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

PROJECT LAYOUT

zola.toml
Site config at the project root

content/
Markdown pages and sections

templates/
Tera templates

static/
Files copied as they are

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

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

CONFIGURATION

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

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

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

generate_feeds = true
Create Atom feed

[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

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

sort_by = "date"
Sort section pages (section)