



Static webpages with Pelican

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FEEG6003 Advanced Computational Modelling 2

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Outline

- Web technology basics
 - Separation of content and presentation
 - From content to webpage (Pelican)
-
- Installing Pelican on lubuntu
 - Cloning the blogs repository
 - Start writing your topical blog

HTTP request

1 Request

```
telnet www.example.com 80
```

2 Response Header

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
```

3 Response Body

```
Host: localhost
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Type: text/html
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 2015 21:51:52 GMT
Last-Modified: Wed, 11 Feb 2015 21:19:16 GMT
Server: ECS (ewr/144C)
Content-Length: 94
```

```
<html><head><title>edgecastcdn.net</title></head><body><h1>edgecastcdn.net</h1></body></html>
```

HTML

Hypertext-Markup Language is closely related to `<xml/>`

This sentence has a

```
<a href="somewhere" style="color:red;">red link</a>.
```

- 1 `<tags>` and `</tags>` to mark regions of text
- 2 **Attributes** to add information for the browser
- 3 A `<html>` (or `<xml>`) document is a tree of tags and text

Mixing content with presentation

```
This sentence has a  
<a href="somewhere" style="color:red;">red link</a>.
```

- 1 **href** is content (it tells you where to go)
- 2 **style** is presentation (it tells the browser how to display)

Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)

A web technology to move styling into separate document.

HTML file:

This sentence has a

```
<a href="somewhere">red link</a>.
```

CSS file:

```
a { color: red; }
```

- **Selectors** to identify tags in the HTML source
- **Style attributes** to provide styling

Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL)

Allows to **translate** arbitrary XML documents into HTML

XML document:

```
This sentence has a <link>red link</link>
```

XSL definition:

```
<xsl:template match="link">  
  <a style="color:red;"><xsl:apply-templates/></a>  
</xsl:template>
```

Transformed HTML:

```
This sentence has a  
<a style="color:red;">red link</a>
```

Roadmap

Blog

```
http://computationalmodelling.bitbucket.org  
/tools/pelican-basics.html
```

- Virtual Machine
 - Install VirtualBox (if not yet done)
<http://www.virtualbox.org>
 - Download ubuntu image
 - Install Guest Extensions (optional)
- Install Pelican
 - Python 2.x
 - Make
 - Mercurial (for webpage repository)

Installing the software stack

- Install Make and cpp

```
sudo apt-get install make gcc
```
- Install Guest Additions (optional)

```
cd /media/feeg6003/<NAME OF VBOXADDITIONS CD>
sudo ./VBoxLinuxAdditions.run
```
- Install Python package manager

```
cd $HOME
wget https://bootstrap.pypa.io/get-pip.py
sudo python get-pip.py
```
- Install Pelican

```
sudo pip install pelican markdown
```
- Install Mercurial

```
sudo apt-get install mercurial meld
```

Clone blog repository

Blogs are hosted on `computationalmodelling.bitbucket.org`

Clone repository

```
hg clone http://bitbucket.org/computationalmodelling/computationalmodelling.bitbucket.org blogs
```

Hint:

You can also fork the repository if you have a `bitbucket.com` account

Repository structure

Repository root

<code>tools</code>	output directory
<code>tools-pelican</code>	source directory
<code>readme.rst</code>	Read-me file (read it!)
<code>index.html</code>	Dummy html file for host redirects

Source folder (tools-pelican)

<code>content</code>	source folder with blog entries
<code>Makefile</code>	defines targets for make tool
<code>*.py</code>	Pelican configuration files
<code>themes</code>	folder for themes
<code>develop_server.sh</code>	starts a development web server locally

Start your own blog

- Go to content folder
`cd content`
- Create folder for your blog entry and go there
`mkdir <name>`
`cd <name>`
- Create a Markdown (reStructuredText) file for your blog
`nano blog-name.md`

Blog entry

Metadata

```
title: My amazing first blog
authors: You know who
date: 2015-02-12
tags: demo, training
slug: demo-post
```

Link

```
I learned how to use Pelican for blogging
[here]({filename}/pelican-basics/pelican-basics.md)
```

Translating to HTML

Running Pelican

- Make sure you are in the *tools-pelican* folder where the *Makefile* resides

```
cd ../..
```

- Call Pelican using the *make* utility with the *html* target

```
make html
```

```
feeg6003@feeg6003:~/blogs/tools-pelican$ make html
pelican /home/feeg6003/blogs/tools-pelican/content -o /home/feeg6003/blogs
/tools-pelican/../tools -s /home/feeg6003/blogs/tools-pelican/pelicanconf.
py
Done: Processed 4 article(s), 0 draft(s) and 0 page(s) in 0.39 seconds.
```

Testing the page locally

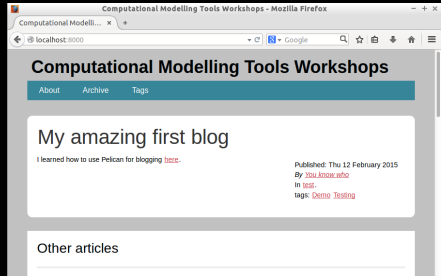
Test in local web server

- Use *make* with target *serve* to start a lightweight webserver

make serve

- Point web browser to local port 8000

http://localhost:8000



Notice that the web server blocks the terminal while running. You can close the server with *Ctrl+C*.

Happy blogging!