



# Building Websites With Nikola

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



# Agenda

1. Motivation
  2. What is Nikola?
  3. (For existing devs) Maintenance
  4. Basic Website
  5. Adding a Blog
  6. Learn More
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# Motivation

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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?

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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?

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## “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

# What is Nikola?

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# Maintenance (minor headaches)

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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.

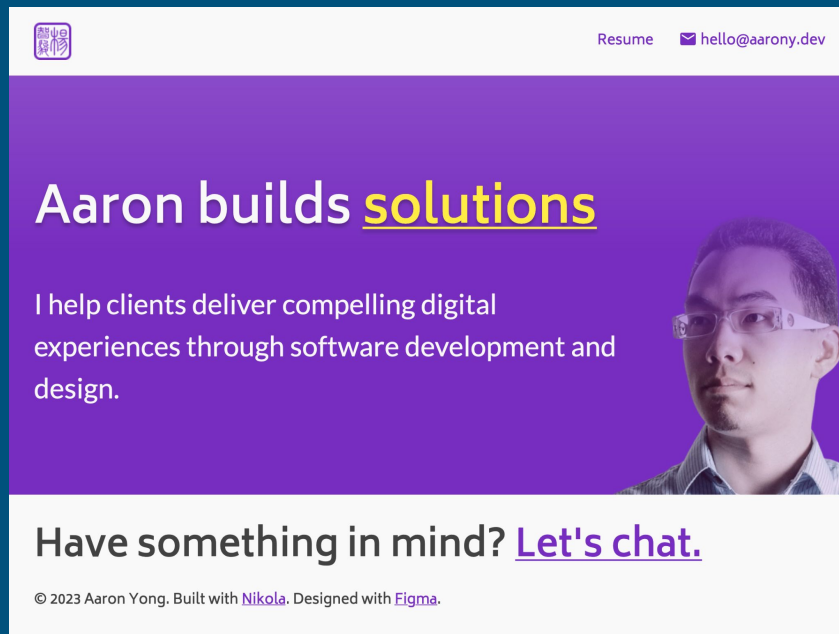
# Basic Website

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<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
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- (Hopefully) deploying the changes!
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# Adding a Blog

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<https://aarony.dev/posts>

Not deployed yet, but we'll try!

(iPad view on the right)

 Resume [hello@aarony.dev](mailto:hello@aarony.dev)

## [A Second Blog Post](#)

Aaron Yong

[2023-09-06 23:26](#)

Write your post here.

## [Hello From DES Meetup](#)

Aaron Yong

[2023-09-04 23:43](#)

Hello world from the Dev Edmonton Society's JS/Py/Rb Meetup!

I deployed this post while presenting to a live audience. We covered the basics of Nikola, and then proceeded to demonstrate the ease of enabling blog-style posts to a Nikola-built website.

The slides I created for the presentation can be found [here](#). Whether you're a seasoned web developer; someone coming from a data science, machine learning, or artificial intelligence background; or just a curious onlooker, I hope Nikola inspires you to create

## Have something in mind? [Let's chat.](#)

© 2023 Aaron Yong. Built with [Nikola](#). Designed with [Figma](#).

# 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!
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# Learn More

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## 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](mailto:hello@aarony.dev)

🌐 - <https://aarony.dev>

