Three options to manage a home page

> Some of my friends confronted the same question and found different solutions. I see three options discussed here.

August 4, 2023

Contents

There are probably many ways to build and maintain a home page. I see three models that some of my friends use:

- Write HTML directly,
- write `markdown` text and transform it into a web page, or
- use one of the ready-made *complete* programs for managing a web presence.

Write the page directly in HTML

Write the page directly in HTML

Colleagues who started web sites very early and learned HTML when MOSAIC[1] first appeared.[2] Some still write HTML and maintain their web sites[3].

Complete systems for managing a web presence

Complete systems for managing a web presence

The large market for tools to help with web presence has spawned a number of more or less complete packages, of which `Wordpress` is perhaps the best known. I have found that such complete systems, advertised as *batteries included*, are easy to get started with, but then have a steep learning curve to figure out all the parts you have no intention of ever using and sometimes the solutions offered still do not include the one you want.

Often the systems are easy to get into but hard to get out of: content is in a proprietary format and the user is trapped.[4].

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosaic_(web_browser)

[2] I remember having MOSAIC on my Macintosh then, but was busy with other things and didn't see the potential.

[3] e.g. https://web.eecs.umich.edu/~kuipers/opinions/old-web-page.html

[4] Getting out of Wordpress was all right, but still a loss of investment in non-portable tricks

A UNIX tools approach: Markdown and Pandoc

Unix has been successful at building tools that can be combined and reused. I thought that combining the `markdown'` language, `which helps the author focus on content, and`pandoc'
to translate content into HTML, with a few more tools to manage the site, could be an interesting project.[5]. So my homepage is produced using `daino`, a package written in Haskell that runs on both AMD and ARM hardware[6].

The combination of these tools allows to produce PDFs that give nicer printed pages and I plan to experiment with this.

[5] I was not alone with such ideas! [06rationale/009aboutSprinkles.md]

[6] Raspberry Pi 4