Zola Static site generator

CONCEPTS

Zola is a single binary: content in Markdown, templates in Tera, Sass built in, no plugins.

content/ Markdown + front matter
↓ Tera
templates/ page.html, section.html
↓ zola build
public/ static HTML

A directory with _index.md is a section; other .md files in it are its pages.

Global flags such as --config and --root go before the subcommand.

CREATE AND SERVE

zola init *<dir>*
Create a site, asking setup questions

zola init
Populate the current directory

zola serve
Build and serve with live reload

zola serve --drafts
Include draft pages

zola serve --open
Open the site in a browser

zola serve --port *<port>*
Change the port

zola serve --interface 0.0.0.0
Reach it from other devices

BUILD AND CHECK

zola build
Render the site into public/

zola build --base-url *<url>*
Override base_url from the config

zola build --output-dir *<dir>*
Write to another directory

zola build --force
Skip the replace prompt

zola build --drafts
Include drafts in the build

zola check
Build without output, check links

BUILD AND CHECK (cont.)

zola check --skip-external-links
Only check internal links

zola --root *<path>* **build**
Run on a project elsewhere

zola --config *<file>* **build**
Use a different config file

zola --help
List commands and flags

zola *<cmd>* **--help**
Help for one subcommand

PROJECT LAYOUT

zola.toml
Site config at the project root

content/
Markdown pages and sections

templates/
Tera templates

static/
Files copied as they are

sass/
Sass compiled to CSS

themes/*<name>*/
Installed themes

content/*<dir>*/**_index.md**
Turn a directory into a section

content/*<name>*/**index.md**
Page with colocated assets

<!— more —>
End of the page summary

CONFIGURATION

base_url = "*<url>***"**
Site root URL (required)

title = "*<site>***"**
Site title

theme = "*<name>***"**
Use a theme from themes/

compile_sass = true
Build sass/ to CSS

build_search_index = true
Generate a search index

generate_feeds = true
Create Atom feed

taxonomies = [{name = "tags"}]
Declare taxonomies

CONFIGURATION (cont.)

[markdown]
Markdown rendering options

smart_punctuation = true
Typographic quotes and dashes

[extra]
Your own values: config.extra.<key>

FRONT MATTER

title = "*<text>***"**
Page or section title

date = 2026-01-31
Page date, unquoted

draft = true
Hide unless --drafts is used

slug = "*<slug>***"**
Replace the filename in the URL

weight = *<n>*
Order when sort_by is weight

template = "*<file>***.html"**
Pick another template

[taxonomies]
e.g. tags = ["rust"]

sort_by = "date"
Sort section pages (section)

paginate_by = *<n>*
Pages per page of a section

aliases = ["*<old-path>***"]**
Redirect old URLs here

extra.*<key>* **= ...**
Own data for templates

RECIPES

New site and first post

```
zola init blog
cd blog
mkdir content/posts
printf '+++\ntitle =
"Hello"\ndate = 2026-01-31\n+++
\nHi.\n' > content/posts/hello.md
zola serve --open
```

CI build for production

```
zola check
zola build --base-url https://
example.com \
  --output-dir public --force
```

Blog section config

```
# content/posts/_index.md
+++
title = "Posts"
sort_by = "date"
paginate_by = 10
+++
```