

Build a Better Blog

With a Static Website Generator



<https://www.pluralsight.com/courses/static-site-generator-build-better-blog>



<http://ammonsonline.com>

Who Am I?

- Jeff Ammons
 - Principal Architect
 - Sage Software
 - Pluralsight Author
- President
 - GGMUG
 - Gwinnett, Georgia, Microsoft User Group
 - 2nd Thursday
 - Gwinnett Technical College
 - <http://GGMUG.com>



What *is* a Static Website Generator?

- Store content as text files of Markdown and YAML
- Run processor *locally* to convert to HTML files
- Version with Git
- Deploy with Git
- Serve plain files via *any* web server

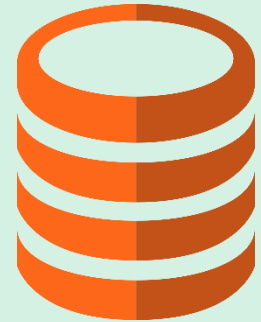
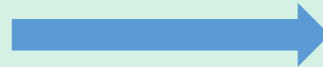
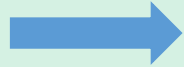


Why Would I Want One?

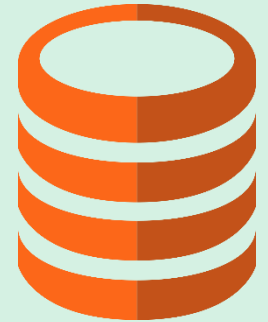
- Speed
- Scalability
- Reliability
- Lower Attack Surface
- Version Control
- Tools
- Zero Lock-in



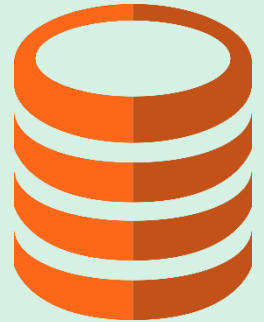
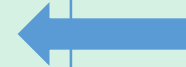
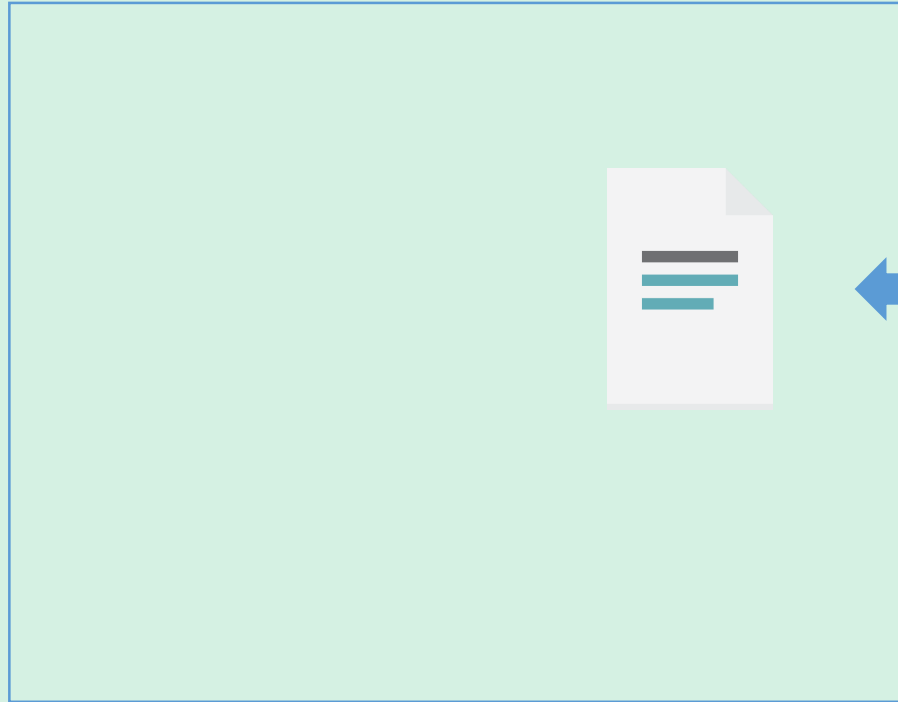
Traditional CMS: Writing



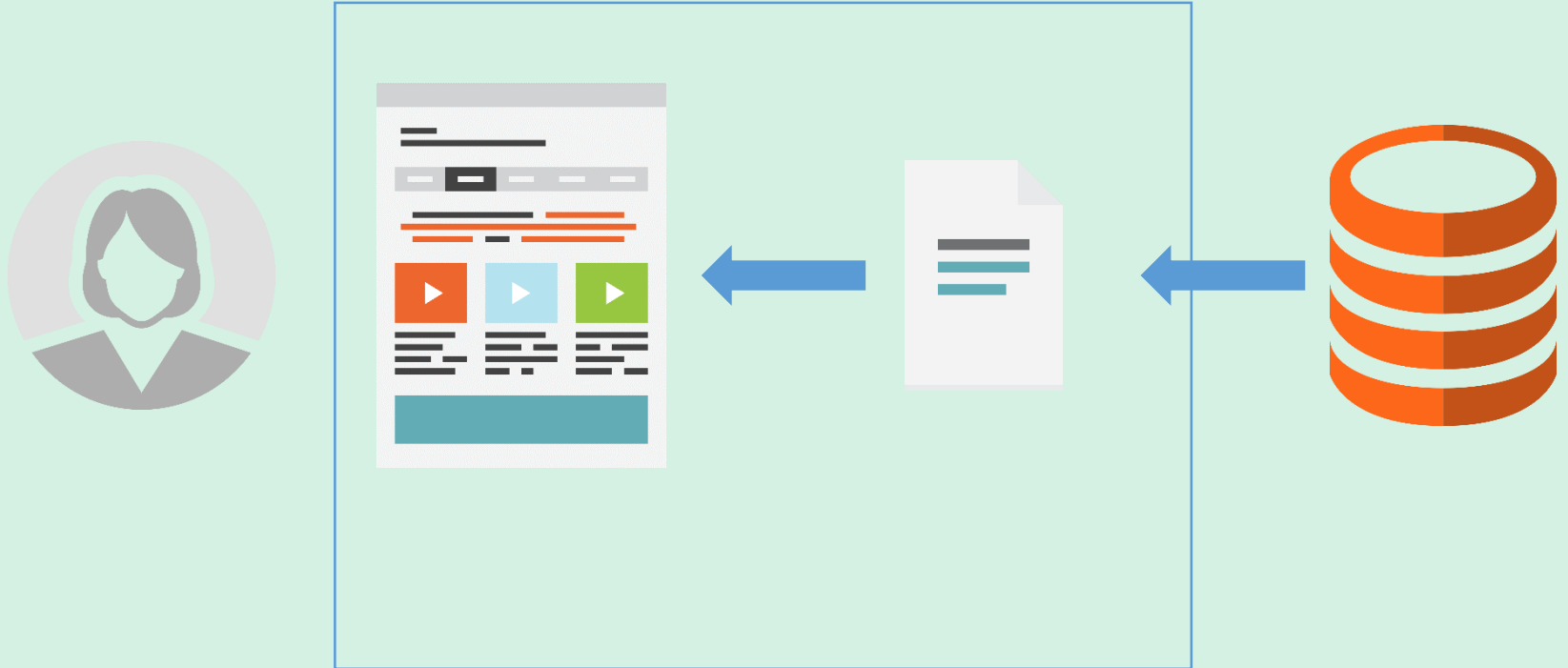
Traditional CMS: Reading



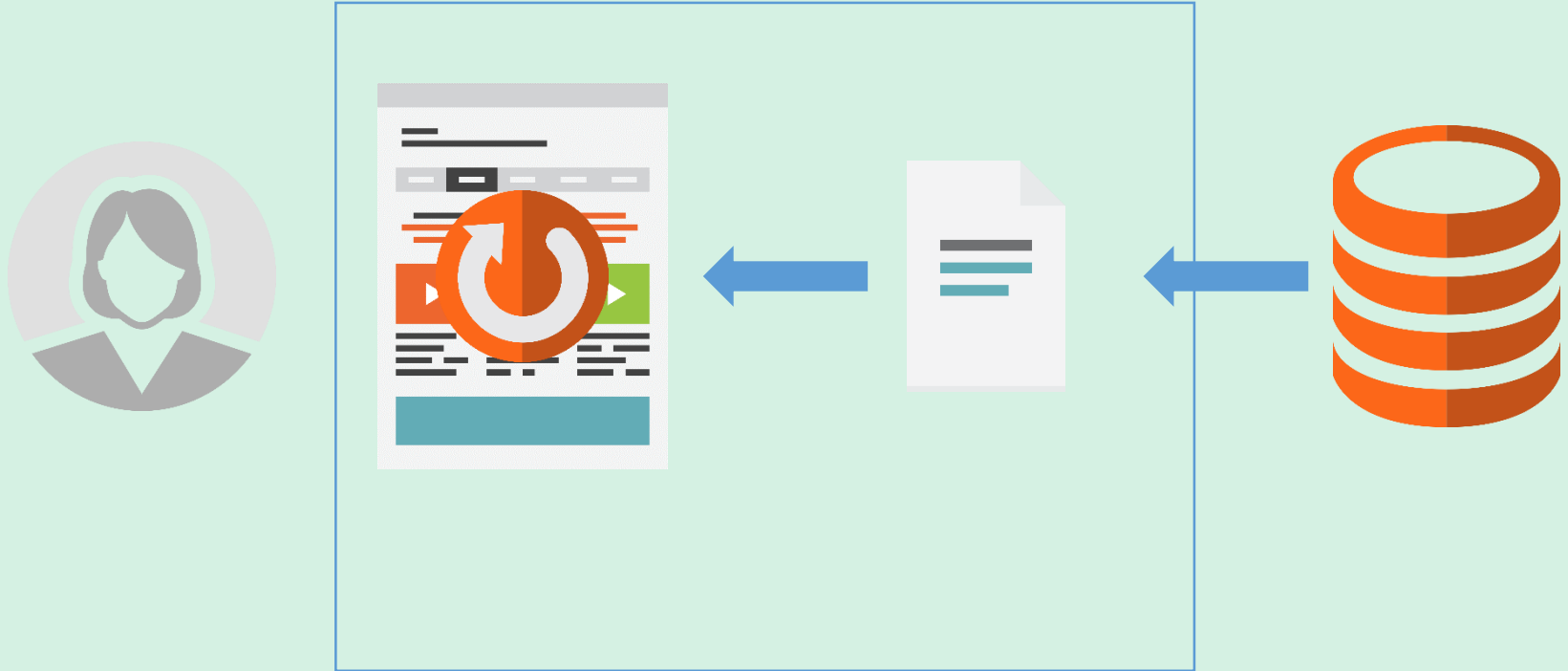
Traditional CMS: Reading



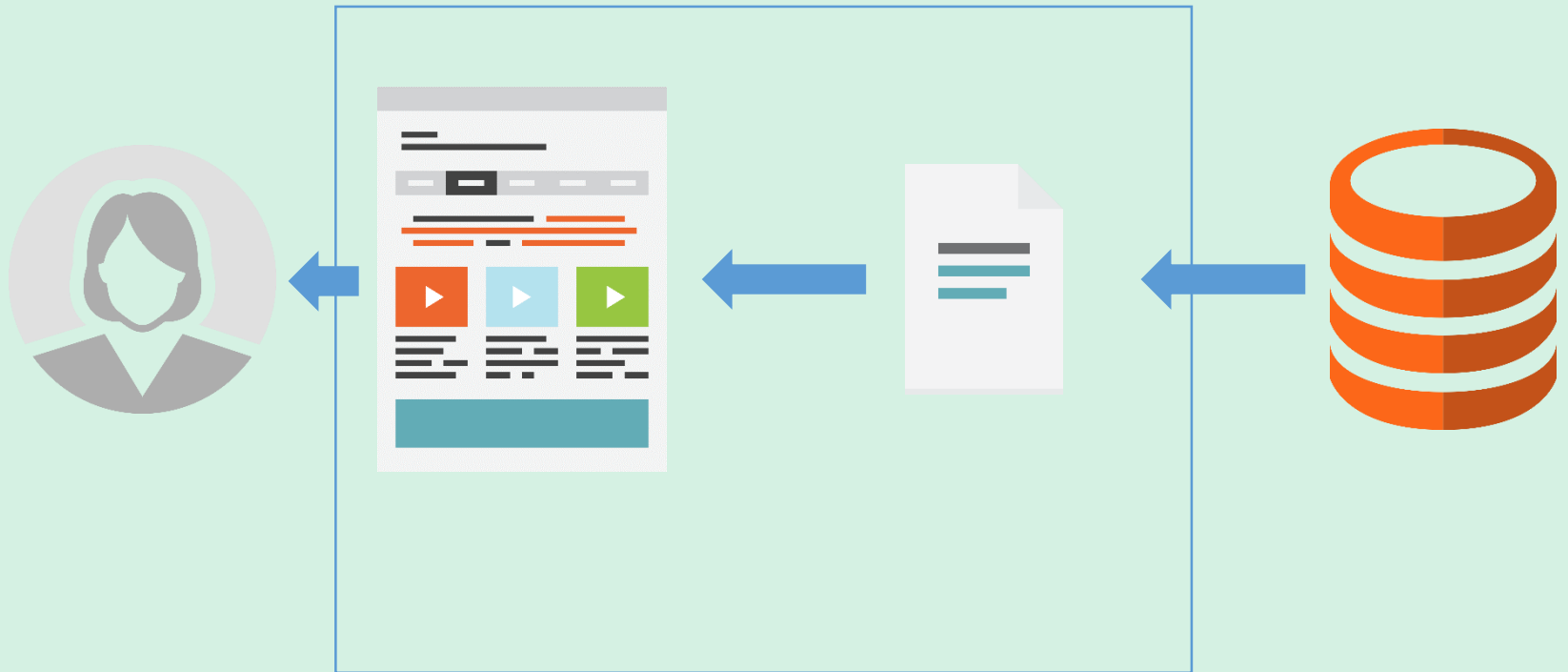
Traditional CMS: Reading



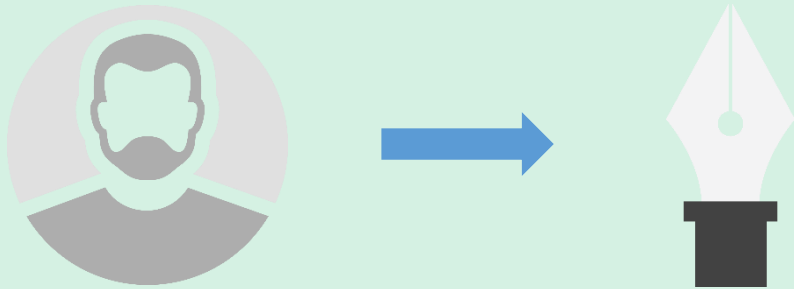
Traditional CMS: Reading



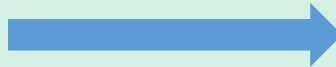
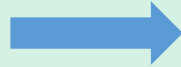
Traditional CMS: Reading



Static Site Generator: Writing



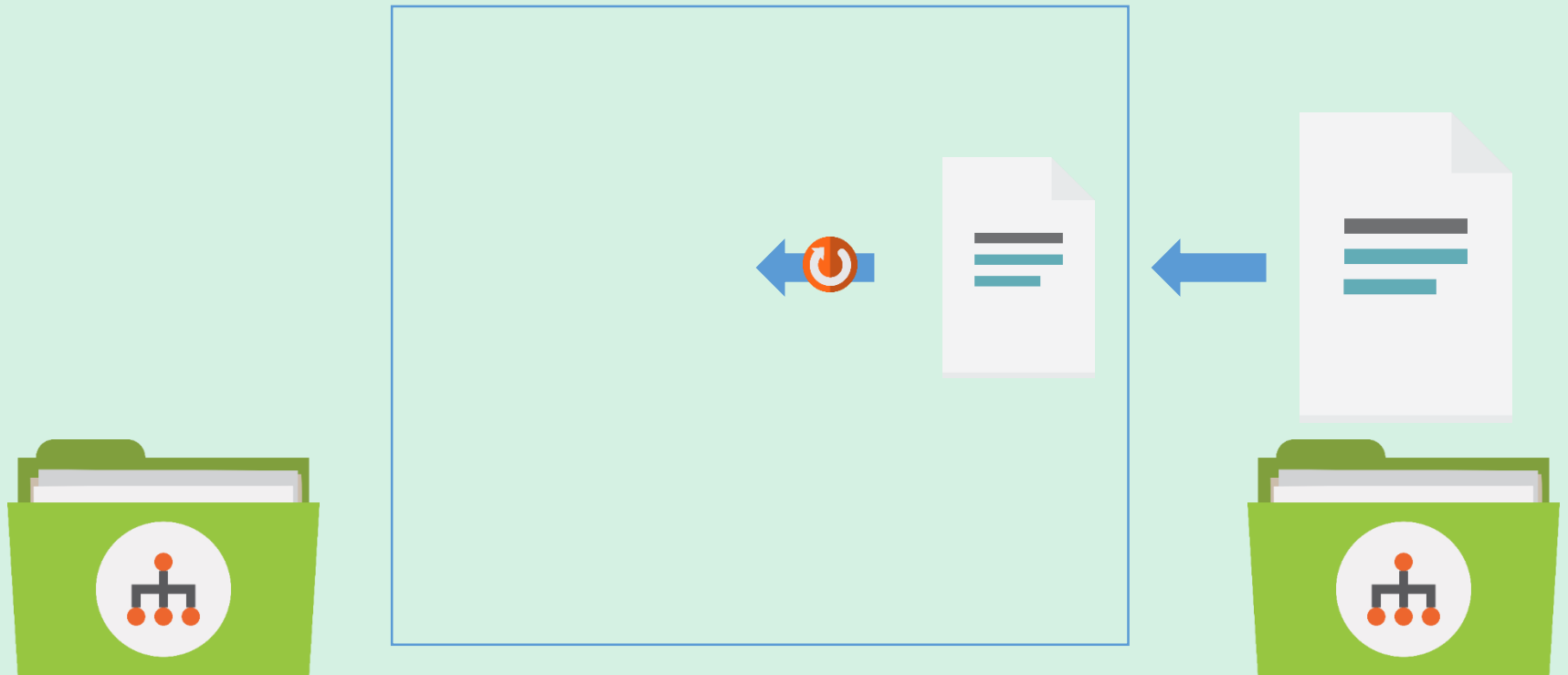
Static Site Generator: Writing



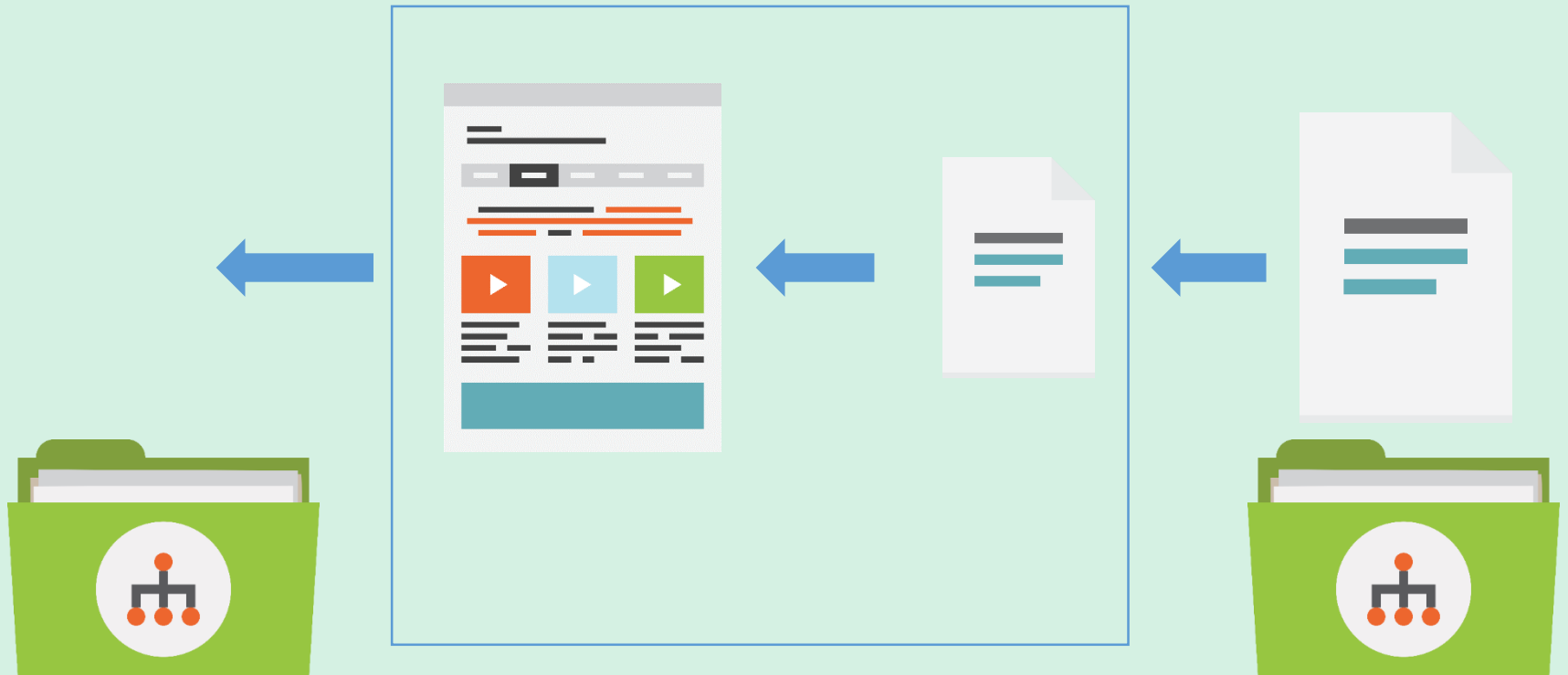
Static Site Generator: Generating



Static Site Generator: Generating



Static Site Generator: Generating



Static Site Generator: Publishing



Static Site Generator: Reading



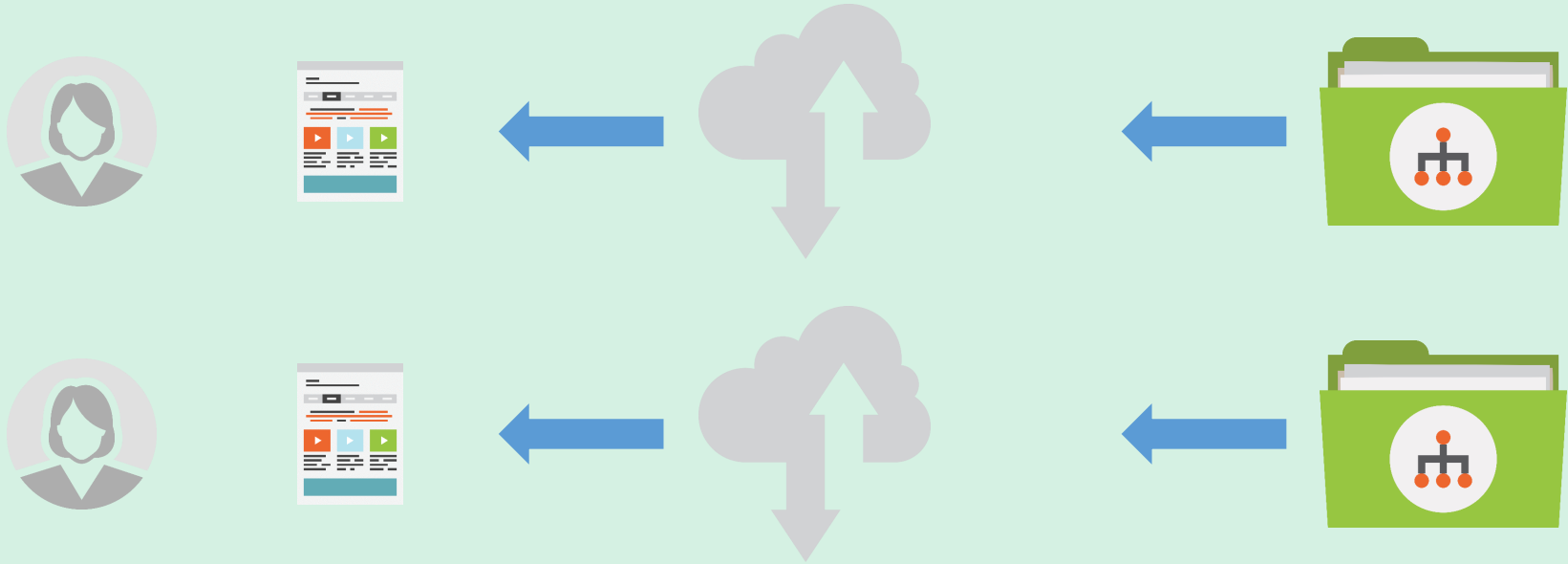
Static Site Generator: Reading



Static Site Generator: Scaling



Static Site Generator: Scaling



Static Site Generator: Scaling



Common
Post Format

YAML
Markdown

YAML

YAML Ain't Markup Language

YAML is a human friendly data serialization standard for all programming languages.

Source: yaml.org



<http://ammonsonline.com>

Markdown

Markdown is a text-to-HTML conversion tool for web writers. Markdown allows you to write using an easy-to-read, easy-to-write plain text format, then convert it to structurally valid XHTML (or HTML).

Source: <http://daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/>



<http://ammonsonline.com>

Sample Post Format

```
1 ---
2 title: 'Hello You Big, Beautiful World!'
3 date: 2015-08-02 19:38:58
4 tags: ['Greeting', 'Hello', 'Being Friendly']
5 ---
6 # Howdy!
7 This is a sample post just to show off some
8 • features of our format.
9
10 ## YAML
11 The bit at the top is YAML. It has the
12 • metadata.
13
14 ## Markdown
15 This content is written in Markdown.
```

Howdy!

This is a sample post just to show off some *features* of our format.

YAML

The bit at the top is **YAML**. It has the metadata.

Markdown

This content is written in **Markdown**.

Prerequisites

- Node.js
- Npm
- Git
- Text editor



Which Text Editor Should I Use?

- Sublime Text
- Visual Studio Code
- Atom
- Notepad++
- Vim
- Emacs
- [Insert any other editor you like here]



Hexo

- Super simple
- Fast
- Easy to work with



Super Easy Install

```
npm install hexo-cli -g
```



Create a New Blog

```
hexo init
```

```
npm install
```



Create a New post

```
hexo new "My New Post"
```

```
hexo new post "My New Post"
```



Test Blog Locally

hexo server



Generate Blog for Publishing

hexo generate



Just Enough Git

```
git init
```

```
git add .
```

```
git commit -m "My commit message"
```

```
git push origin master
```



Where Can I Deploy my Blog?

- GitHub Pages
- Azure Web App
- Windows Server
- Linux Server
- Raspberry Pi
- ... Any web server



For Full Instructions...

- Check out my Pluralsight course!
 - Build a Better Blog with a Static Site Generator
 - <https://www.pluralsight.com/courses/static-site-generator-build-better-blog>



Resources

- <https://hexo.io/>
- <https://www.staticgen.com/>
- <https://www.pluralsight.com/courses/static-site-generator-build-better-blog>
- <http://ammonsonline.com/top-5-reasons-to-blog-with-a-static-file-generator/>



Contact Info

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- User Group: <http://ggmug.com>

