Laurel's Resource #10. Start a local server

Sometimes it's annoying to always have to drag and drop your website's `index.html` into your browser to test.

And sometimes it's annoying your computer doesn't automatically direct to the `index.html` when you're inside a folder.

So, sometimes you want to... start a local server !

To start a local server with Python, you just need to:

Step 1. Navigate to your class's folder in Terminal

Open up Terminal.

I like to type `cd` (which means "change directory") and then drag my folder from Finder into Terminal. So I personally see something like this:

```
cd /Users/laurelschwulst/Sites/metadata.fan
```

Press enter to get to that place.

Step 2. Fire up your local server

Once you're at the right spot, type this into Terminal:

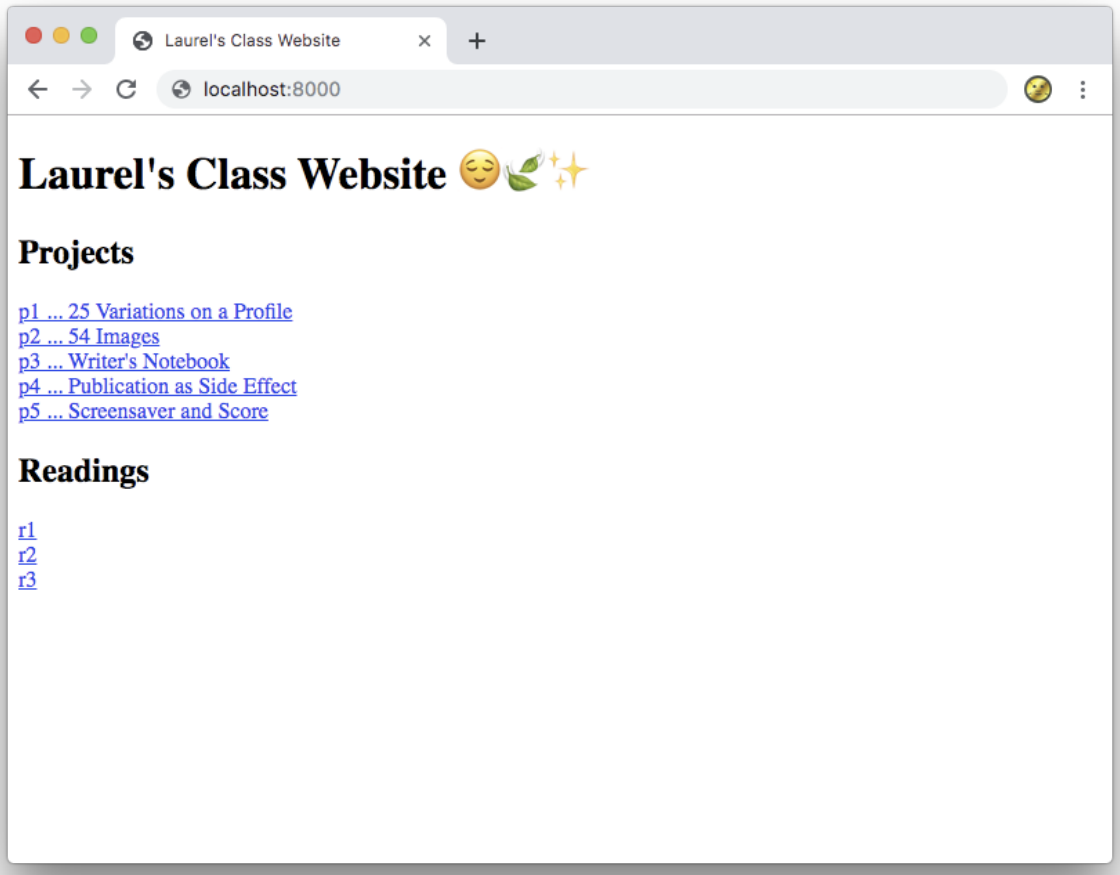
```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer
```

Then press enter.

Terminal will tell you something like...

```
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 ...
```

Which means you can type `localhost:8000` into your web browser and see:



The below is optional. But cool...

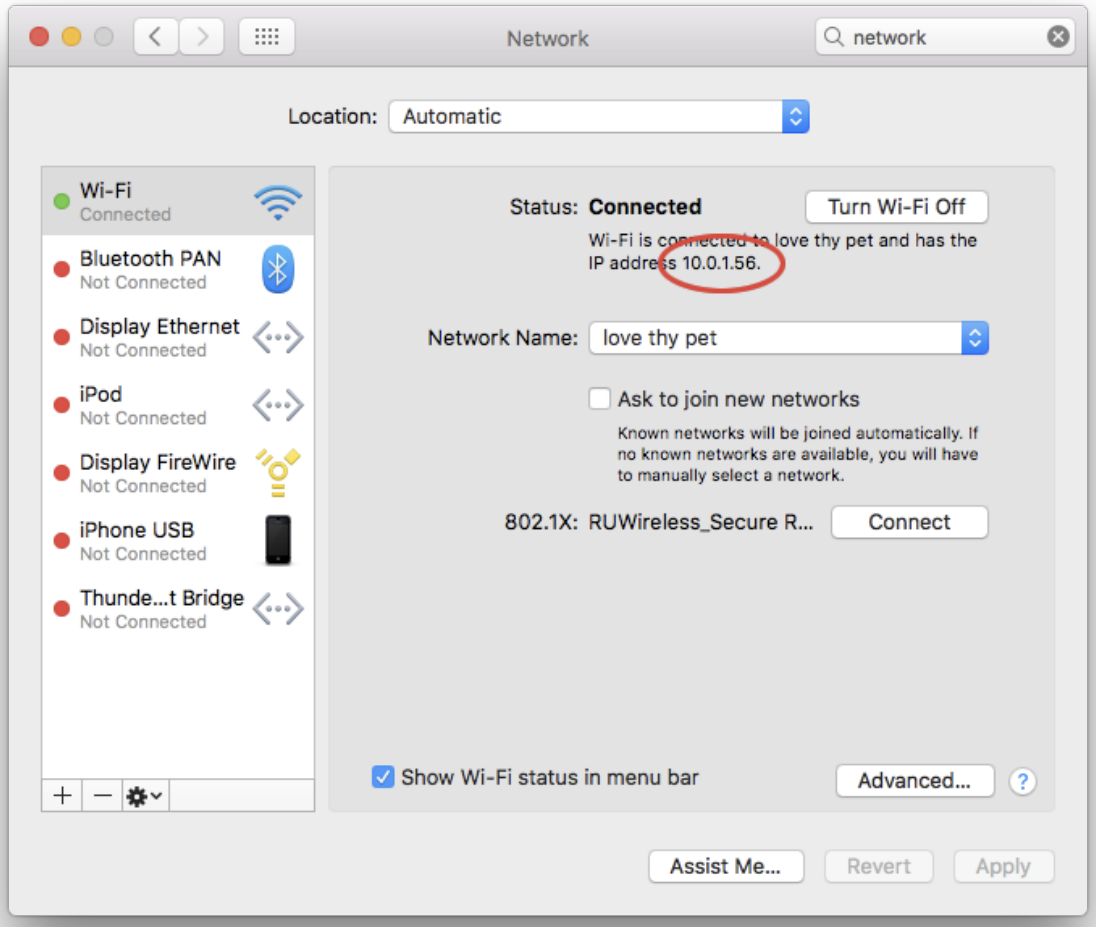
The cool thing about local servers is that they're local. Anyone on the same wifi address can technically access them. Including your mobile device, if you want to

test your site this way.

First, you want to find your computer's IP address.

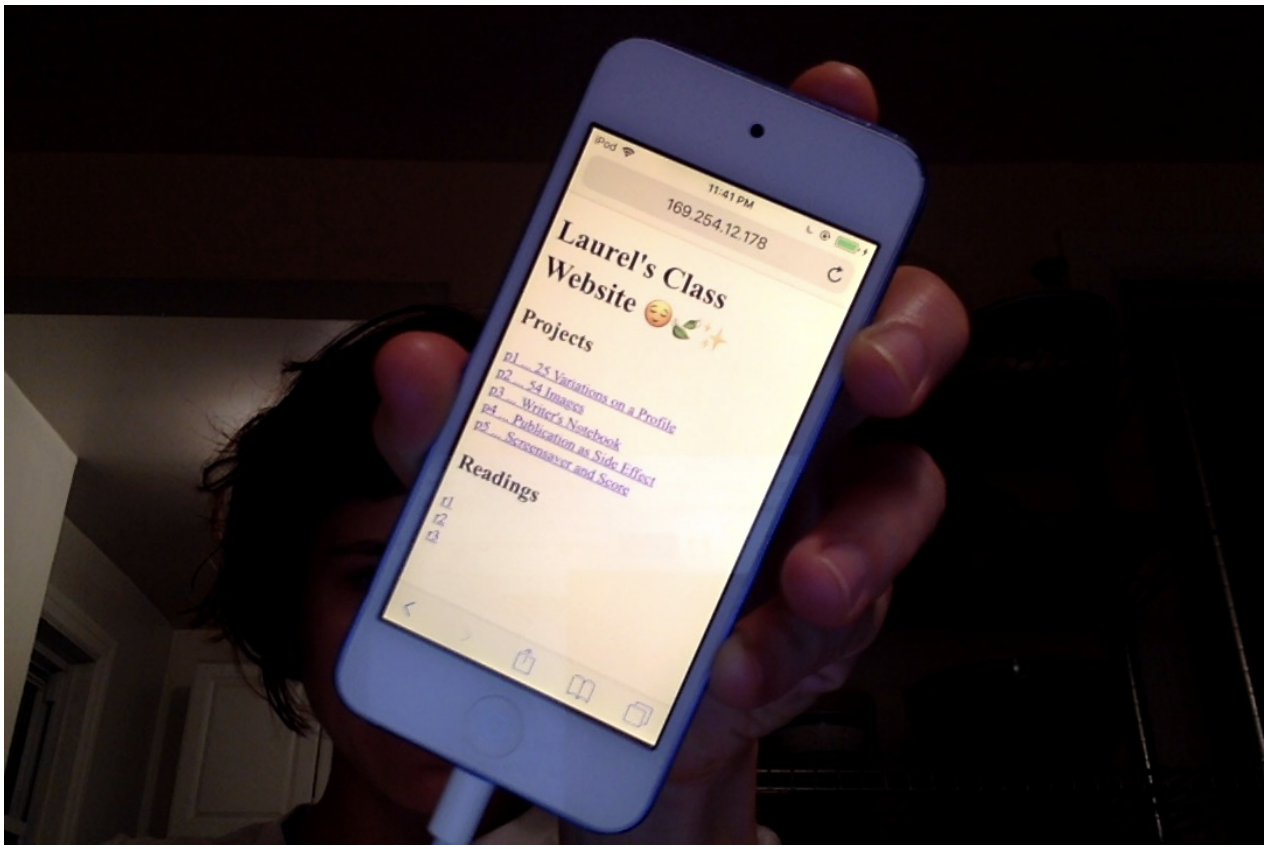
To do this (on a Mac), go to "System Preferences" and then "Network."

Your IP should be listed in the top right:



(According to the above screenshot, my IP address is `10.0.1.56`.)

So as long as I'm on the same wifi network, I can type in `10.0.1.56:8000` and get to my local site. I can access this on any device. Great for testing mobile websites. But also cool to boot up an ephemeral website for others to see.


iPod
11:41 PM
169.254.12.178
Laurel's Class Website
Projects
p1 ... 25 Variations on a Profile
p2 ... 54 Images
p3 ... Writer's Notebook
p4 ... Publication as Side Effect
p5 ... Screensaver and Score
Readings
r1
r2
r3