	Focus on writing good documentation	-	-	-
Lanyon	Simple and elegant Jekyll theme	-	-	-

Clean Blog Jekyll theme



**Man must explore, and this is
exploration at its greatest**
Problems look mighty small from 150 miles up



Lets move into the internet...

- Github has pages...
 - Some limitations (1gb total size, 100gb bandwidth cap, 10 builds per hr)
- Gitlab also has pages
 - 10 gb repo limit
 - No bandwidth limit (they will let you know)
 - No build limits if using own runner



...Temporarily embarrassed millionaires.
—John Steinbeck

main denner.co / .gitlab-ci.yml

Find file Blame History Permalink



Update .gitlab-ci.yml

Andrew Denner authored 1 week ago



3c437545



✓ This GitLab CI configuration is valid. [Learn more](#)

.gitlab-ci.yml 158 Bytes

Edit

Web IDE

Pipeline Editor

Lock

Replace

Delete



```
1 image: alpine:latest
2
3 pages:
4   stage: deploy
5   script:
6     - echo 'Nothing to do...'
7   artifacts:
8     paths:
9     - public
10    expire_in: 1 day
11  only:
12  - main
```

- Denner.co
- Project information
- Repository
- Issues 0
- Merge requests 0
- Requirements
- CI/CD
- Security & Compliance
- Deployments
- Monitor
- Infrastructure
- Packages & Registries
- Analytics
- Wiki
- Snippets
- Settings
 - General
 - Integrations
 - Webhooks
 - Repository
 - CI/CD
 - Monitor
 - Pages**
 - Packages & Registries

Warning: We recommend you ensure two-factor authentication is enabled and the settings are up to date. [Learn more.](#)

[Manage two-factor authentication](#)

Andrew Denner > Denner.co > Pages

Pages

[New Domain](#)

With GitLab Pages you can host your static website directly from your GitLab repository. [Learn more.](#)

Force HTTPS (requires valid certificates)

When enabled, all attempts to visit your website through HTTP are automatically redirected to HTTPS using a response with status code 301. Requires a valid certificate for all domains. [Learn more.](#)

[Save changes](#)

Access pages

Your pages are served under:

- <https://denner1.gitlab.io/denner.co>
- <http://blog.denner.co>

Domains (1)

- <http://blog.denner.co> [Edit](#) [Remove](#)

Something went wrong while obtaining the Let's Encrypt certificate for blog.denner.co. To retry visit your [domain details](#).

File templates

.gitlab-ci.yml

Choose a templat...

```
1 image: jekyll/jekyll
2
3 pages:
4   stage: deploy
5   script:
6     - cd blog.denner.co
7     - bundle install
8     - jekyll build
9     - mv _site ../public
10  artifacts:
11    paths:
12      - public
13    expire_in: 1 day
14  only:
15    - main
16
```