

# Wiki Widgets:

## *Adding Dynamic Content to a Wikispace*



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## **Wikispaces Widgets**

### **What is a wiki?**

In essence, a wiki is a collaborative community web site. Rather than relying on corporations or organizations to provide content, wikis allow end users to contribute and create. As users add to the pages, a living text is created. This Web 2.0 tool gives a voice to all concerned parties.

### **Why would I use a wiki?**

On the most rudimentary level, a wiki can be used as a bulletin board. It's a great way to disseminate information. However, wikis offer so much more.

Students and teachers begin to communicate in new ways, building a community of learners. As the wiki is constructed the community begins to thrive. Dynamic content becomes the norm and teachers get a better understanding of where students stand. The teacher becomes a facilitator, guiding student content towards the ultimate goal.

## Where do I get a wiki?

For the purpose of this session, we will be focusing on <http://www.wikispaces.com>, but you can find free wikis from other sources. A search for “free wikis” will point you in the right direction.

Teachers can create private, advertisement free wikis on wikispaces.com by navigating to:

<http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers>

## OK, I understand wikis. What is a widget?

Wikis are great at the basics: text, images and links. Wikis aren't so great at “gee whiz” stuff. Enter the widget.

Widgets are small applications that can be embedded within a wikispace page. **Wikispaces** provides a set of widgets and built-in support for widgets from some external sites.

Fortunately, you are not limited to the “officially supported” widgets. Almost any web-based application that will generate an embed tag will work on a wikispace page.

## Where can I see some widgets in action?

Check out the session wikispace at <http://cffwikiwidgets.wikispaces.com>. You must have a **wikispaces** account to see the page.

## Widgets Officially Supported by Wikispaces

The following tables include details on the widgets that are directly integrated into **wikispaces** and those external widgets officially supported (and therefore well-integrated) by **wikispaces**.

### Internal Wikispaces Widgets

These widgets are provided by **wikispaces**. Most of the widgets listed below create navigational links on a page. The information generated by the **wikispaces** widgets is dynamically updated as changes are made to the space.

Name	Description
<b>Table of Contents</b>	Generates a table of contents box on the page. The widget works by looking for text formatted with the heading style. The table of contents is nested based on the importance of the heading. For example, text formatted using <i>Heading 2</i> will be indented below the previous <i>Heading 1</i> text.
<b>RSS Feed</b>	Feeds are a great way to add dynamic information to a wiki. To insert an RSS feed on your page: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Find a site that provides a feed. Look for, and click on, the icon that looks like this: </li><li>2. After clicking the RSS icon, copy the URL found in the address bar. This is the direct link to the feed.</li><li>3. Paste this address into the widget dialog box. You can adjust how many stories display, whether to include photos and videos, etc.</li></ol>
<b>Contents of a Wiki Page</b>	This one can get a little confusing. Using this widget embeds the content of another wiki page on your page. When the embedded page's content changes, it is updated on your page. How cool is that?

<b>List of Wiki Pages</b>	Makes a list of all pages in your wikispace. This is a great way to quickly add a navigation list to a page.
<b>Discussion Area</b>	Wikispace discussion areas are normally accessed through the tabs at the top of the screen. This widget places the discussion area directly on the page.
<b>Page History</b>	Want to know who has changed the page? With this widget, you can embed the page history.
<b>List of Links to This Page</b>	Embeds a list of all pages linking to the current page. This is a good way to track visitors and other wikis using your page as a resource.
<b>Tag Cloud</b>	The tag cloud widget scours the tags you used to create your wiki pages. As it finds common tags, it makes them larger. Clicking on a tag takes you to a list of pages that feature the tag. Did you forget to add tags to a page? Simply click the Edit This Page button.
<b>Top Contributors</b>	Lists the top contributors to the wiki.

## Video Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>You Tube</b>	These widgets all perform the same basic function. Simply find a video from one of the sources listed to the right, copy its embed code, and paste it into the wikispace widget window.	<a href="http://www.youtube.com">http://www.youtube.com</a>
<b>Teacher Tube</b>		<a href="http://www.teachertube.com">http://www.teachertube.com</a>
<b>Google Video</b>	Please note that some school districts block video content. What works at home may not play at school.	<a href="http://video.google.com">http://video.google.com</a>

<b>Yahoo! Video</b>	<a href="http://video.yahoo.com">http://video.yahoo.com</a>
<b>blip.tv</b>	<a href="http://www.blip.tv">http://www.blip.tv</a>

## Audio Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>imeem</b>	imeem is a social network for discovering new music. Simply visit the site, click on the music link, and find songs by genre. Once you find a song, look for the embed code below the song.	<a href="http://www.imeem.com">http://www.imeem.com</a>
<b>odeo</b>	Looking for a podcast? Odeo features both mainstream and independent podcasts in both audio and video formats.	<a href="http://www.odeo.com">http://www.odeo.com</a>

## Calendar Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>Google Calendar</b>	If you have a Google or gmail account, you can create and share Google calendars. The calendars can be embedded on the wiki page. Visitors to the wiki can see the calendar in daily, weekly and monthly views.	<a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a>
<b>AirSet</b>	AirSet tools allow for group communication and collaboration.	<a href="http://www.airset.com">http://www.airset.com</a>

Wikispaces supports embeddable AirSet calendars.

### 30 Boxes

30 Boxes is an online group calendar.

<http://www.30boxes.com>

## Spreadsheet Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
num sum		<a href="http://www.numsum.com">http://www.numsum.com</a>
Edit Grid	All three of these web sites offer different spreadsheet solutions. Simply create your worksheet and embed the code on the wiki page.	<a href="http://www.editgrid.com">http://www.editgrid.com</a>
Google Documents		<a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a>

## Document Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
Scribd	Scribd allows users to post documents to the Web. An embedded Scribd document displays in its own reader; there is no need for Acrobat.	<a href="http://www.scribd.com">http://www.scribd.com</a>
Bitty Browser	Did you ever say to yourself, "Self, it sure would be great to display an outside web page right on this here page!" Now you can!	<a href="http://www.bitty.com">http://www.bitty.com</a>

The Bitty Browser will embed a mini browser on any wikispace page. Simply provide the URL for the site you wish to embed. Once added to the page, you can browse the embedded site without leaving the wiki page. Awesome!

## Polls

Name	Description	Source Website
surveygizmo	Make a survey at surveygizmo.com. Embed it on your wikispace. Enjoy!	<a href="http://www.surveygizmo.com">http://www.surveygizmo.com</a>

## Chat and IM Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
Gabbly	Get ready to chat away, right inside a wiki page! Gabbly is one of the easiest widgets to embed; no settings or parameters are required. The widget will place a chat window on the page. As users come to the page, they can create a user name and start the real-time discussion.	<a href="http://www.gabbly.com">http://www.gabbly.com</a>
Skype	The Skype widget adds a button to the page. The button will launch the user's Skype client and attempt to contact the button's owner. The button even shows the current status of its owner!	<a href="http://www.skype.com">http://www.skype.com</a>
YackPack	The YackPack site claims to add push-to-talk style "walkie talkie" features to a page. The owner sets up a channel and those visiting the page can press a button to talk. It's like the party line, only geekier!	<a href="http://www.yackpack.com">http://www.yackpack.com</a>

**Meebo**

To use Meebo, you must first register for a Meebo account. Once that step is complete, use the <http://www.meebome.com> site to create a widget. As the owner of the widget, you must log in to Meebo to see the chat. Anonymous user comments are sent to the Meebo page.

<http://www.meebo.com>  
<http://www.meebome.com>

## Slideshow Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>Slide</b>	Takes photos located on your computer and turns them into slideshows with animation, music, custom backgrounds and captions. Once created, a Slide show can be embedded in a <b>wikispace</b> page.	<a href="http://www.slide.com">http://www.slide.com</a>
<b>flickr</b>	Many photo fans store images on flickr. Once images have been uploaded to flickr, albums can be embedded.	<a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a>

## Map Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>Google Maps</b>	Let's face it, interactive, searchable maps are just plain fun. Adding a Google Map to a page is easy. Using the Google Maps page, navigate to the area you wish to display. Copy the embed code found by clicking the links button in the upper right corner of the map.	<a href="http://maps.google.com">http://maps.google.com</a>

## Bookmark Widgets

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>del.icio.us</b>	<p>Looking for a way to share your bookmarks without having users go to delicious.com? One way to accomplish this task is to embed your bookmarks on a wiki page.</p> <p>Here's the process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sign in to your del.icio.us account.</li><li>2. Click on the Settings link.</li><li>3. Under the Blogging area of the page, click the Link Rolls link.</li><li>4. Copy and paste the code into <i>wikispaces</i>.</li></ol>	<a href="http://www.delicious.com">http://www.delicious.com</a>

## External Widgets

The web sites listed in the following table generate embeddable code that can be inserted into a **wikispaces** page. To add these widgets, choose the *Other* option in the widget dialog box.

Name	Description	Source Website
<b>Animoto</b>	<p>Create video shorts for free. Upload pictures, choose a song, and Animoto does the rest. It creates a unique mix of your pictures. This is a great avenue for digital storytelling.</p>	<a href="http://animoto.com">http://animoto.com</a>
<b>Chart Gizmo</b>	<p>ChartGizmo is a web service that allows you to make charts easily without a spreadsheet program. Provides line, bar, pie and ring chart types with normal and 3D visualization. Creating a chart is very easy, simply input your data or import from a spreadsheet data then choose</p>	<a href="http://chartgizmo.com">http://chartgizmo.com</a>

the design to suits your need.[ignati.com](http://ignati.com)

<b>Clustermaps</b>	Clustermaps are "hit counters" for any site. They display a mini world map and red dots that indicate the locations of visitors to your site.	<a href="http://www.clustermaps.com">http://www.clustermaps.com</a>
<b>Gizmoz</b>	Neat site in general, but in this case, you can build a sweet little animated answering machine. When folks visit the site, they can leave you a recorded audio/video message through the widget.	<a href="http://www.gizmoz.com/newsite/widgets/ans/step1.jsp?partner=">http://www.gizmoz.com/newsite/widgets/ans/step1.jsp?partner=</a>
<b>Glogster</b>	"Poster yourself." Create a visually appealing, interactive poster. Audio, video, and hyperlinks can all be embedded. (Makes a great home page for links, pics, etc.)	<a href="http://www.glogster.com">http://www.glogster.com</a>
<b>One True Media</b>	Nice video/slide/multimedia builder. Nice variety and easy to use.	<a href="http://www.onetruemedia.com">http://www.onetruemedia.com</a>
<b>PollDaddy</b>	It's super-easy to set up a visually-pleasing poll and drop it into your wiki. Great class starter (one of many applications).	<a href="http://www.polldaddy.com">http://www.polldaddy.com</a>
<b>Scrapblog</b>	Combine video, audio, photos, and text to create a multimedia scrapbook.	<a href="http://www.scrapblog.com">http://www.scrapblog.com</a>
<b>Slideshare</b>	Upload your presentations for easy sharing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Supported Formats:</b> <b>Presentations:</b> ppt, pps &amp; pot (PowerPoint), pdf, odp (OpenOffice); Keynote users can save as pdf.</li><li>• <b>Documents &amp; Spreadsheets:</b> doc, rtf, xls (MSOffice), odt &amp; ods</li></ul>	<a href="http://www.slideshare.net">http://www.slideshare.net</a>

(OpenOffice) & pdf.  
For pptx or docx (MSOffice2007+), please save in lower version  
(ppt/doc) or save as pdf.

**Ustream**

Stream live from virtually anywhere. Ustream also has a chat component. Be advised that ustream is blocked in many districts.

<http://www.ustream.tv>

**Voice Thread**

Interactive Slide shows that allow narration, comments, and collaboration. Narration and comments can be done in text, audio and video. Voice Thread also allows for uploading of many file types to allow for more personalization and customization.

<http://www.voicethread.com>

**Voki**

Voki enables users to express themselves on the web in their own voice using a talking character. You can customize your Voki to look like you or take on the identity of lots of other types of characters... animals, monsters, anime etc. Your Voki can speak with your own voice which is added via microphone, upload, or phone. You can also choose to have your Voki speak with one of the pre-programmed voices in several different languages.

<http://www.voki.com>

**Vuvox**

Vuvox is a slideshow application with pizzazz. There are many choices available! It plays nicely with flickr.

<http://www.vuvox.com>