


iGoogle Personalized Home Page and Google Gadgets

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Overview

- Basic Definitions
 - Personalized home pages
 - iGoogle
 - Gadgets
- Setting up and customizing iGoogle
- Adding gadgets to a regular web page or blog
- Programming your own gadget



Housekeeping

- Please put name, job function and zip code into the chat box
- Slides will be posted at:
 - <http://www.snipr.com/gadgetclass/>



Poll

- Do you have an iGoogle page now?



Personalized Home Page

- What is a “personalized home page”?
- Web page set up with information customized to your interests
 - News
 - Weather
 - Pictures on a particular topic
 - Etc.
- Each person’s page will be different



A little ancient history...

- This idea is not new
 - My Yahoo: 1996
 - 1997: “My Eccles” personalized portal at Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library, University of Utah
- Initial efforts were very clunky due to need to reload web pages after each change
- Just taking off recently due to improvements in web browser technology

Personalized Home Page Systems

- iGoogle (formerly Google Personalized Home Page)
- My Yahoo
- PageFlakes
- Microsoft Live
- Netvibes

iGoogle

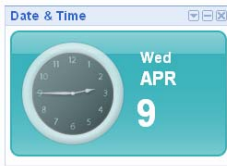
- Google's personalized system
- All you need:
 - A web browser
 - A Google account

The screenshot shows the iGoogle homepage interface. At the top, there is the iGoogle logo and a search bar with buttons for "Google Search" and "I'm Feeling Lucky". Below the search bar, a message states "You have been signed out. Sign in to see your stuff." with a link to "Sign in" and a note "(Don't have an iGoogle page? Get started)". The main content area is divided into several widgets: "YouTube Videos" with a "Recently Viewed" list; "Weather" with a forecast and a "ZIP code" input field; "Date & Time" showing "Wed APR 9"; "CNN.com" with news headlines; and "Top Stories" with links to news articles. A search bar is located at the bottom left of the widget area.

www.igoogle.com (no sign in)

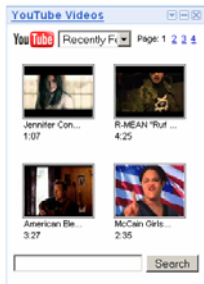
Gadgets

- The page is built with “gadgets” or “widgets,” small programs that show information or do something unique



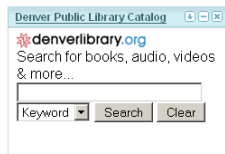
← **Date and Time Gadget (“Informational” Gadget)**

Gadgets



← **YouTube Videos Search Gadget**

Gadgets



← **Denver Public Library search gadget**

Gadgets

- Google Gadgets also let you add an RSS news feed



← CNN.com news feed. These stories will change as new ones come out.

Latitudes or MCR News Blog



PubMed RSS Feed

- You can add a PubMed RSS feed (using a search for any topic)...
- When it's working!
- It's working as of April 15, 10:15 am MT

PubMed RSS

- Do any search
- Choose "RSS Feed" in the "Send To" dropdown



PubMed RSS



PubMed RSS



PubMed RSS

- Copy the web address of the feed

PubMed RSS

- Add the RSS feed to iGoogle
- New articles on your topic will appear as they come out in PubMed

Gadgets

- You customize your iGoogle page by adding only the gadgets that interest you
- Demo:
 - Add stuff (gadgets or RSS feeds)
 - Themes
 - Tabs
 - Move gadgets around the page
 - Set as your home page



More uses for Gadgets

- You can add a gadget to your own website or blog
- So say you wanted to display the most recent NEJM articles on your library's home page (or in your blog)



Embed the gadget

- Find a gadget you want in the directory
- Click on that gadget to bring up its information page.
- Look for "Embed this gadget" in the bottom right hand corner:

For webmasters

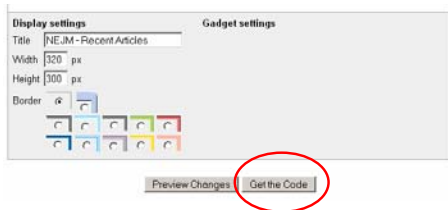
[Place an "Add to Google" button >](#)

[Embed this gadget >](#)

[View source >](#)



Customize the gadget



- Click "Get the Code"

Copy the code to your page

Copy and paste the HTML below to include this gadget on your webpage.

```
<script src="http://gmodules.com/ig/ifr?url=http://beta.nejm.org/GoogleGad
```

↓

```
<html>
<head>
<title>My Library's Home Page</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>My Library's Home Page</h1>
<p>Content of my library page.</p>
<script src="http://gmodules.com/ig/ifr?
url=http://beta.nejm.org/GoogleGadgets/RecentArticle.xml
&amp;up_selectedTab=&amp;synd=open&amp;w=370&amp;h=300
&amp;title=NEJM--RecentArticles&amp;border=%
21ffffff%2C1px%2C1px%2Csolid%
21999999&amp;output=js"></script>
```

My Library's Home Page

Content of my library page.

[NEJM - Recent Articles](#)

Research	Reviews	Commentary	Case Materials
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EARLY RELEASE: Effect of Herpes Simplex Suppression on Incidence of HIV among Women in Tanzania 2. EARLY RELEASE: Use of Ezetimibe in the United States and Canada 3. EARLY RELEASE: Telmisartan, Ramipril, or Both in Patients at High Risk for Vascular Events 4. EARLY RELEASE: Treatment of Hypertension in Patients 80 Years of Age or Older 5. EARLY RELEASE: Stents versus Coronary-Artery Bypass Grafting for Left Main Coronary Artery Disease 			

Now the gadget will appear in your home page.

More... THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

[Gadgets powered by Google](#)

Adding gadgets to your own web page

- Demo

Programming your own gadget



- MCR Gadget
 - RSS feeds:
 - News blog
 - BHIC blog
 - MCR Events (from our Google calendar)
 - Custom programming:
 - MCR search (searches website)
 - State information

http://nmlm.gov/mcr/mcr_gadget.xml

Tips for building your own gadgets

- Do you need to program it at all?
- Remember... if you already have a blog / RSS feed, you've got the gadget!
- Just tell people to add the feed address to their iGoogle page

Tips: Google's custom gadgets

- No programming needed: use Google's customized gadgets
- From the "Add stuff" page:

Create your own gadget New!

Want to put a little piece of yourself on your friends' homepages?

Creating and sharing these Google Gadgets is as easy as filling out a simple form.

[Try now >>](#)

Tips: Google's Custom Gadgets

- Drawback: only a few of these
 - Framed photo: 3 photos
 - Google Gram: a message a day
 - Daily Me: Share quotes, links ideas*
 - Freeform: any text or pictures
 - YouTube
 - Personal to do list
 - Countdown
- Demo

*Twitter?

Tips: Existing PHP program

- If you already have a PHP program written that does something specific, you can just "call" that in a gadget

Tips: Existing PHP program

```
<Module>
  <ModulePrefs title="Poem of the Day"
    title_url="http://gadgets.zytu.com/indexNew.html"
    directory_title="Poem of the Day" description="Poem of the
    Day from the Library of Congress." author="David Olsen"
    author_email="whistled@gmail.com" author_affiliation=""
    author_photo="" author_aboutme="" author_link=""
    author_quote="Keep it simple!"
    screenshot="http://www.zytu.com/Gadgets/images/poems_scre
    enshot.png"
    thumbnail="http://www.zytu.com/Gadgets/images/poems_thum
    bnail.png" height="170" scrolling="true">
  <Locale lang="en"/>
</ModulePrefs>
<Content type="url"
  href="http://zytu.com/Gadgets/poems.php"/>
</Module>
```



Tips: with a programmer

- With a good Javascript programmer:
 - Find a gadget that does something similar to what you want to do
 - Look at the source

For webmasters

[Place an "Add to Google" button >](#)

[Embed this gadget >](#)

[View source >](#)



Tips: With a programmer

- See Google's documentation for much more help:
- <http://code.google.com/apis/gadgets/index.html>



Advertise your gadget

- Place on your web server
- Send people the URL of the gadget
- Register the gadget with the Google directory
 - <http://www.google.com/ig/submit>
- Add the "Add to Google" icon on your website
 - <http://www.google.com/webmasters/add.html>





Late Breaking News

- You can now create “collaborative” gadgets that you share with your friends
- To-do lists, sticky notes, etc.

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2008/04/sharing-gadgets-just-got-better.html>



Questions?

- A few questions for you: polls





Contact Me

- I'm here to help!



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<http://www.snipr.com/gadgetclass/>



Thank You!
