

1 Deployment

Steam Association of Manitoba — Site Generation and Deployment Procedures

This document describes how the SAM static website is regenerated, previewed, and uploaded. The process uses three batch files:

- `generate-site.bat` — runs the site generator
- `preview-site.bat` — starts a local web server for testing
- `upload-site.bat` — publishes the updated site

All procedures are written in an impersonal, third-person style.

1.1 Overview

The SAM website is a static site generated entirely from the `/site` directory.

Whenever content changes — whether descriptions, files, or entire pages — the site must be:

1. Regenerated
2. Previewed (optional but recommended)
3. Uploaded

The batch files automate these steps.

1.2 Site Generation (`generate-site.bat`)

Running `generate-site.bat` performs a complete rebuild of the site:

- All `metadata.txt` files are updated
- New files and directories are detected
- Missing files are commented out
- All `index.html` files are regenerated
- Preamble and postamble HTML is inserted
- Parent pages are updated when new subdirectories appear

1.2.1 When to run it

`generate-site.bat` should be run whenever:

- a description is changed
- a file is added or removed
- headings or dividers are edited
- a new directory (new page) is created
- preamble or postamble HTML is modified

1.2.2 Two-pass behavior

Site generation is inherently a **two-pass process**:

1. First pass

- Creates or updates `metadata.txt`
- Adds new entries with empty descriptions
- Adds links to new subdirectories in parent metadata

2. Second pass

- After descriptions are edited
- Generates final `index.html` files

This ensures metadata remains authoritative and human-controlled.

1.3 Local Preview (`preview-site.bat`)

`preview-site.bat` starts a lightweight Python HTTP server rooted at the `/site` directory.

This allows the updated site to be viewed locally in a browser before uploading.

1.3.1 Purpose

- Verify that new pages render correctly
- Confirm headings, dividers, and descriptions
- Check links and navigation
- Validate preamble and postamble HTML
- Ensure no missing files or broken paths

1.3.2 Usage

Run:

```
preview-site.bat
```

Then open the displayed local URL (typically `http://localhost:8000/`) in a browser.

The preview server does not modify any files; it only serves the generated site.

1.4 Uploading the Site (`upload-site.bat`)

Once the site has been regenerated and previewed, it can be published using:

```
upload-site.bat
```

This batch file uploads the entire `/site` directory to the production server.

1.4.1 When to upload

Upload only after:

- all metadata edits are complete
- the site has been regenerated (second pass)
- the preview has been checked

1.4.2 What gets uploaded

Everything under:

```
/site
```

including:

- all `index.html` files
 - all documents
 - all images
 - all subdirectories
 - all metadata files (for future maintenance)
-

1.5 Typical Workflow

A typical update cycle follows this sequence:

1. Modify files or metadata
2. Run `generate-site.bat` (first pass)
3. Edit any newly created or updated `metadata.txt`
4. Run `generate-site.bat` again (second pass)
5. Run `preview-site.bat` to verify the changes
6. Run `upload-site.bat` to publish the site

This workflow ensures consistency, correctness, and predictable results.

1.6 Notes and Best Practices

- Never edit `index.html` manually; it will be overwritten
 - Always preview before uploading
 - Keep metadata descriptions concise and clear
 - Avoid spaces in filenames when possible
 - Maintain consistent directory naming conventions
 - Treat the `/site` directory as the single source of truth
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1.7 Summary

The deployment process consists of:

- **Generation** (`generate-site.bat`)
- **Preview** (`preview-site.bat`)
- **Upload** (`upload-site.bat`)

These three steps ensure that the SAM website remains consistent, maintainable, and easy to update.