

How to Build a Web Portfolio

Part 2: Choosing a Platform

ASIST-SC Workshop, March 2015

Last time we talked about...

- Why you need a portfolio
- Being aware of online identity / personal branding
- What to include
- Promoting yourself

Today's topics:

- Platforms: a place for you to build your site - the public face of it.
- Hosting: people you pay for server space - basically where you put your stuff. (this can be complicated, because sometimes platform and hosting are the same)
- Domain Names: www.yourname.com - you buy this separately, and tell it where to point to. Basically a short URL.

Platforms / CMS

There are so many options for platforms that it can be overwhelming to pick one.

Think about:

- needs: space for portfolio, blog, etc.
- level of technical ability: build from scratch? mostly constructed for you?
- time: do you want to make it quickly, or tweak over a long period of time?
- money: this can vary a lot. domain name? hosting space? theme?

Option 1: Ella / Iris

Pros:

- free!
- good for testing / development
- can (probably) assign your domain to it.

Cons:

- no indexing
- just space - you'll need to build/install things on it.
- move things when you leave IU

Option 2: Wordpress.com

Pros:

- free!
- easy to use and set up
- lots of theme options
- no coding required

Cons:

- if you like code / have basic skills, can be frustrating
- themes can be limiting
- domain name \$\$\$

Option 3: Wordpress.org

Pros:

- more flexibility, variety
- work from CMS or code
- have your own domain name

Cons:

- requires hosting (\$) and a theme (\$ or free)*

Option 4: Jekyll / Github Pages

Pros:

- free, can use and tweak themes
- uses fewer resources - GitHub Pages will host

Cons:

- more complicated to set up
- can't update from mobile
- no dynamic / advanced coding

Option 5: Tumblr (or any other blog site)

If you're looking for a simple, free site, you can always use Tumblr.

- Allows domain name usage
- Easy for people to follow you.
- Lots of librarians there!

Here's a [tutorial link](#).

Hosting

This is the space where you put the files for your site.

- Service - usually on a yearly basis, price varies depending on provider and amount of space you need (upgrades possible)

Hosting, part 2

Read reviews and compare prices to find what works best for you.

[Lifehacker](#) is [your friend!](#) (They also have a series called “[How to Build a Website.](#)”)

[PCMag](#) also has reviews.

Hosting Options (no particular order)

- Dreamhost (see previous slide for Lifehacker coupon.)
- Asmallorange (cheap, easy wordpress, great support)
- holeinthewall (ditto the above, \$20/year)
- Laughing Squid (\$4/mo)
- SquareSpace (\$8+/mo, responsive templates, great support)
- Arvixe - \$4/mo, lots of programming and database options
- BlueHost (\$6/mo, great rep)

Domain Names

This is the link to your website. You have to tell it where to point to.

- Pick a good one!
- You can buy your domain name from a service like [GoDaddy](#), or as a package with your hosting.
- It can point to anywhere, but some places charge to have it go to their site (ie, Wordpress.com)
- Time of registration varies - can be up to 10 years.

Examples!

Wordpress.com

- <https://katherineahnberg.wordpress.com/>

Wordpress.org

- <http://nickoal.com/>
- www.siobhainrivera.com
- <http://www.briannamarshall.com/>

Github

- <http://www.ryanpatrickrandall.com>

Ella

- <http://ella.ils.indiana.edu/~hamblina>

Others:

- <http://clintonmckay.com/>
- <http://gracethom.com>
- <http://ellyssakroski.com/>

Questions?

Come to Part 3: Hackathon!

Ask Sio, she's in the SLab every Tuesday from 5-9pm.

Email people whose sites you like.