Personal Website with Minimal Mistakes Jekyll Theme HOWTO - Part III

August 28, 2019

> *This is Part III of the website HOWTO series. See* [Part I](#) *on Docker and* [Part II](#) *on theme customization and* [Part IV](#) *on SEO and analytics.*

This website is built with **Jekyll using Minimal Mistakes theme** and hosted on **GitHub Pages**. For development and writing posts I use Docker that builds a static website locally and serves it from a Docker container. I then push the local changes upstream to GitHub which then builds the website on GitHub's servers.

In the third HOWTO serie, I explain how to host your personal website on GitHub Pages and use private domain.

PUBLISHING ON GITHUB PAGES AND USING PRIVATE DOMAIN[1]

When you feel ready to put your site online, go to your GitHub and create a new repository. For hosting with GitHub Pages it should have a name in a format like this: `USERNAME.github.io`, where USERNAME is the name of your registered GitHub account.

Move your website's code to this repository. The best way to do it is to build your website for production. Until now our Jekyll in your Docker container was run in development mode [(https://jekyllrb.com/docs/configuration/environments/)](https://jekyllrb.com/docs/configuration/environments/). We can build the website in production mode like so[2]:

```
docker run --rm -it --volume="$PWD:/srv/jekyll" --volume="$PWD:/usr/src/app" --env JEKYLL_ENV=production
jekyll/jekyll:3.8 jekyll build
```

Finally, copy `_site` to your `USERNAME.github.io` repository and push changes to GitHub using git.

> 🗒 **Note:** Make sure that `_site` is NOT added to `.gitignore`. Otherwise it won't be added to your GitHub when pushing changes from local machine.

If you want to use private domain with GitHub Pages, you can buy one on [Google Domains](https://domains.google.com/m/registrar/search) [(https://domains.google.com/m/registrar/search)](https://domains.google.com/m/registrar/search). For instance, I registered my `www.cross-validated.com` for only $12 per year.

To redirect the traffic from GitHub Pages to your private domain, you need to create a file called `CNAME` in the root directory of your `USERNAME.github.io` repository. It should include the name of your private domain:
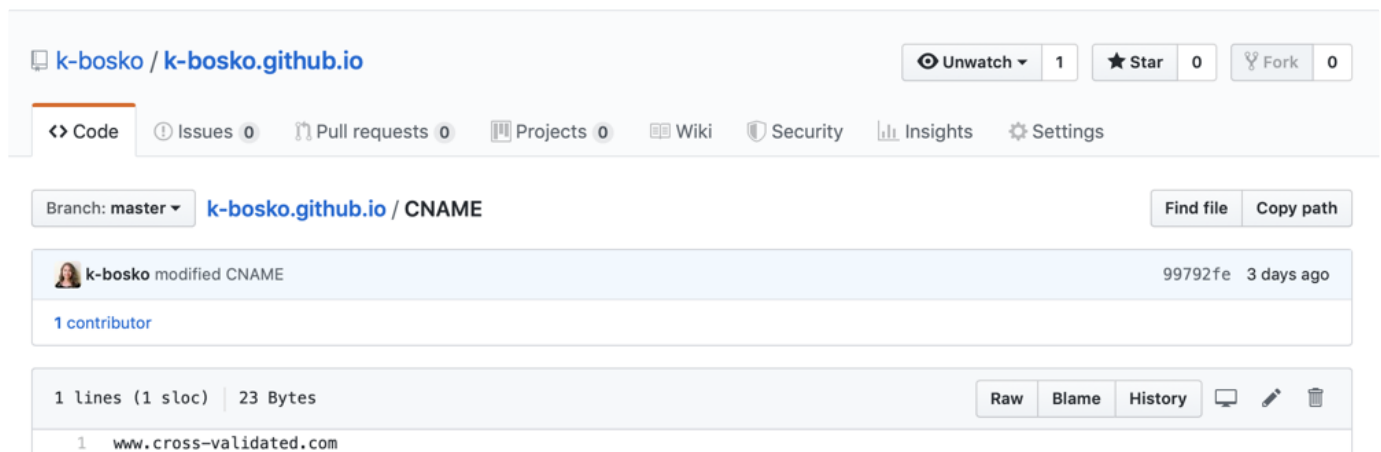
Now we need to configure DNS records at Google Domains that should point to GitHub's servers[3]:

- 185.199.108.153
- 185.199.109.153
- 185.199.110.153
- 185.199.111.153
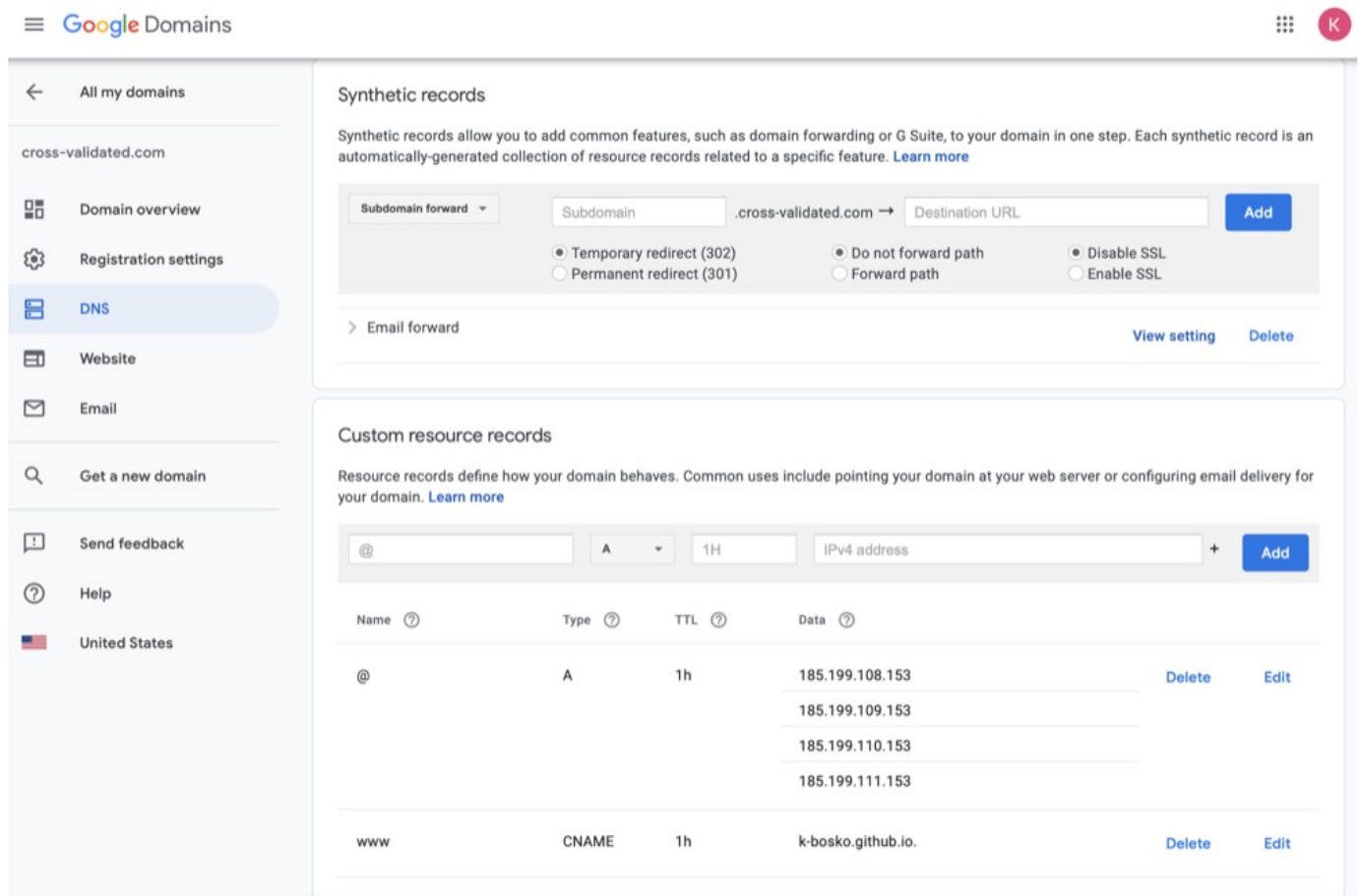
Now your GitHub Pages should point to your private domain. To check it go to Settings of your `USERNAME.github.io` repository. Here you can also secure your GitHub Pages site with HTTPS to encrypt traffic between GitHub's servers and your browser.

> 🗒 **Note:** It will take some time to actually enforce HTTPS on GitHub Pages, so be patient. When it does, you will see lock icon in your browser's address bar.

1. I relied mostly on Curtis Larson's great tutorial (http://www.curtismlarson.com/blog/2015/04/12/github-pages-google-domains/). However, I found that few things changed since the article was posted, so decided to write my own HOWTO. ↩

2. Thanks @michaelsoolee (https://michaelsoolee.com/compile-jekyll-site-docker/) for this tip. In his post, he also explains what the Docker commands actually mean. ↩

3. If you experience any problems, check out the GitHub's "Troubleshooting custom domains" page (https://help.github.com/en/articles/troubleshooting-custom-domains). ↩

🏷 **Tags:** | DNS | | GitHub Pages | | Minimal Mistakes Jekyll |

LEAVE A COMMENT

ALSO ON CROSS-VALIDATED

My Experience with Insight Fellowship

2 years ago • 1 comment

In this post, I sum up my experience with application for the Insight Data …

How to improve SEO by boosting website …

2 years ago • 1 comment

How to Run Website Speed Test with Google PageSpeed Insights

Personal Website with Minimal Mistakes …

2 years ago • 2 comments

How to improve SEO, enable public comments provider and add Google …

Trou Siter

2 year

How t with C

What do you think?

4 Responses

👍

Upvote

😝

Funny

😍

Love

😯

Surprised

😤

Angry

😢

Sad

0 Comments   **cross-validated**   🔒 **Disqus' Privacy Policy**   1 **Login** ⌄

♡ **Favorite**   Tweet   f Share   Sort by Best ⌄

Start the discussion…

LOG IN WITH   **OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS** ⑦

                            Name