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EdTech Day 2009

Jan 16th, 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM

Enhance your Blackboard Sites with Dynamic Course-Related Web News, Audio, and Video Content

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Reid Kimball (January 16, 2009). Enhance your Blackboard Sites with Dynamic Course-Related Web News, Audio, and Video Content. In *EdTech Day Conference*. Presentation 4.
Available at: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/edtech/2009/sessions/4>

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Embedding Dynamic Content

How to Embed Audio content

The following directions will demonstrate how to embed an audio player for a file that you either know the URL for or have saved locally within your web directory. There are other sites available that will provide their own code to embed a player within your site, such as [NPR](#).

1. Place your audio file in the same folder as your webpage
2. Highlight the following code and copy it (CTRL + C on PC or Apple Key + C on Macintosh)

```
<embed type="application/x-mplayer2" src="YOUR FILE OR URL" autostart="true" loop="false" width="300" height="44"></embed>
```

3. Open your website in your preferred HTML editor (e.g. FrontPage)
4. Switch to *Code View* (in the lower left-hand corner of FrontPage) and paste the code you copied from the video site between the <body> and </body> tags
5. Edit the area of the code that says *YOUR FILE OR URL* so that it points to your audio clip
6. Your player will look similar to the one shown below:

Song downloaded from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Sound/list>

How to Embed Video content

Adding embedded video to a webpage is a great way to make your site more dynamic and interesting. Fortunately, many video sites allow you to link directly to their content from within your website. This example will use the popular video site YouTube, but you may find several others that allow you to perform the same action.

1. Find the video you wish to embed on your website
2. On the right side, you will see the word *embed* and a text field with code (pictured)



Embed: [Customize](#)
<object width="425" height="344"><param name="movie" value="http:.

3. Highlight the code and copy it (CTRL + C on PC or Apple Key + C on Macintosh)
4. Open your website in your preferred HTML editor (e.g. FrontPage)
5. Switch to *Code View* (in the lower left-hand corner of FrontPage) and paste the code you copied from the video site between the <body> and </body> tags


Here are some video sites to start with:

[TED](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Google Video](#)



Embedding Dynamic Content

How to Embed RSS News Feeds

RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary) is a way to display frequently-updated digital articles, such as those from a news site or a weblog. It simplifies the use of the web by allowing you to keep up to date on sites you frequently visit by not having to actually visit that site. RSS also allows you to avoid having to sign up for newsletters or email lists to get the information you want. On web pages, RSS feeds are typically linked with the word **Subscribe**, an orange square , or a rectangle with the letters **RSS** or **XML**. After clicking on one of these icons, the web page address that is displayed will be the address for the RSS feed.

Examples of some popular sites that offer RSS feeds are: CNN.com, ESPN.com, and AOL.com. Typically users can use Internet Explorer or web services such as Yahoo or Google to subscribe to RSS feeds. This works well for your own personal use, but if you want to post an RSS feed for your students, you will need another option. By visiting <http://itde.vccs.edu/rss2js/build.php> and entering the URL of the RSS feed you would like to add, you can generate a section of JavaScript code to add into a website of your choice.

The program that is run on this website is called *Feed2JS* (Feed to JavaScript), and it allows the user to customize the RSS feed they display. Options include how many articles to display at a time, whether to show descriptions of the articles, and whether or not to open the article link in a new window. The code will take on the default formatting of the page you paste it into, whether that be Blackboard or a BSC department website.

To add the code into your webpage, use the following directions:

1. Find the web page address of the RSS feed you wish to add. Highlight and copy the address
2. Go to <http://itde.vccs.edu/rss2js/build.php>
3. Paste into the URL field (see right image)
4. Select from the various options (see right image) and click the **Generate JavaScript** button
5. Copy the entire section of code that appears
6. Open your webpage using an HTML editor such as Microsoft FrontPage
7. Switch to *Code View* (in the lower left-hand corner of FrontPage)
8. Paste the code you generated earlier into the code of your website, making sure it is between the <body> tags
9. Save your webpage and view it in a web browser to see your RSS feed