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Microsoft Article: Working with Settings in Visual Studio 2010. Learn how you can customize and store settings in the New Projects dialog box and keyboard shortcuts.

Web Application Review: Wibiya Toolbar

By Tyme

Wibiya is a free, customizable toolbar that anchors to the bottom of your website to give your users quick access to other web applications -- such as social networking tools, and to help you promote your own content. Moreover, several of the apps are designed to integrate the social network functionality so that users do not need to navigate away from your site to interact with the other application.

Intel Parallel Studio 2010 advertisement containing four promotional articles: 'Download a 30-Day Trial of Intel Parallel Studio', 'Accelerate the Development of Serial and Threaded Applications for Multicore', and 'Remove the Guesswork from Locating Multicore Performance Bottlenecks'.

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The user interface is very easy to follow, with a generous use of graphics/icons to indicate the option being viewed, to denote when [applications](#) have been selected, or to confirm when settings have been saved. However, the Save button on the forms is easy to miss, as it is white with a faint outline -- seemingly "grayed out".

Add-on Applications

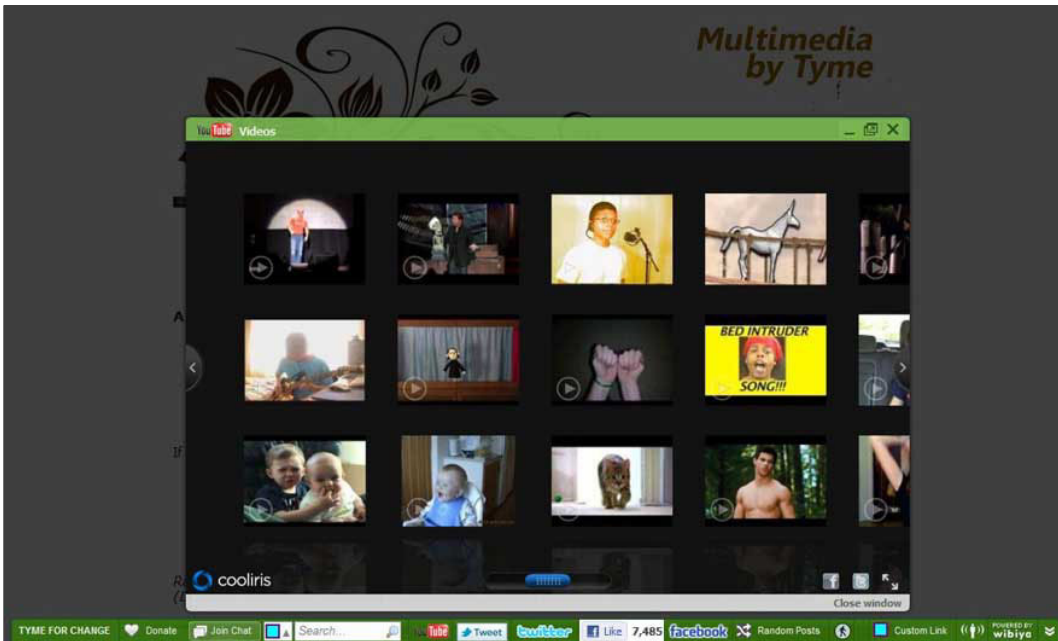
Wibiya offers a number of [Web applications](#) from which to choose, categorizing them for easier review. You can add up to 15 items to your toolbar, under the free version. Applications have options for displaying the button as icon, text, or both, to help you better fill or compact the available toolbar real estate. The "pro" (subscriber) version of the Wibiya allows you to add additional buttons/links and even add your own applications.

Popular apps include Photo Gallery, Twitter Dashboard, Facebook Fan Page, Random Post, Real-time Users, custom [Navigation](#) Links, translator, YouTube video gallery, web chat, Facebook Like button, and many more.

<p>FEATURED</p> <p>STAFF PICKS</p> <p>COLLABORATION</p> <p>COMMUNICATION</p> <p>E-COMMERCE</p> <p>FUN AND GAMES</p> <p>FUNDRAISING</p>	<p>GOOGLE DOCS</p> <p>This App allows posting Google Presentations on Ning profiles</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>	<p>TOKBOX VIDEO CHAT</p> <p>Enable your members to video chat with each other via TokBox</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>	<p>ZORAP</p> <p>Add a chat room to your social network, equipped with video chat and rich-media sharing. Get a room on Zorap, and you'll be able to hang out with oth...</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>
	<p>MINDJOLT GAMES</p> <p>Play over 500 games. At MindJolt Games you can play any of the Arcade, Puzzle, Strategy and Sports games we offer for free. Challenge your friends...</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>	<p>OFFBEAT GUIDES</p> <p>Allow your members to build a customizable travel guide. Powered by Offbeat Guides.</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>	<p>DAILY SUDOKU WITH J2PLAY</p> <p>Play this fantastic puzzle game that is taking the world by storm - New puzzles every day! This game has J2Play which allows you to chat with friends...</p> <p>+ Add To My Network</p>

Several applications produce a pop-up window wherein the user sees the integrated content -- such as recent tweets, favorite videos, custom announcements, and more.

For example, when the YouTube application has been added, a user clicking on that button will see a pop-up window (jquery, for you techies) of video clip thumbnails. The Wibiya options allow you to specify the source of these videos -- by user, by channel, by popularity, or by ranking, and to configure the layout -- number of rows shown, window background and text color.



Similarly, the Twitter Dashboard application opens a pop-up window, and displays your latest tweets and twitter activity.



One of the more clever features is the Live Notifications feature. Through the Dashboard, you can create custom messages that are delivered to your visitors while on your site.

Options include setting the message to appear (or to not appear) on pages with certain keywords; to display on all pages; or to show only after a visitor has visited a certain number of pages. The latter would be a great way to offer an order discount to your inquisitive shoppers. There also is a "pro" version of the application that offers additional features.

Setting Up Wibiya

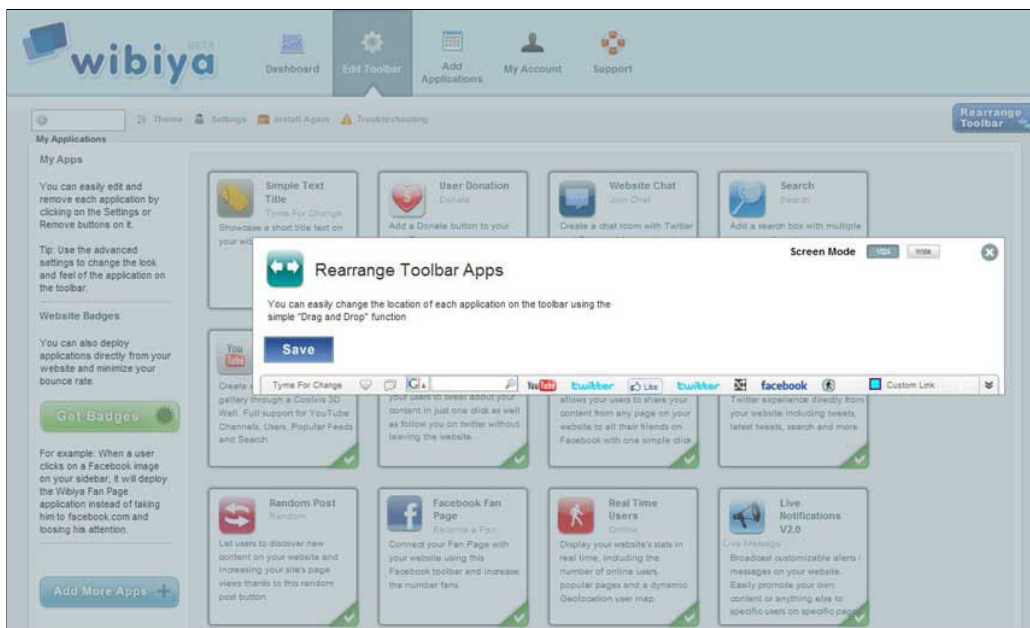
Configuring Wibiya is very straight forward. The design team place great importance on user interface and the user experience. When you create an account, Wibiya walks you through the steps to get started.

The Wibiya development team have created custom modules for use with the popular content management systems (CMS), as well as a generator of a <script> block that you can manually embed in HTML sites or CMS sites if the module is ineffective.



Editing Your Toolbar

Once you have created your toolbar, editing is a snap. Display options can be changed, apps can be added or removed, and buttons can be rearranged with a drag-n-drop interface.



Usage Statistics

As if all that wasn't enough for a free app, Wibiya produces some usage statistics about its performance on your site.

General Stats	
07/09/2010 - 14/09/2010	
YouTube Video Gallery	6
Twitter Dashboard	3
Real Time Users	2
Live Notifications V2.0	1
Facebook Fan Page	1
Simple Text Title	0
User Donation	0
Website Chat	0
Search	0
Random Post	0
Navigation Links	0

Summary

Wibiya.com indicates that the application is in beta release. While you might encounter a few quirks, the application is definitely worth having a look and a try. It adds a nice, interactive feature to a site, giving it a more upscale feel. As noted, the application has a free version (used for this review) and two levels of subscription service that give additional customization options, features, and support.

Tyme is a freelance writer and multimedia specialist of many years. She likes walks in the park, cotton candy, and baby ducks. To learn more: MultimediaByTyme.com.

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By [Pertinax](#) September 15 2010 9:52 AMPDT

Looks really useful, and I'm inspired by this article to try it..

However, a user review on www.siteadvisor.com says:

Rating: Adware, spyware, or viruses

Careful - mvps.org flags this as a malware site. The reason for listing is seen at <http://www.mvps.org/winhelp2002/criteria.htm>

This site was seen to display behavior typical of malware -

- drive-by install without user permission

- bundled known malicious code

- hidden plug-ins

- overrides user selections

- uses affiliate programs

etc

Use due caution when visiting any site that engages in such suspicious tactics.

Does Tyme / HTML Goodies consider this site safe to use - have they tested it ?

[Reply to this comment](#)



By [Tyme](#) September 15 2010 1:26 PMPDT

When I first discovered this product, a while back, I emailed Wibiya to ask if the software had spyware. I was told "no". I did recently request an interview with the founders but received no response.

However, I agree that it is always wise to be cautious with any program that uses apps or contributed apps -- be it Wibiya, CMS applications, iPhone or other such devices...especially those that download any files to your local computer.

Wibiya does not download any installation software to the user's computer. It runs a javascript file and uses a content delivery network, as is evident in the loading URL. After visiting sites with the Wibiya toolbar, I find no evidence of the javascript on my local computer.

I would recommend that every Web user set their browsers to clear the browser cache after each shutdown, for several reasons.

That being said, Wibiya is not being recommended or promoted by JupiterMedia/HTMLGoodies.com, nor was it tested by them. This is a review of a Web application by me. I am running Wibiya on my personal site, and have not detected any issues.

[Reply to this comment](#)



By [Tyme](#) September 15 2010 1:32 PMPDT

By the way, a search of Wibiya on your referenced site produces no results. If you found an article, please provide full source so that others might glean from the information therein.

[Reply to this comment](#)



By Tyme September 16 2010 9:41 AMPDT

In response to a direct inquiry about the security of the application, Wibiya writes:

"Hi,
I am responding to your question regarding the spyware.
Wibiya uses cookies to save the user preferences, for example, toolbar minimized, windows positions etc.
It does not and cannot override any browser settings and it does not leave behind any code on the client's
019s computer. It is completely safe and private and has been certified by VeriSign.

I hope this answers you question.

Let me know if you have any further inquiries.

Best Regards,

Moran Matyash

Wibiya Community Manager

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(Maximum characters: 1200). You have 1200 characters left.



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