# 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.

## 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

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

## BUILD AND CHECK (cont.)

**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

**[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

**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
+++
```