Building Websites With Nikola

by Aaron Yong
for Sept 2023 DES JS/Py/Rb Meetup

Agenda

Motivation

I wanted to get back into Python.

A desire to impart beginner-friendly introduction to web development.

I'm evaluating Nikola for commercial use.

…needed a main presentation because I forgot to ask the community. 😅

What is Nikola?

A headless static site generator.

- **Headless:** no front-end user interface to manage web pages, theming
- **Static Site Generator:** the "old fashioned web" where each page is its own HTML file
  - Lighter-weight
  - Unsuitable for building web applications (see: Node.js, Ruby on Rails, Django, etc.)

What is Nikola?

"Batteries included"

- Blog (comments, tags, archives, RSS)
- Image galleries
- L10n support
- GitHub Pages deployment ([official guide](#))

Pre-built themes: https://themes.getnikola.com/

- Supports custom themes

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Maintenance (minor headaches)

Sorry this isn't a tutorial (future talk?).

I'll use my own website as a demo.

Last time I touched the website was ~3 years ago.

The stuff that broke wasn't Nikola.
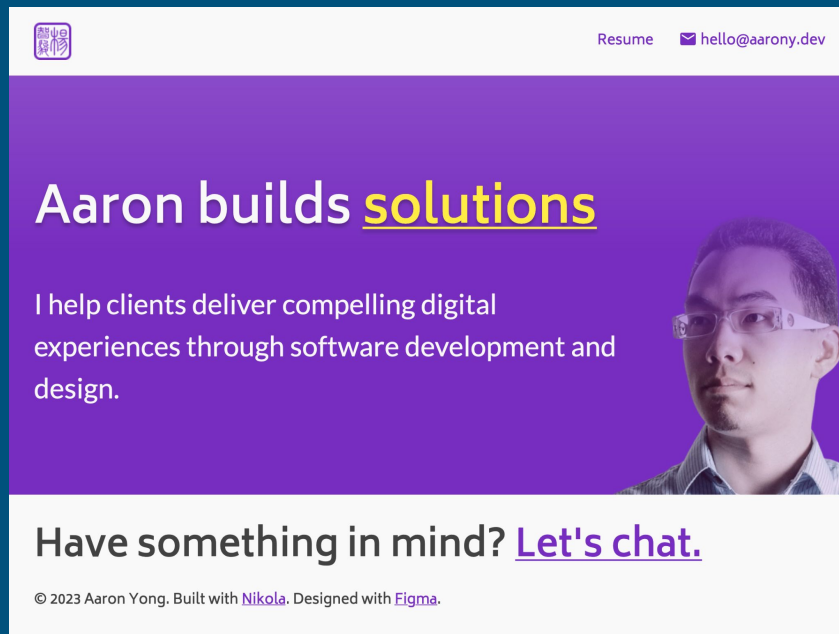
It was my custom Docker / VS Code Dev Container.

Basic Website

https://aarony.dev

Responsive: adapts to different screen sizes

(iPad view on the right)

Tinker Time!

What should we expect to see?

- Very quick conf.py walkthrough
- Nikola's automatic rebuild
- Developer experience
  - HTML file input
- Some basic Git commands

- (Hopefully) deploying the changes!

Adding a Blog

https://aarony.dev/posts

Not deployed yet, but we'll try!

(iPad view on the right)

Tinker Time!

What more should we expect to see?

- Re-adding blog functionality
- Developer workflow
  - Markdown input
  - Draft/published status
- Fixing CSS

- (Hopefully) deploying the changes!

Learn More

Nikola Official Links

- https://getnikola.com/
- Getting Started
- The Nikola Handbook

Web Development Resources

- Mozilla Developer Network (MDN)
  - Guide: Learn Web Development
- Can I Use…?
  - Browser compatibility checker
- GitHub Pages Documentation
  - ⭐ Custom Domain Configuration

Thank you!

Questions?

✉️ - hello@aarony.dev

🕸️ - https://aarony.dev