Medium   🔍 Search

Build a Personal Website with HTML and CSS (Part 1)

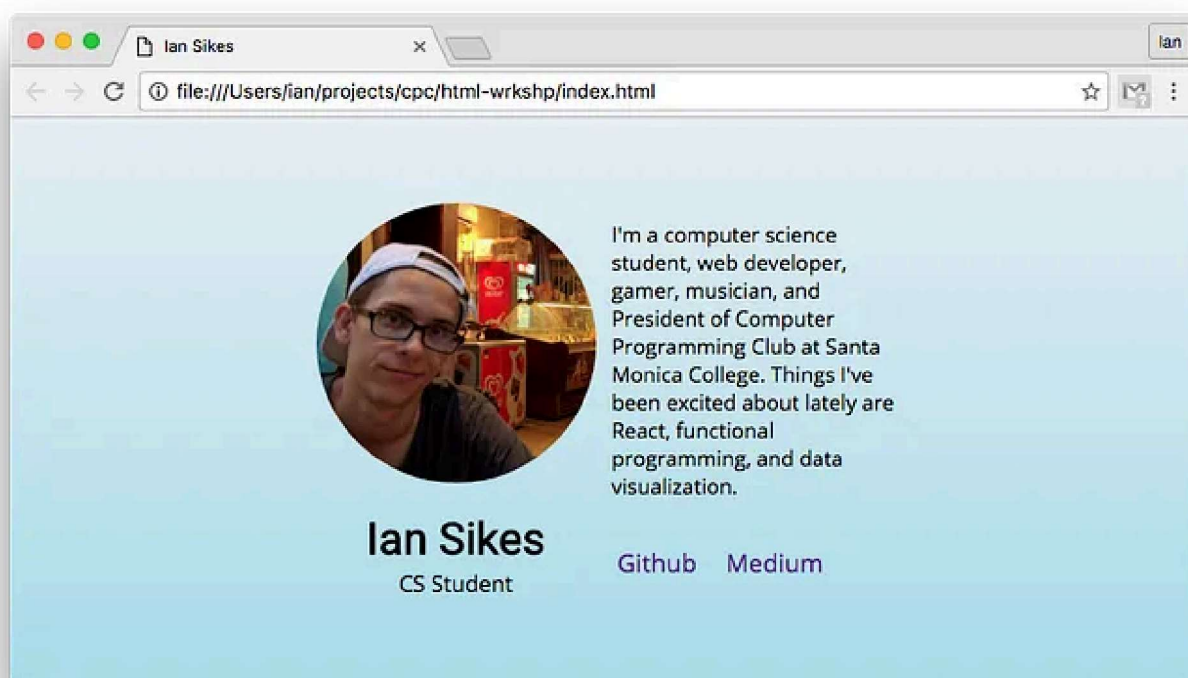**Ian J Sikes** · **Follow**
4 min read · Oct 9, 2016

▶ Listen   ⬆ Share

This guide will show you how to build a simple website, with no previous HTML or CSS experience. The final product will look something like this:

> **Note:** *This tutorial was made for a workshop for Santa Monica College Computer Programming Club. Some information may be missing from the text.*

Content

The first thing we'll do is create a folder to hold our project, and the base file of our site, called `index.html` . Here is what your folder should look like:

```
website/
    index.html
```

Next, open `index.html` in our text editor. If you're not sure what program to use as a text editor, you can use <u>Sublime Text 3</u>, <u>Visual Studio Code</u>, or <u>Atom</u>.

Let's start with the basic structure for a HTML page.

```
1    <!DOCTYPE html>
2    <html>
3      <head>
4        <title>Ian Sikes</title>
5      </head>
6
7      <body>
8        Hello World!
9      </body>
10   </html>
```
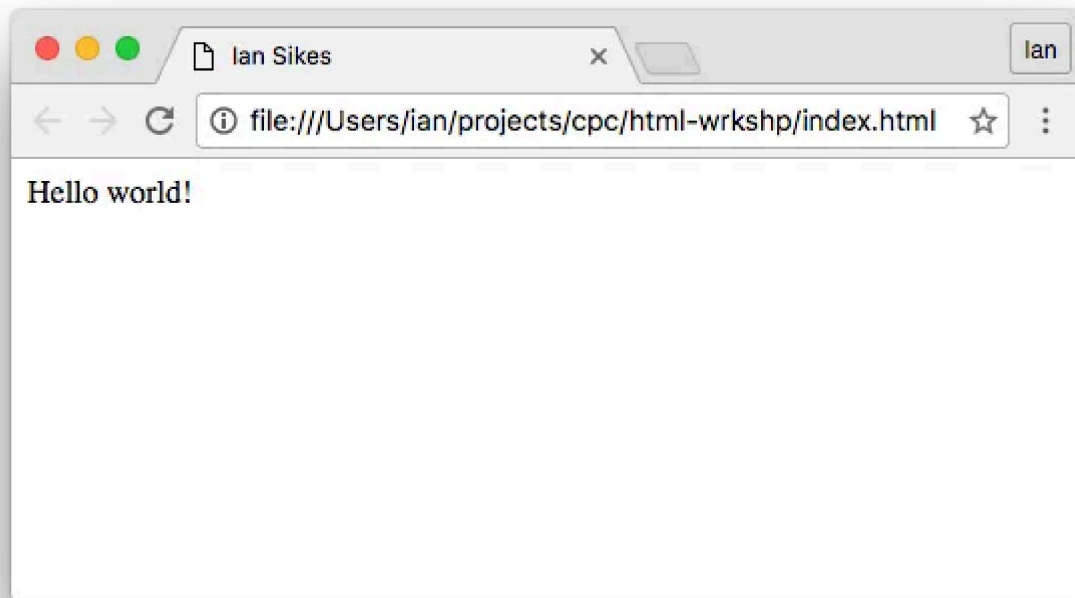
index.html hosted with ❤️ by GitHub   view raw

HTML is made up of "tags" (the things surrounded by `< >`). I won't discuss every tag used here, but the most important thing is that the content of the website goes between the `<body>` and `</body>` tags.

If you double-click on the `index.html` file on your computer, it will open in your browser.

It's something!

We've created a functioning website! It's pretty empty though. Let's add some more content.

These are called header tags. They indicate topics or important info. Headers range from `<h1>` to `<h6>`.

Links

What's a website without links? We want to add some links to our various social media accounts. We can use the `<a>` tag to create a link, like this:

```
<a href="https://github.com/ianjsikes">Github</a>
```

The `href` property in the tag holds the URL the link goes to. The text between the tags will be what appears as clickable, like <u>this</u>.

Lists

We want to list multiple links on our site, so we will use an HTML list. The code for a list looks like this:

```
<ul>
  <li>Item 1</li>
  <li>Item 2</li>
</ul>
```

Our list will be wrapped in `<ul>` (unordered list) tags. Each item of the list will be wrapped in a `<li>` (list item) tag.

Let's combine what we know about **links** and **lists** to create a list of social media links on our site.

So we have an unordered list, and each list item contains a link. We can easily add more links to our list.

Next, we'll add to the content of our site is a short bio. We'll use the `<p>` tag (short for paragraph) to contain it.

Images

All that text is a little boring. Let's add a profile picture to mix it up. Take a picture file you have and put it inside an `img` folder in your project, like this:
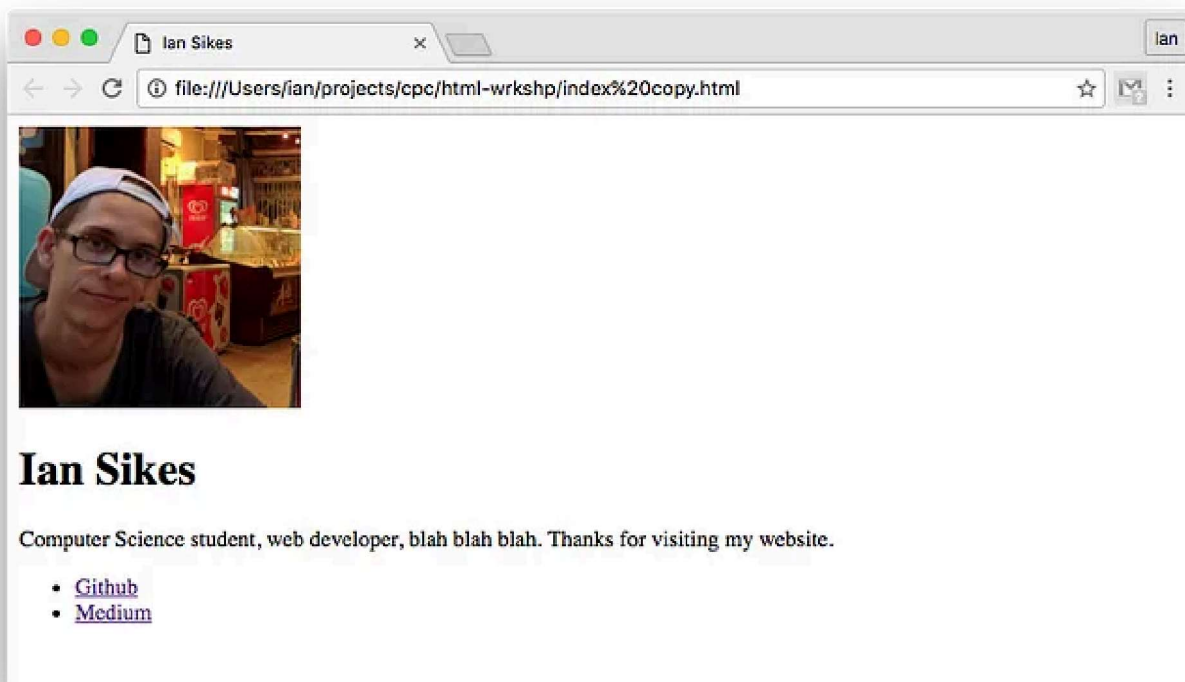
```
website/
  img/
    profile.jpg
  index.html
```

We can display that image on the page using a `<img />` tag. Let's put one at the top of our page.

The `src` attribute tells the browser where the image is in relation to our `index.html` file. The `width` attribute forces the image to be 200 pixels wide. `<img />` tags do not need closing tags. They are *self-closing*.
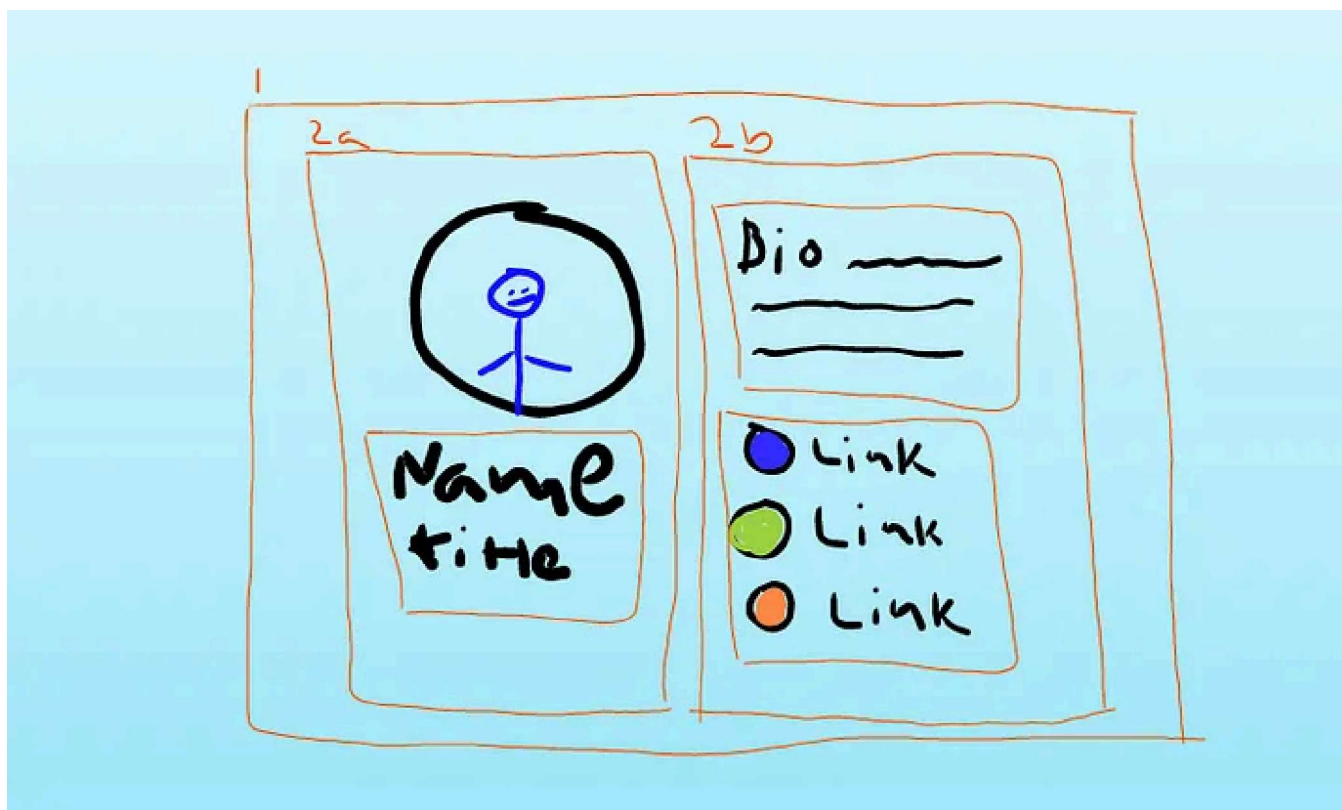
Here is what our site looks like now that we've finished adding all of the content:

Structure

Before we can start styling our page, we need to group certain elements together. Here is an illustration of what I mean:

We'll use the `<div>` element to divide our HTML into logical groupings. We need to add three `div` s to achieve that.

This won't actually change the appearance of our site at all, but it will allow us to later reposition sections of content.

Classes

It's hard to keep track of what each element does. Later, when we style the page, we want to give names to our elements to specify which ones to style. This is what the `class` attribute is for. A `class` attribute can go on any tag. Let's add classes to our file.

Classy

We're finally ready to get to styling with CSS! I'll cover that in Part 2.

What's Next?

Check out Codecademy and Free Code Camp for some great free guides on HTML *(and many other topics)*. W3Schools is also a great quick reference.

Experiment with adding more social links, rearranging the order of your content, or adding more images.
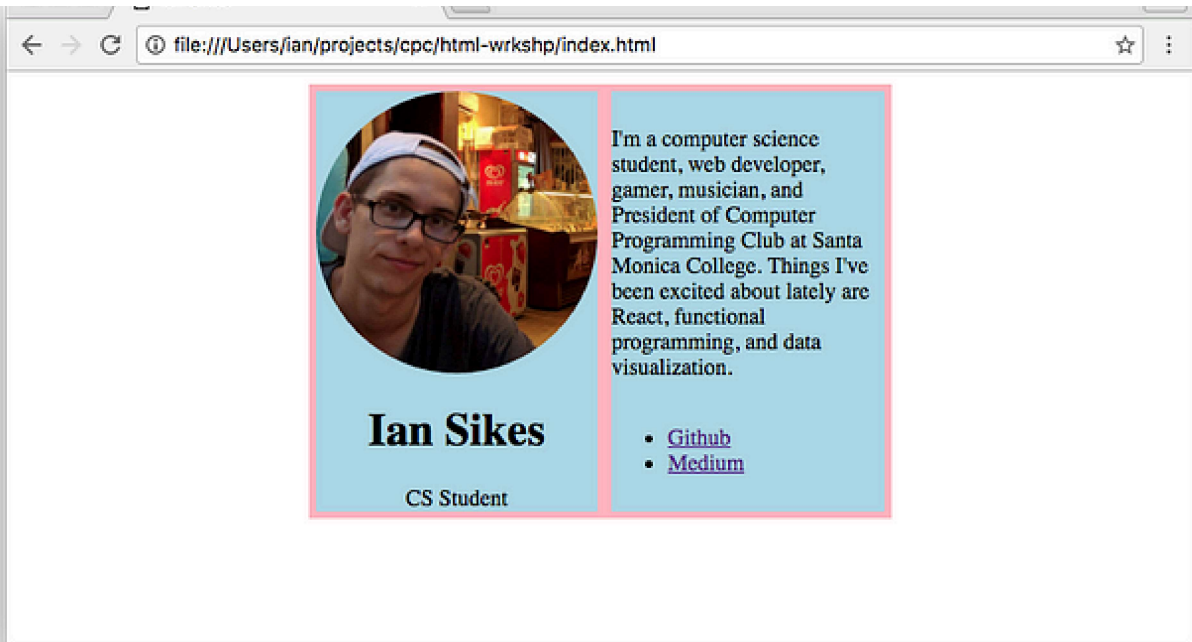
Web Development   CSS   HTML

Follow

Written by Ian J Sikes

291 Followers

programmer || ❤️ the open web, functional programming, & game dev ❤️

More from Ian J Sikes

Ian J Sikes

Build a Personal Website with HTML and CSS (Part 2)

In part 2 of this guide, we'll use CSS to style our website.

Oct 11, 2016   👏 257   💬 1

👤 Ian J Sikes

Get Started with Rust, WebAssembly, and Webpack

This guide will walk you through setting up Rust, WebAssembly, and Webpack to easily interoperate between low-level Rust code and...
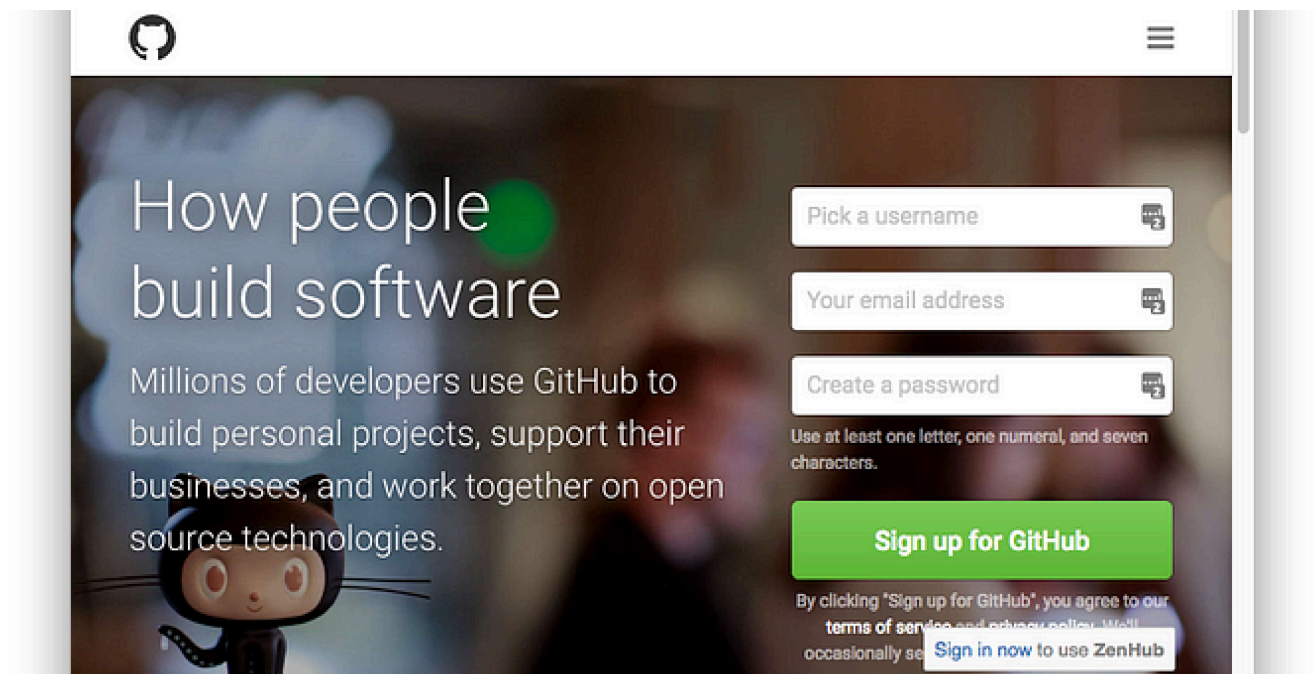
Jun 23, 2017   👋 1.4K   💬 14   🔖⁺

👤 Ian J Sikes

Build a Personal Website with HTML and CSS (Part 3)

In the final part of this guide, we are going to use Github Pages to host our site for free.

Oct 11, 2016   👋 86   🔖⁺

See all from Ian J Sikes

Recommended from Medium

👤 Sviat Kuzhelev

How Google's Shift from FID to INP Applies to Developers | SEO Ranking for JavaScript Apps

Google's deprecation of First Input Delay (FID) in favor of Interaction to Next Paint (INP) marks a pivotal shift in web performance...

✦ Aug 2   👋 50   🔖⁺

Ted James

[SOLVED] Bootstrap card image hovering over carousel

✦   Jun 16   🔖⁺

Lists

 Coding & Development
11 stories · 734 saves

 General Coding Knowledge
20 stories · 1465 saves

 Tech & Tools
17 stories · 280 saves

 Stories to Help You Grow as a Software Developer
19 stories · 1256 saves

Dossier Analysis in Microsoft Power BI

Full Stack Business Intelligence Application with Microsoft Fabric

Businesses need robust, scalable, and flexible business intelligence (BI) applications to make informed decisions. Microsoft Fabric, with...

✦   Jul 29   👋 5   🔖⁺

Codewithashutosh

10+ HTML CSS Portfolio Websites (Demo + Source Code)

Portfolio Websites Using HTML and CSS (Source Code)

Feb 18　👋 60　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　🔖

👤 G. Ranisa - Senior Experimental Scientist @ CSIRO

Create Simple Calculator Web App using HTML, CSS, JavaScript

A step-by-step tutorial and guide for my readers.

✦　May 8　👋 51　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　🔖

Ⓢ Srishti Srajput

Responsive sidebar creation using bootstrap.

To make the HTML code easier to understand, we break it up into chunks.

Apr 16

See more recommendations