

The R Series

blogdown

**Creating Websites
with R Markdown**



**Yihui Xie
Amber Thomas
Alison Presmanes Hill**



CRC Press
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blogdown

Creating Websites
with R Markdown

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The R Series

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Aims and Scope

This book series reflects the recent rapid growth in the development and application of R, the programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics. R is now widely used in academic research, education, and industry. It is constantly growing, with new versions of the core software released regularly and more than 10,000 packages available. It is difficult for the documentation to keep pace with the expansion of the software, and this vital book series provides a forum for the publication of books covering many aspects of the development and application of R.

The scope of the series is wide, covering three main threads:

- Applications of R to specific disciplines such as biology, epidemiology, genetics, engineering, finance, and the social sciences.
- Using R for the study of topics of statistical methodology, such as linear and mixed modeling, time series, Bayesian methods, and missing data.
- The development of R, including programming, building packages, and graphics.

The books will appeal to programmers and developers of R software, as well as applied statisticians and data analysts in many fields. The books will feature detailed worked examples and R code fully integrated into the text, ensuring their usefulness to researchers, practitioners and students.

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Contents

List of Tables	xiii
List of Figures	xv
Preface	xvii
About the Authors	xxv
1 Get Started	1
1.1 Installation	1
1.1.1 Update	2
1.2 A quick example	2
1.3 RStudio IDE	5
1.4 Global options	10
1.5 R Markdown vs. Markdown	12
1.6 Other themes	17
1.7 A recommended workflow	19
2 Hugo	23
2.1 Static sites and Hugo	23
2.2 Configuration	25
2.2.1 TOML Syntax	26
2.2.2 Options	28
2.3 Content	31
2.3.1 YAML metadata	31
2.3.2 Body	32
2.3.3 Shortcode	32
2.4 Themes	33
2.4.1 The default theme	34
2.5 Templates	38
2.5.1 A minimal example	39

2.5.2	Implementing more features	52
2.6	Custom layouts	59
2.7	Static files	61
3	Deployment	63
3.1	Netlify	64
3.2	Updog	66
3.3	GitHub Pages	67
3.4	Travis + GitHub	70
3.5	GitLab Pages	74
4	Migration	77
4.1	From Jekyll	78
4.2	From WordPress	82
4.3	From other systems	83
5	Other Generators	85
5.1	Jekyll	85
5.2	Hexo	89
5.3	Default site generator in rmarkdown	91
5.4	pkgdown	92
	Appendix	95
A	R Markdown	95
B	Website Basics	99
B.1	HTML	101
B.2	CSS	105
B.3	JavaScript	110
B.4	Useful resources	114
B.4.1	File optimization	114
B.4.2	Helping people find your site	115
C	Domain Name	117
C.1	Registration	118
C.2	Nameservers	118
C.3	DNS records	119

D	Advanced Topics	123
D.1	More global options	123
D.2	LiveReload	124
D.3	Building a website for local preview	126
D.4	Functions in the blogdown package	127
	D.4.1 Exported functions	128
	D.4.2 Non-exported functions	129
D.5	Paths of figures and other dependencies	130
D.6	HTML widgets	132
D.7	Version control	133
D.8	The default HTML template	134
D.9	Different building methods	137
E	Personal Experience	139
	Bibliography	141
	Index	143



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List of Tables

1.1	Global options that affect the behavior of blogdown.	11
D.1	A few more advanced global options.	123



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List of Figures

1.1	The homepage of the default new site.	4
1.2	Create a new post using the RStudio addin.	7
1.3	Update the metadata of an existing post using the RStudio addin.	8
1.4	Create a new website project in RStudio.	8
1.5	Create a website project based on blogdown.	9
1.6	RStudio project options.	10
2.1	Possible files and folders created when you create a new site using blogdown	25
2.2	A tweet by Jeff Leek.	33
2.3	Edit a text file online on GitHub.	58
3.1	Example settings of a website deployed on Netlify.	65
B.1	Developer Tools in Google Chrome.	100
C.1	Some DNS records of the domain yihui.name on Cloudflare.	120



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Preface

In the summer of 2012, I did my internship at AT&T Labs Research,¹ where I attended a talk given by Carlos Scheidegger (<https://cscheid.net>), and Carlos said something along the lines of “if you don’t have a website nowadays, you don’t exist.” Later I paraphrased it as:

“I web, therefore I am a spiderman.”

Carlos’s words resonated very well with me, although they were a little exaggerated. A well-designed and maintained website can be extremely helpful for other people to know you, and you do not need to wait for suitable chances at conferences or other occasions to introduce yourself in person to other people. On the other hand, a website is also highly useful for yourself to keep track of what you have done and thought. Sometimes you may go back to a certain old post of yours to relearn the tricks or methods you once mastered in the past but have forgotten.

We introduce an R package, **blogdown**, in this short book, to teach you how to create websites using R Markdown and Hugo. If you have experience with creating websites, you may naturally ask what the benefits of using R Markdown are, and how **blogdown** is different from existing popular website platforms, such as WordPress. There are two major highlights of **blogdown**:

1. It produces a static website, meaning the website only consists of static files such as HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and images, etc. You can host the website on any web server (see Chapter 3 for

¹In this book, “I” and “my” refer to Yihui unless otherwise noted.