Install Jekyll 2 on Ubuntu 14.04 (//michaelchelen.net/81fa/install-jekyll-2-ubuntu-14-04)

MAY 14, 2014

Jekyll 2 was recently released (http://jekyllrb.com/news/2014/05/06/jekyll-turns-2-0-0/) and can be installed on Ubuntu 14.04 using `apt-get` and `gem install`. Additional features such as Rdiscount can be added with the same method. Although there are packages for Jekyll in the Ubuntu repository (http://packages.ubuntu.com/search?keywords=jekyll&searchon=names&suite=all&section=all), the packages are for older versions of Jekyll.

Jekyll is a static site generator with a templating system that can be adapted for many types of websites, including blogs. It can be run on a server, or run locally and the generated files uploaded to a server. It is the default software used by Github Pages.

Tested with Jekyll 2.1.1 and Ubuntu Server 14.04

Install Prerequisites

Install ruby, the ruby development libraries, and the make command.

```
sudo apt-get install ruby ruby-dev make
```

Install Jekyll

Install the Jekyll gem system wide. For speed, we are excluding the extended documentation. To include all documentation, omit the `--no-rdoc --no-ri` switches.

```
sudo gem install jekyll --no-rdoc --no-ri
```

ExecJS Workaround

There is a current issue (https://github.com/jekyll/jekyll/issues/2327) that causes Jekyll to require a JavaScript runtime even if it will not be used.

Install `nodejs` to work around this issue.

```
sudo apt-get install nodejs
```

Start Jekyll

Check that Jekyll has been successfully installed.

```
jekyll -v
```

The current version is `jekyll 2.1.1`.

Recommended

Although not required, `git` is often used to manage the files of a Jekyll website.

```
sudo apt-get install git
```

Additional gems can add features to Jekyll, such as the alternate `rdiscount` Markdown renderer.

```
sudo gem install rdiscount --no-rdoc --no-ri
```

Get Website Content

Now that Jekyll is installed, we need content for it to serve. We can either use a current website, or set up a new site from scratch.

Use Existing Site

Use `git` to clone an existing Jekyll website, such as this one!

```
git clone https://github.com/mchelen/michaelchelen.net.git
cd michaelchelen.net
```

Create New Site

The `new` command creates a directory structure and config files for a new Jekyll site.

```
jekyll new my-awesome-site
cd my-awesome-site
```

Start Jekyll

Now that the basic config and layout are available, start Jekyll to generate the website HTML and start a local server.

```
jekyll serve
```

Then visit http://localhost:4000 (http://localhost:4000) in a web browser.

```
Jekyll is now successfully runnning!
```

Extra Options

Jekyll can watch the directory for changes and regenerate the website when files are modified.

```
jekyll serve -w
```

The default port `4000` can be changed, for example when running multiple Jekyll instances.

```
jekyll serve --port 4001 Then visit <http://localhost:4001> in a web browser.
```

The website can be generated without starting a local server. The files are placed into the `_site` directory and can be uploaded to a web server.

```
jekyll build
```

References

- http://stackoverflow.com/a/8113213/2043808 (http://stackoverflow.com/a/8113213/2043808)
- https://github.com/jekyll/jekyll/pull/2362 (https://github.com/jekyll/jekyll/pull/2362)
- http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=1464768&p=9188769#post9188769 (http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?t=1464768&p=9188769#post9188769)
- http://jekyllrb.com/docs/home/ (http://jekyllrb.com/docs/home/)

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Michael Zimmermann • a month ago
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is there a way to get the latest version?
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Mike Chelen Mod ➔ Michael Zimmermann • a month ago
It sounds like you installed Jekyll through the package manager. Uninstall it with "sudo apt-get remove jekyll" then install it using the steps from this guide.
1 • Reply • Share ›

Fredrik • 2 months ago
I had some issues installing Jekyll, they resolved themselves after installing the ruby-dev package, though. Thanks!
1 • Reply • Share ›

Mike Chelen Mod ➔ Fredrik • a month ago
Yup, the ruby-dev package is required for installation. Glad to hear you got it working!
• Reply • Share ›

Jim Maas • 3 months ago
Helped me a lot, new to Ruby ... :-(Thanks
3 • Reply • Share ›

Mike Chelen Mod ➔ Jim Maas • 3 months ago
Glad to hear, everyone has to start somewhere :)
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