

UTILIZING IFTTT SECOND EDITION



MATT COLE

Utilizing IFTTT

Second Edition

By Matt Cole

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Sight and Sound Series

Sight and Sound

Utilizing IFTTT: Second Edition

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Cover art by Matt Cole

Dedication:

To my wife, Kelli Cole, and my children, Brittney and Braden.

Acknowledgements:

I wish to thank TJ Hoff for beta reading this and providing valuable insight.

I wish to also thank Amy Ward for her willingness to review technical material, double checking the grammar. <http://wardsarewriters.com>

Thank you IFTTT in providing a robust, yet simple web-based application.
<http://ifttt.com>

Purpose

The purpose of this book is to introduce you into the web-based IFTTT application.

IFTTT is the mnemonic for If This Then That. This free web-based application is an online utility to provide an easy means to connect two services and automate simple tasks.

The result is the reduction of every day, or every hour, electronic functions, providing you more time.

You do not have to be technically savvy to use IFTTT. Rather, it is made to minimize and simplify tasks. These tasks include, but are not limited to;

- auto-posting blog posts with one simple action,
- auto send a tweet out from a post,
- update cross-platforms from one source,
- log actions from a social platform,
- set up smart appliances tasks,
- and much, much more.

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Dear reader.

Part 1

First and foremost, I wish to express my appreciation for your interest in this book. Thank you for allowing me to share some knowledge on the topic.

This book is the second edition, due to IFTTT changing their method and format at the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. My prior books covered the older version of IFTTT.

Since then, IFTTT has significantly reduced the complexity of their web-based application and made it much easier for the typical user.

Sincerely, Thank You.

Matt Cole

#AuthorMattCole

Chapter 1 IFTTT Terminology Defined

As mentioned, IFTTT has reduced five areas, channels, triggers, actions, recipes, and ingredients down to two services and Applets.

Services

The once called channels are now referred to as services. These are the available web or application services IFTTT can utilize.

- Web services are those web-based services, such as WordPress, Evernote, YouTube, and ECT.
- Application services are those services used with physical smart connections, such as GE Appliances, Home Connect, LG, and ECT.

You will need to have access to these services, which is done through IFTTT.

We will cover all the currently available services as of the time of this writing. It should be noted that from last year to present, the quantity has increased from 233 to around 500. I foresee this only to continue to grow, as more and more items are being linked to IFTTT.

Applets

The Applets are the combination of triggers, actions, recipes, and ingredients. Rather than having to revise each of these areas separately, you can now view and configure all of them within the Applet.

The result is the reduced complexity for the user and streamlined setup process. However, the simplification has come with a price. The user has less control on what can be built. For the time being, only service providers will be able to create multiple action Applets.

IFTTT gets around this, by providing the “maker tier”. You need to provide IFTTT the Applets you’re trying to create, to gain this access. The maker allows you to connect to any service having a web request. Once you have a connection with the device, you create the Applet.

Just be aware the recipes are not called Applets, and we can create and/or modify certain events through them.

Chapter 2 Introduction to IFTTT

IFTTT is the mnemonic for “If This Then That”. The original method for this web-based application was comprised of 5 areas - channels, triggers, actions, recipes, and ingredients.

Since then, IFTTT has reduced this down to Services, and Applets. The configuration of the Applets are similar, yet, have been combined to simplify the setup for the user.

The inventors for IFTTT are Linden Tibbetts, Jesse Tane, and Alexander Tibbets. They are based out of San Francisco, California.

Linden Tibbets has been CEO for IFTTT since October 2010. He has a history with IDEO, Founder, WAVE, and EA. His twitter handle is @ltibbets.

Jesse Tane is a general purpose engineer, designer and code writer. He is the co-founder for IFTTT. He has history with Common Tater, Open Source, Guest'd, and IDEO. His twitter handle is @jessetane.

Alexander Tibbets is currently co-founder of IFTTT, working in marketing and brand. He has history with SFCED, Friday's Films, Cooper Hewitt, EA, and Frederator Networks. His twitter handle is @MrTibbets.

The automation web-based application runs continually on their servers but is offered for free. You just need to sign up with a valid email account.

Setup

The setup is simply using a valid email address to sign-up for the IFTTT web-based application. IFTTT is free to use, and the user is only required to sign-in to their Services, through IFTTT.

Once signed into those Services, you will be prompted to give IFTTT authorization to connect. Upon completion, setup of the Applet to perform the task is necessary.

IFTTT has reduced the setup down to two steps;

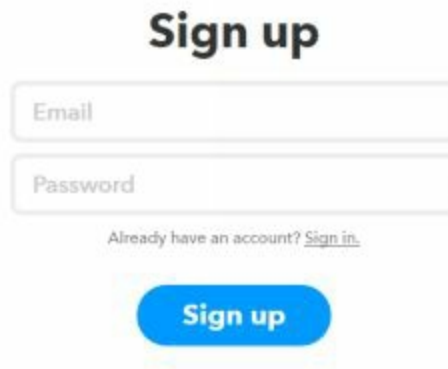
- 1) Sign into the Services
- 2) Create the Applets to perform auto-tasks.

You will be required to have a valid email address and internet access to sign-up, setup and create IFTTT Services and Applets. However, once completed, the Applets will continue to run automatically.

You also have the option to turn these Applets off once they have been turned on. You can always return to the created Applet and revise, modify, or change later.

Let's Get Started

The site is <https://ifttt.com/>, and you will have the option of Sign in or Sign up on the far right side.

A sign-up form for IFTTT. At the top, the text "Sign up" is centered in a bold, dark font. Below it are two input fields: the first is labeled "Email" and the second is labeled "Password". Both fields are outlined in a light gray. Below the password field, there is a link that says "Already have an account? [Sign in.](#)". At the bottom of the form is a blue button with the text "Sign up" in white.

By choosing Sign up, you will be required to provide the email and password. Simply choose a password for IFTTT, when you give your valid email address. Once done, choose Sign up.

Please note, all the services and Applets you will be using are linked to this email address only. If you have multiple Services (more than one WordPress site) and wish to create auto-tasks with those Services, you will be required to have one email address linked to each Service. I refer to this type of setup as daisy-chaining and provide examples in Chapter 12.

It is a one service to one email address relationship.

Example:

I have 2 WordPress sites I currently maintain,

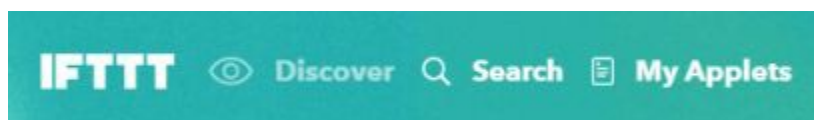
- 1.wordpress.com and
- 2.wordpress.com.

When I sign up with IFTTT, using my email, I can only link 1.wordpress.com or 2.wordpress.com. I cannot use both with this initial sign up.

You will be required to create a new IFTTT set up for the other WordPress site if you wish to maintain more than one. This is one of the limitations (in my opinion) with IFTTT.

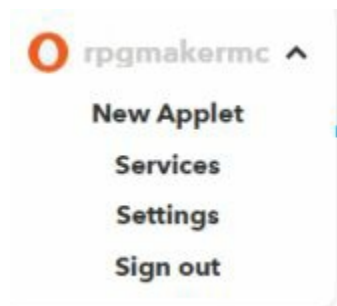
Once you sign up, you will receive a welcome email from IFTTT's welcome email address: welcome@ifttt.com. Be sure to check your spam folders, if not seen.

Moving On



Once you are in IFTTT's website, you will see on the left side of the header, the options of Discover, Search, and My Applets.

- Discover
 - Discover takes you to the <https://ifttt.com/discover> and provides you recommended Applets. The suggestions will change as you add on services, and create Applets.
- Search
 - Search takes you to <https://ifttt.com/search> and provides recommended services and the categories where IFTTT places those services.
- My Applets
 - My Applets takes you to https://ifttt.com/my_Applets and gives the list of your current created Applets. You can also see the activity of those Applets (when it was last ran).



The right side of the header provides your username. You will notice this is the same as your email name. Here you will find a pull-down, you can view the options by choosing the downward facing caret.

- New Applet
 - New Applet takes you to <https://ifttt.com/create> and allows you to create a new Applet.
- Services
 - Services takes you to https://ifttt.com/my_services and allows you to sign into your web or application services, through IFTTT.
- Settings
 - Settings takes you to <https://ifttt.com/settings> and provides your profile settings. This category includes your username, password, email address, time zone, URL shortening and flags to be provided by email notifications.
- Sign out
 - Sign out is self-explanatory.

Chapter 3 – Creating Our First Applet

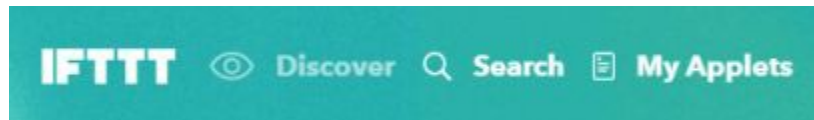
Now we have covered the terminology provided what IFTTT is, let's create our first Applet. I will be using the email address, rpgmaker.mc@gmail.com during our example.

The first thing you do is connect to a service or services. Then you create events through the Applets. Depending on the desired event, will determine which service you must have.

You would be required to have an account in WordPress and YouTube, if you want every YouTube video you like, to create a post in WordPress automatically. Yes, that can be done, by creating an Applet.

Let's do this as our first simple example to demonstrate the service(s) and Applet.

First Step: The WordPress Service



- 1) Choose "Search" from your upper left header on top of the page.



- 2) Initially, you will be presented with the search. Search "WordPress" in the provided field. Then choose the WordPress icon under "Services".



- 3) Once you have the WordPress Service pulled up, choose "Connect" to get into the service.

The image shows a form titled "Connect WordPress". Below the title is a small note: "Hosted WordPress Blogs and WordPress.com blogs will work with the IFTTT WordPress Channel. Note: If you have two step authentication enabled, generate an application specific password." There are three input fields: "Blog URL", "Username", and "Password". At the bottom is a blue button with the word "Connect" in white.

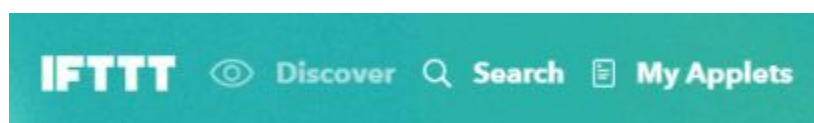
- 4) From here you will need to know your WordPress credentials. The HTML link for your WordPress site, as well as the login and password you use to get into that site. Once valued, choose Connect.



5) IFTTT will then show your current settings. I blacked out the password, but unlike the last version, IFTTT now shows you the password; before it was asterisked.

This action completes the WordPress service setup. You will do the same for YouTube.

Second Step: The YouTube Service



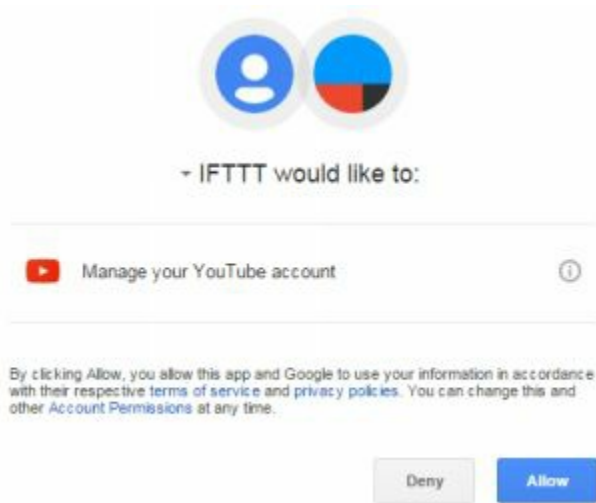
1) Choose “Search” from your upper left header on top of the page.

 Search

2) Initially, you will be presented with the search. Search “YouTube’ in the provided field. Then choose the YouTube icon under “Services”.



3) Choose “Connect” to get into the YouTube settings.



4) IFTTT will ask for your permission to manage the account. Select Allow to move forward.

At this point, you will have two services linked to your IFTTT account. We can work with this.

Third Step: Creating the Applet



If you choose “My Applets” on the top, you will be presented with the following message.

“You don’t have any Applets; Applets work with all your favorite services.” Below this is the blue “Get Started” button.

I want you to focus your eyes on the upper right, “New Applet”.



Choose the “New Applet” button, and you will be presented with the Applet Maker. This selection is the heart and soul of automating your events with IFTTT.

You have two steps in creating your Applet. This and That.

- This
 - Here you will be selecting the initial service. For our demonstration, we will choose YouTube as our first service.

IFTTT provides us three options when we choose YouTube as our first service.

- 1) New Liked Video
- 2) New Public Video From Subscriptions
- 3) New Public Video Uploaded by You

Each of these is called triggers. A trigger is an action occurring to start or kick-off our Applet.

We will choose the first trigger, “New liked video”.



We now have our trigger and first initial service selected. At this point, we need to choose That.

- That
 - That is the end product for our Applet. The trigger provides us what will start the event. The “that” part provides us the final result. We will be choosing WordPress for our action service.

IFTTT provides us two options for our WordPress action service.

- 1) Create a post
- 2) Create a photo post

For our demonstration, we will choose the first option, “Create a post”.

The image shows a blue-themed form titled "Create a post". At the top, it says "This Action will create a normal post on your WordPress blog." Below this are several sections: "Title" with a text input containing "Liked on YouTube: Title" and a "+ Ingredient" button; "Body *" with a text input containing "Title
 Description
 via YouTube Url" and a "+ Ingredient" button; "Categories" with an empty text input, the text "Comma separated", and a "+ Ingredient" button; "Tags" with a text input containing "IFTTT, YouTube", the text "Comma separated", and a "+ Ingredient" button; and "Post status" with a dropdown menu showing "Publish immediately". At the bottom is a large white button labeled "Create action".

Do not get overwhelmed by this step. We will break this down into pieces. You can always use this default setting and simply hit “Create Action”.

- Title
 - The title is what will be viewed in your WordPress title when the post is created. If you are familiar with writing post within WordPress, you will recognize the title.
- Body
 - The body will be your WordPress post itself. If you are familiar with writing posts within WordPress, you will recognize the body.
- Categories
 - The categories are where your posts are assigned. You can value more than one category. Simply use a comma to separate them. This action allows for groupings of topics in your WordPress site.

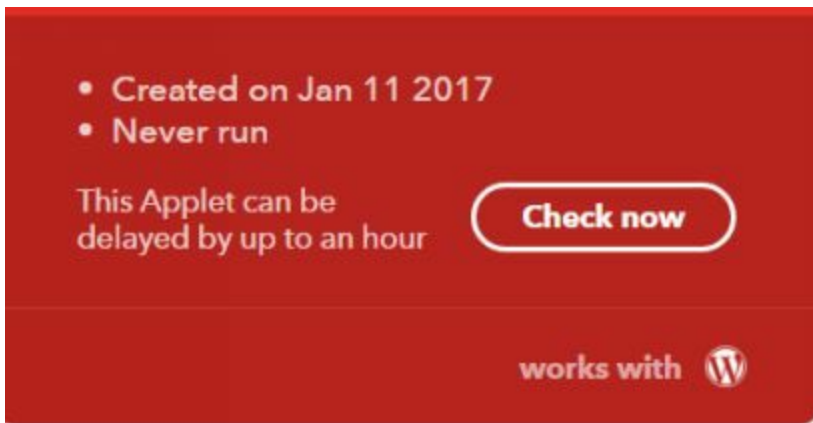
- Tags
 - Tags help describe the post in more detail. Many search engines look for tags to find the post. It is always a good idea to use a word within the post as a tag, but not required. You can value hashtags as well. Similar to categories, you can value more than one tag. Simply use commas to separate them.
- Post Status
 - This category provides us three options.
 - Publish Immediately
 - When the Applet runs, and the trigger has been valued, the WordPress post will publish immediately.
 - Save as Draft
 - When the Applet runs, and the trigger has been valued, the WordPress post will publish as a draft.
 - Publish as private
 - When the Applet runs, and the trigger has been valued, the WordPress post will publish the post as a private post.

For demonstration purposes choose “Publish Immediately” and “Create Action”.

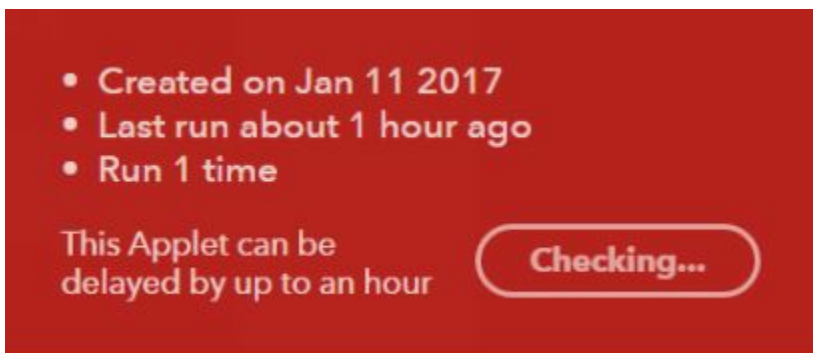


The final step is to review the Applet and select Finish. Let's leave the “Receive notifications when this Applet runs” on and choose “Finish”.

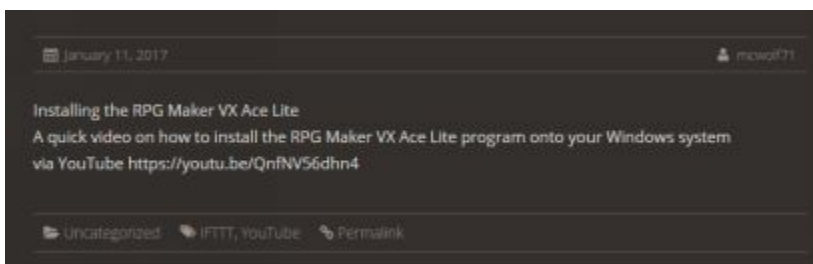
You have just created your first Applet!



IFTTT provides you “when the Applet was created”, and “last time the Applet has been ran” successfully. We can choose “Check now” to test the Applet. However, since we have not valued the trigger (Liked a YouTube video), then the Applet will not run yet. Only when the trigger has successfully been valued, will the result be provided.



When you “Check Now”, the Applet should run (check the trigger, if so, then provide the result). However, I have seen a delay between creating the Applet and it actually running. You will get the number of times the Applet runs successfully.



The default values do not provide a very interesting post. We can improve on this setup later. For now, just be aware of how the Applet is created and how it can be utilized.

Note:



This diagram is how we would visually see the data flow for the Applet we have just created. This IFTTT has automated three tasks from one action.

- 1) You go out and Like a YouTube Video
- 2) IFTTT checks for the trigger and ascertains that you have liked a video
- 3) IFTTT runs the Applet, creating a WordPress post
- 4) WordPress has updated with a new post

All these actions have been reduced to one, you liking a video. I want you to go Like a video, then choose “Check This” in your new Applet.

You can create multiple Applets with the same services. We could create three separate Applets, each having the Post status as different values.

Keep in Mind

Something else to bear in mind. While our demonstration is using the YouTube service as a trigger, and WordPress Service as our action Service, we could easily switch them.

A Service can be used as a Trigger or Event within an Applet.

Example:

You have signed into WordPress and Facebook Services. You can have the following Applets, using each of these Services.

Applet one can be set up to share new WordPress posts to Facebook.

Applet two can be set up to share Facebook posts to the WordPress site.

The Service can be used as the trigger or event (outcome).

Part 2

In this section, we will review what is currently available. The next two chapters will provide the current Services and Applets available as of January 2017.

We will get into each part of the two provisions, Services and Applets in detail.

Chapter 4 Services

The services are grouped into categories within IFTTT. The categories are diversified into forty-two separate sections. Those forty-two categories, with their services, have been broken out below.

Services, once called channels, are a connection for which IFTTT to communicate.

For our prior example, you have a connection to WordPress and a connection to YouTube. IFTTT views these as services. You use the same credentials (your login and

password) to access these connections through IFTTT.

Once connected to these services, you will use Applets to create automated tasks.



The screenshot shows the 'WordPress settings' section of the IFTTT interface. At the top is the WordPress logo (a blue square with a white 'W' inside a circle). Below it, the text 'WordPress settings' is displayed in bold, followed by a link 'View activity log'. A horizontal line separates this from the 'Account Info' section. Under 'Account Info', the following details are listed: 'URL: rpgmaker.mattcole.us', 'Connected as: mcwolf71@gmail.com', 'Password: [REDACTED]', and 'Status: active' (where 'active' is in green). At the bottom of this section is a link 'Edit connection'.

When we open the WordPress service, we see our credentials (Connected as, and Password). IFTTT tells us we are active, meaning we are connected to WordPress.



The screenshot displays two entries from the IFTTT activity log. The first entry, titled 'Applet ran' with a checkmark icon and timestamp 'Jan 11 - 1:22 PM', shows a red notification card from YouTube. The card contains the text 'If new liked video, then create a post on your WordPress blog' and 'Liked on YouTube: Installing the RPG Maker VX Ace Lite'. The second entry, titled 'Applet created' with a plus icon and timestamp 'Jan 11 - 1:14 PM', shows a similar red notification card with the text 'If new liked video, then create a post on your WordPress blog' and 'You created an Applet'.

The activity log, when selected, provides us everything that has occurred with our WordPress service. Each service has its own unique activity log.

NOTE

The activity log can be used for troubleshooting when you see issues.

I had an issue with my WordPress posting a duplicate post. I went into my activity log and was able to quickly see I had accidentally created two Applets that were posting the same post. Seeing this, I was able to stop one of those Applets.

IFTTT offers the ability to search per category, or for the service itself. Below is a list of all the available Services under the categories created by IFTTT.

- Appliances
 - GE Appliances Washer
 - GE Appliances Dryer
 - GE Appliances GeoSpring
 - GE Appliances Window AC
 - GE Appliances Dishwasher
 - GE Appliances Cooking
 - GE Appliances Refrigerator
 - Wink: Porkfolio
 - Simplehuman
 - LG Washer
 - Home Connect Oven
 - Home Connect Washer
 - WeMo Slow Cooker
 - WeMo Coffeemaker
 - Samsung Robot Vacuum
 - Samsung Washer
 - Whirlpool Washer
 - Whirlpool Refrigerator
 - Samsung Refrigerator
 - Whirlpool Dryer
 - Ooma
 - Wink: Egg Minder
 - LG Dryer
- Blinds
 - Hunter Douglas PowerView
- Blogging
 - Medium
 - Tumblr
 - Weebly
 - WordPress

- Blogger
- Bookmarking
 - Instapaper
 - Inoreader
 - Pocket
 - Diigo
 - Narro
 - Delicious
 - Pinboard
 - Bitly
- Business Tools
 - DocSend
 - Salesforce
 - Workflow
 - Buffer
 - Wolfram Data Drop
 - Sharpr
 - Jotform
 - Pruvan
 - MailChimp
 - Airtable
 - Envoy
 - Quip
 - Concur Labs
 - Stringify
- Calendars & Scheduling
 - Kyber calendars, todos & reminders
 - Date & Time
 - Google Calendar
 - U.S. Independence Day
 - Office 365 Calendar
 - Is it Christmas?
- Clocks & Displays
 - LaMetric Time
 - Wink:Nimbus
- Cloud Storage
 - OneDrive
 - Seagate Personal Cloud
 - Amazon Cloud Drive
 - OneDrive for Business
 - Box
 - Dropbox

- Verizon Cloud
 - Google Drive
- Communication
 - dondeEsta Family
 - GroupMe
 - Roger
 - Yo
 - Telegram
 - Line
 - Convo
 - TeamSnap
 - Join.me
 - Skype
 - IBM Watson Workspace
 - Flock
 - Slack
 - Fleep
 - MessageBird
 - Cisco Spark
 - indoona
- Connected Car
 - Zubie
 - Automatic Pro
 - BMW Labs
 - EVE for Tesla
 - Dash
 - Mojio
 - Automatic
 - Vinli
- Contacts
 - Office 365 Contacts
 - Google Contacts
 - IOS Contacts
- Developer Tools
 - Particle
 - ARTIK Cloud
 - AT&T M2X
 - ORBneXt
 - GitHub
 - Seeed
 - Maker
 - openHAB

- DIY Electronics
 - Flic
 - MicroBot Push for Prota
 - littleBits
 - Adafruit
 - Blink(1)
 - Bttn
 - Thinga
 - NIU
 - MESH
 - Bixi
 - Logitech POP
- Education
 - Code School
- Email
 - Email
 - Email Digest
 - Gmail
 - Office 365 Mail
- Environment Control & Monitoring
 - Samsung Room Air Conditioner
 - Netatmo Weather Station
 - Nest Thermostat
 - Leeo
 - LightwaveRF Heating
 - Tada Smart Thermostat
 - WallyHome
 - Wattio THERMIC
 - Skylark
 - Heatmiser
 - Hive Active Heating
 - Daikin Online Controller
 - Wink: Aros
 - D-Link Water Sensor
 - GE Appliances Window AC
 - IntesisHome
 - Netatmo Thermostat
 - Roost Smart Battery
 - Honeywell Total Connect Comfort
 - Wink: Spotter
 - WeMo Air Purifier
 - Tado Smart AC Control

- Samsung Air Purifier
 - Honeywell Single-zone Thermostat
- Finance & Payments
 - Donation Manger RedCloud
 - Square
 - Chain
 - Gumroad
 - Qapital
 - Stripe
 - Stocks
- Fitness & Wearables
 - Recon
 - Fitbit
 - Up by Jawbone
 - PAVLOK
 - Oticon
 - Nike+
 - Strava
 - GO
 - Misfit
 - Lifelog
 - Star Wars Force Band by Sphero
 - Coronologies
 - Google Glass
 - Withings
 - Nex
- Gardening
 - RainMachine
 - Parrot Flower Power
 - Rachio
 - GreenIQ
 - Skydrop
- Journaling & Personal Data
 - Pryv
 - Day One
- Lighting
 - LightwaveRF Lighting
 - WeMo Lighting
 - Stack Lighting
 - WeMo Light Switch
 - Emberlight
 - Lutron Caseta Wireless

- Phillips Hue
 - LIFX
 - Hive Active Light
 - Yeelight
- Location
 - iOS Location
 - Android Location
- Mobile Devices & Accessories
 - iOS Reading List
 - popSlate
 - Android Device
 - Android Battery
 - Android Wear
 - iOS Reminders
 - Button widget
 - LG Smartphone
- Music
 - SoundCloud
 - Spotify
 - Deezer
 - Musixmatch
 - Muzik
 - Musaic
- News & Information
 - NewsBlur
 - Sports Illustrated
 - InStyle
 - Product Hunt
 - People
 - Feedly
 - ESPN
 - The New York Times
 - NPR
 - Space
 - IFTTT
 - Sunlight Foundation
 - Time
 - Entertainment Weekly
 - Trusted Reviews
 - AppZapp
 - Digg
 - Wikipedia

- Genius
 - Feed
 - Sotheby's
- Notes
 - OneNote
 - Evernote
 - Note Widget
 - Nimbus Note
- Notifications
 - Notifications
 - Pushover
 - Instapush
 - Pushbullet
 - Phone Call
 - Boxcar 2
 - Android SMS
 - Nightingale
 - Pushalot
 - Android Phone Call
 - SMS
- Pet Trackers
 - Whistle
- Photo & Video
 - iOS Photos
 - Android Photos
 - Vimeo
 - Camera widget
 - Dailymotion
 - Narrative
 - Stockimo
 - 500px
 - Printhug
 - Giphy
 - Flickr
 - YouTube
 - Keenai
- Power Monitoring & Management
 - LightwaveRF Power
 - Wink: Pivot Power Genius
 - myStrom
 - WeMo Switch
 - Smappee

- WIFIPUG
 - Neurio
 - WeMo Insight Switch
 - D-Link Smart Plug
 - Wattio POD
- Printers
 - HP Print
- Security & Monitoring Systems
 - Myfox Security
 - Netatmo Security
 - August
 - Nest Cam
 - Manything
 - Oco Camera
 - Beseye
 - D-Link Motion System
 - Abode
 - Scout Alarm
 - Ring
 - Garageio
 - Homeboy
 - Piper
 - GetSafe
 - Withings Home
 - WeMo Motion
 - RemoteLync
 - Komfy Switch with Camera
 - HomeControl Flex
 - iSecurity+
 - iSmartAlarm
 - Arlo
 - Danalock
- Shopping
 - Fiverr
 - Home Depot
 - eBay
 - Classifieds
 - Best Buy
 - Semantics3
 - Tesco
 - Boxoh Package Tracking
 - ShopYourWay

- Slice
- Smart Hubs & Systems
 - Almond
 - Bang & Olufsen's BeoLink Gateway
 - nomos
 - Futurehome
 - SkylinkNet
 - Sen.se Mother
 - Greenwave Systems
 - Energenie Mi|Home
 - Home8
 - Wattio GATE
 - Moni.ai
 - Lif360
 - Qblinks Qmote
 - Prota
 - Amazon Alexa (US, UK, only)
 - Harmony
 - Telia Zone
 - Homey
 - LightwaveRF Events
 - HomeSeer
 - microbes
 - Ubi
 - WeMo Maker
 - Wink: Shortcuts
- Social Networks
 - Ello
 - Whaller
 - Sina Weibo
 - Reddit
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - Foursquare
 - Instawell
 - Facebook
 - Linkedin
 - Facebook Pages
 - Pinterest
- Survey Tools
 - SurveyMonkey
- Tags & Beacons

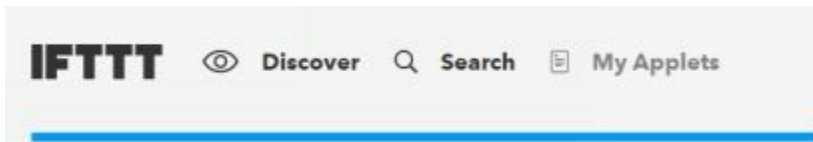
- XY Findables
 - SIGNUL Beacon
 - Ticatag
 - Pebblebee
- Task Management & To-Dos
 - FollowUp.cc
 - Toodledo
 - Kyber calendars, todos & reminders
 - MeisterTask
 - Todoist
 - Beeminder
 - Trello
- Television & Cable
 - Comcast Labs
- Time Management & Tracking
 - RescueTime
 - Harvest
 - Time Tracker
 - QualityTime
- Travel
 - Voyages-sncf
- Weather
 - Weather Underground
 - BloomSky Weather
 - Surfline
 - Netatmo Weather Station

Chapter 5 Applets

As described before, Applets do the actual work for IFTTT. You can think of them as the dumb worker bees. They will need to be told exactly what to do. Once the Applet is created, it will repeatedly do the same process.

This process is taking a mundane task, and automating it for you. Setting up multiple Applets will lessen your work time in these mundane everyday tasks.

This chapter will focus on creating some Applets to give you an understanding how the process works. Once you have this understanding, then you can create an Applet for any Service.



On the top left portion of the IFTTT page, you can choose “My Applets” to be given your current created Applets. This list provides those Applets in use or currently turned off.

We only have one created so far.



The green ON indicates this Applet is currently up and running as well as what services the Applet is working with.

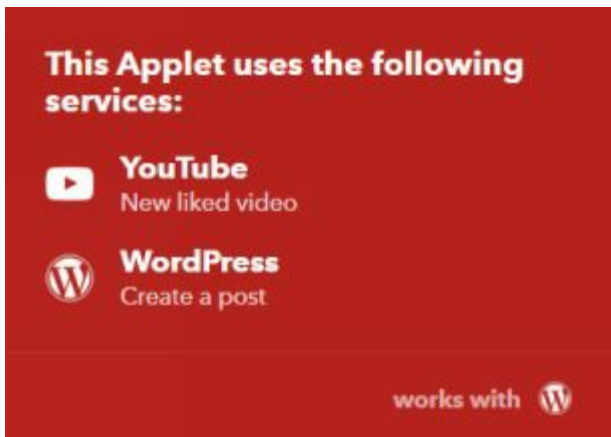


Just like our services, we can view the activity for each Applet. The activity log will provide us everything that has occurred with the Applet; including, but not limited to, any errors, run times, stopped or started times and when it was created.



If you click on this Applet, it will expand, to provide you the following:

- A brief description of the Applet
 - “IF new liked video, then create a post on your WordPress blog.”
- Who created the Applet
 - rpgmakermc
- On or Off
 - You can turn the Applet on or off with the slide bar
- Recent run time
 - Last run Jan 11 2017
- How many times the Applet has ran
 - So far this Applet has ran one time
- The ability to check now.
 - This will manually run the Applet. The run time for Applets can take up to one hour before it's ran again. By choosing “Check Now”, you are forcing the Applet to run now. This action is used when you first create the Applet and testing it, to ensure it is doing what you expect it to do. I have seen a delay in the run, regardless of choosing “Check Now”.



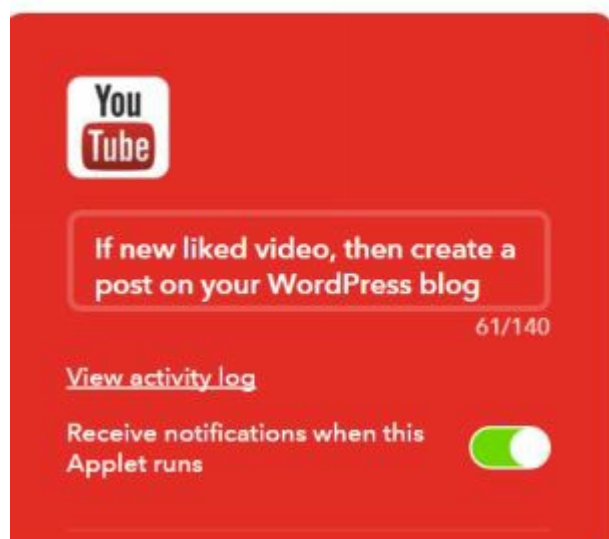
Notice the bottom left only shows this Applet works with WordPress. Clicking on that “Works with” will expand the Applet further to provide all Services it is working with.



I want to now take your attention to the gear on the top right corner. This symbol is the settings, or means to configure, for the Applet. When you click on the gear, it will open the Applet to the actual configuration.

The Configure is a bit long, so we will review each part in detail. You will start to see and recognize the same pieces in each of these different views.

Configure

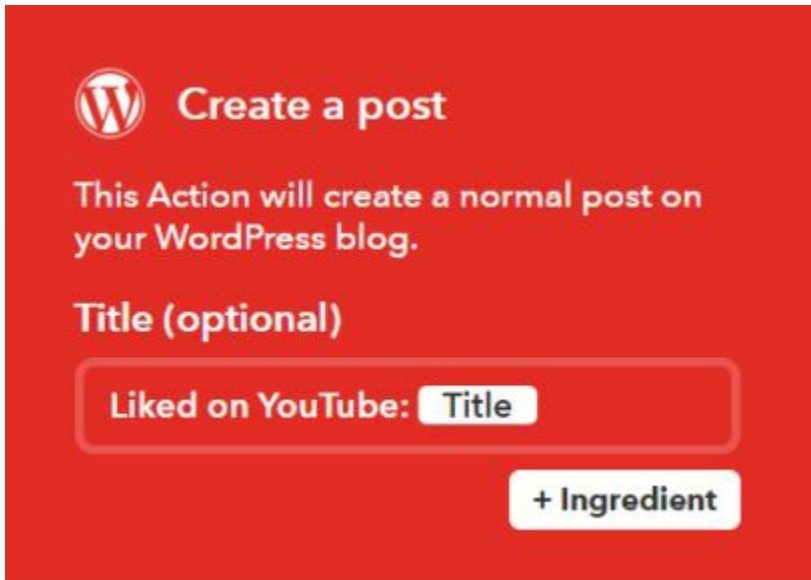


You first will see the small description. This description can be revised and edited here.

You may wish to expand on the description to help identify the Applet, as your list of created Applets will grow.

The View activity log is a link to the same Applet’s activity log we discussed before.

The “Receive Notifications” slider defaults as being turned on. When on, all the activity is captured in your activity log.



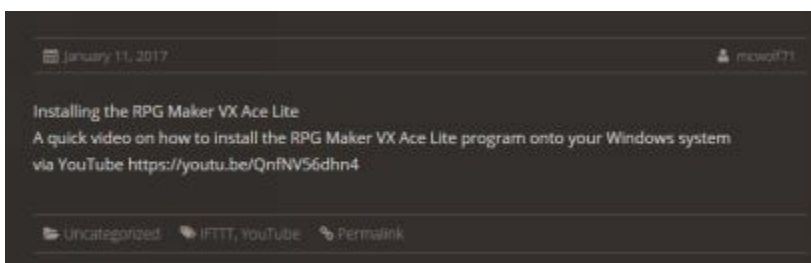
Since we are dealing with WordPress as the action, we have the option of what will be written in the Title and Body of the WordPress post.

Take a moment to click on the Title field. Doing so, you will notice the highlighted word “Title” now looks funny.

Liked on YouTube: {{Title}}

This brackets with the word Title is IFTTT language. You will see these throughout different Applets. These bracketed words are placeholders.

The {{Title}} will take the existing Title value from YouTube and place it here.



In our first example with “Chapter 3 Installing Our First Applet”, the YouTube title “Installing the RPG Maker VX Ace Lite” was transferred over to the WordPress title. This was done with the {{Title}} IFTTT code.

You can revise the Applet’s Title anyway you wish. Just keep in mind, the value will remain the same for each posting.



The + Ingredient is an enhancement for IFTTT. When selected, you are provided a list of possible IFTTT codes allowed with this Applet. Selecting any of these will add to the Title. Each of these will be placed, where your | is located in the Title.

You will also notice each of these are the words surrounded by brackets. You could type these out, as well as select them through the + Ingredient.

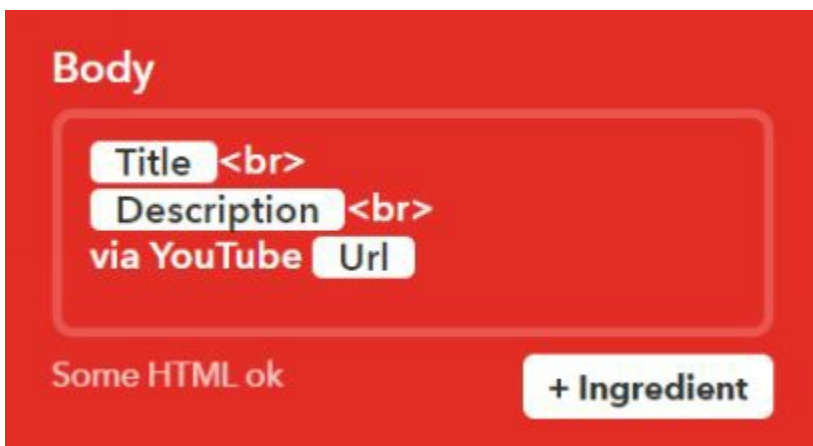
Title = {{Title}}

Description = {{Description}}

URL = {{URL}}

EmbedCode = {{EmbedCode}}

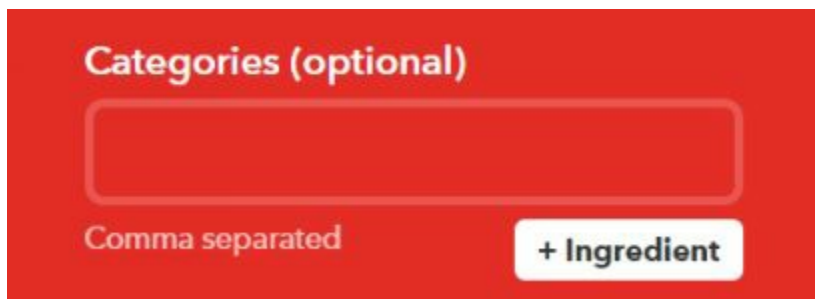
LikedAt = {{LikedAt}}



The Body works the same way as the Title. Again notice the IFTTT codes {{Title}}, {{Description}}, and {{URL}} are within the body of the post. These will bring over the existing values found in our Liked YouTube.

We are also told we can use some HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) in the post. This is why you see
 (break) being used. We could also use <P> (Paragraph), and other HTML codes.

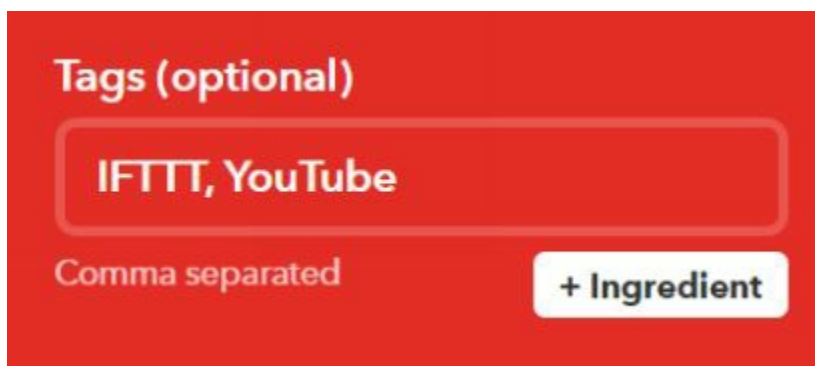
We see the same + Ingredient option here, with the same IFTTT codes available. Each Applet will have their unique IFTTT codes you can use.



Categories (optional)

Comma separated + Ingredient

The categories are self-explanatory. If you value a category in IFTTT that does not currently exist in your WordPress site, it will create that category. You can use IFTTT code in your categories field. I would not encourage you to do so.



Tags (optional)

Comma separated + Ingredient

The tags will default IFTTT as well as the other service you are working with, in the Applet. What you value here will be posted every time the Applet is ran. Keep this in mind, if you are trying to maintain SEO within your WordPress site.



Post status (optional)

Publish immediately ▼

The “Post status” has three options in this Applet.

- Publish immediate
 - When the Applet is ran, it will publish the post.
- Save as draft
 - When the Applet is ran, it will create the post in WordPress as a draft
- Publish as private
 - This option will value the post as Private on the visibility within WordPress

- 👁 Visibility: Public
- ☒ Public
- ☐ Stick this post to the front page
- ☐ Password protected
- ☐ Private

Save

Delete

Finally, we are provided the “Save” button to save our changes. We are also given the option to “Delete” the Applet if we no longer need it.

Chapter 6 Updating our First Applet

Now that we have reviewed our Applet in detail let’s expand on this Applet.

In the Body of the Applet, we will add the +Ingredient `{{EmbeddedCode}}` with some additional HTML to provide us a good post of the video we like.

In our example, we are focused on RPG Maker videos. Our Applet will reflect this. Your Applet will focus on differing subjects. Revise to what is your content. The point in this example is to show you, IFTTT can handle a lot more than given.

When using full links, IFTTT will shorten them for you. This feature comes in handy when you are using IFTTT for auto-posting Twitter.

The code below may appear messy. But I want to show you what it is doing.

```
{{EmbedCode}}<br>  
I found a new RPG Video. <a href="{{Url}}">{{Url}}</a><br>  
<p>For a good reference book on RPG Maker VX Ace Lite, check out  
my book at <a href=https://www.amazon.com/Utilizing-RPG-  
Maker-Ace-Lite-  
ebook/dp/B01MS3PUFO/ref=sr_1_sc_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1484661053  
&sr=8-1-spell&keywords=utilizing+rpg+maker  
target="blank">Amazon</a> or <a  
href="https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/693884"  
target="blank">Smashwords</a>! <p>  
You can also keep up with my projects at <a  
href="http://www.mattcole.us/now/" target="blank">Now  
Page</a>
```

The embedded code will provide us the actual YouTube video within our post, rather than a link to the video.

The URL will provide us the link to the YouTube video.

I provide both Amazon and Smashwords link to my RPG Maker book.

I also provide a personal link to my NOW page.

EmbedCode

 I found a new RPG Video. Url

 <p>For a good reference book on RPG Maker VX Ace Lite, check out my book at Amazon or Smashwords!
 You can also keep up with my projects at Now Page

Some HTML ok

+ Ingredient

Categories (optional)

Videos

I have applied this code to the body of the Applet and added “Videos” to the Categories. Now we save it, choose another YouTube video to like, and “Test” our Applet by clicking on the “Check now”.



We see our results with our updated Applet. We have our video now available on the WordPress site, as well as our links provided.

Note also, we did not change the tags, and we see the IFTTT, “YouTube” being valued.

This process is the same for all Applets to be created. Sign into your Services, then create the Applets by searching for an existing one, or one close to your desired results.

Then modify that Applet to your need and test it until it provides the desired outcome. Once you have it built, the Applet will then continue to run.

Part 3

IFTTT has expanded so greatly, currently having around 500 services in 42 categories, it would be impossible to provide examples for every service. A review of every Applet is too much for the purpose of this book.

The other issue is the required access to each Service being used.

However, we will attempt to review a few of these recipes in the following chapters.

To reduce the number of pictures, and provide more content, I will provide the overview of the Applets in a different format.



We see these steps in our example IFTTT Applet. We can reduce these down to three primary steps for every Applet.



- Trigger Service
 - This step is what will cause the Applet to run
- IFTTT Applet
 - This step is the configure portion and what will be provided by the Applet
- Event Service
 - This step is the result of the Applet

The Services can be used as a trigger or event. You are not confined to one or another.

Understanding this, we can show our recipes in the following format.

Trigger Service: YouTube

IFTTT Applet: Like a YouTube Video

Event Service: WordPress

This tells us a little bit but does not explain the full Configure (IFTTT Applet), in what is going on.

Trigger Service: YouTube

Trigger: Person likes a YouTube video

Applet Configure: Creates a post in WordPress with the YouTube video embedded, and additional links

Event Service: WordPress

Event: A new post with embedded YouTube video created for the public.

We have now expanded out to a more detail view of what is going on.

- Trigger Service
 - The Service used to initiate the Applet
- Trigger
 - What will cause the Applet to run
- Applet Configure
 - A review of what is going to occur
- Event Service
 - The Service used as the result
- Event
 - What the outcome of this Applet will provide

Chapter 7 Blogging

The first of our forty-two categories we will look at is blogging. We have already connected to the Service WordPress. Now we will sign into Blogger.

The Applet we will create is the following:

Trigger Service: WordPress

Trigger: New Post in WordPress

Applet Configure: Duplicate the post in Blogger

Event Service: Blogger

Event: The same post in WordPress is provided in Blogger

You will need a Blogger account, preferably under the same email address as you have signed into IFTTT. If you do not have one currently, you can choose the “Visit Blogger” on the top right corner, within the Blogger Service. You will then be taken to blogger.com and be allowed to create a blog.

For the purpose of this example, I have created the blog, <http://utilizingrpgmaker.blogspot.com>.

Having a blogger account, IFTTT now allows me to access the Blogger Service.

If you have more than one blog under Blogger, you will be provided the list of blogs in which to choose.

Since we have our YouTube to WordPress Applet in place, we will add on Blogger.

Choose Search on the top, and search for the following. “WordPress to Blogger”.

There is a “Post new WordPress posts to Blogger” Applet created by piljunkim. Choose that Applet by clicking it.

First, we need to turn it on, by clicking the “Turn on” slider. We are provided the Configure. For this example, we will leave the default values as-is, and choose Save.



We now have two Applets in our “My Applets” section. Let’s test this by Liking a new YouTube Video, choosing “Check now” in our first Applet, then “Check now’ in our newly



WordPress to Blogger Applet.

Refreshing our WordPress, we see our liked video has been published.



Refreshing our Blogger, we also see the new post provided. It is the same post as WordPress.

Now, when you like a YouTube video with this account, the same post will be provided to both WordPress and Blogger automatically.

Why would you want this?

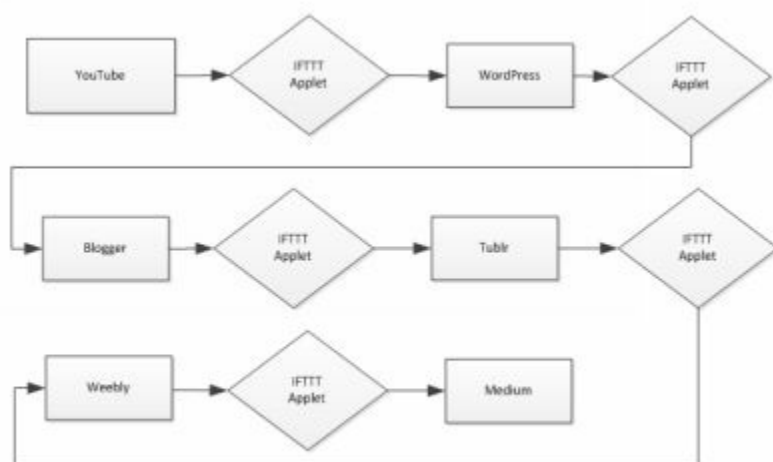
The example is to provide you the understanding while each Applet works alone, you can daisy chain them together. When you create a new post in WordPress, the WordPress to Blogger will always run and duplicate the post.

However, you can chain these Applets together to provide a more robust network of events. One action by you has resulted in a post on two platforms automatically.

You could change the WordPress to Blogger Applet to make the post different, allowing you to share content without it being verbatim.

Here is an idea.

Under the category Blogging, you also have Medium, Tumblr, and Weebly. You could sign into these Services with IFTTT, then create a daisy chain for each platform. With each Configure, change it, so the post will not be verbatim.



Now you have effectively created five unique posts with one action.

Remember, each Applet works individually. If you posted in Blogger, with the above setup, that post will be created in Tumblr, Weebly, and Medium.

Caution

I suggest if you do create a daisy chain, write it out on paper first, before jumping into IFTTT. These can become confusing, and you may adversely create duplicate and cross posts.

Chapter 8 Calendars and Schedules

This category of Services gives you two holidays, “U.S. Independence Day” and “Is it Christmas”. Personally, I use the Service “Date & Time”, a lot.

When you connect to the “Date & Time” Service, you will be prompted for your Time zone.

Date & Time

Some examples I use “Date & Time” Service are below.

This Applet is called “If every day at 03:00 pm, then post a tweet with image to @mcwolf71”

Trigger Service: Date & Time

Trigger: Time of day

Applet Configure: Give a link to my new book

Event Service: Twitter

Event: Post a tweet at a certain time of day, every day

In the above Applet setup, the Configure is set for every day at 3 p.m. with an image link and a link to Amazon for my Sight and Sound novel.

When that time of day comes, a Tweet will be sent out with the appropriate link conveying to my Twitter followers the link to the book I am currently promoting.



You can use this same idea to promote your website, Facebook Page, ECT.

Most of the Applets for “Date & Time” utilize it and another Service. Think of this as scheduling the trigger to initiate the Event Service.

This Applet is called “Get an email every day with a link to the latest Google Play Music free song”.

Trigger Service: Date & Time

Trigger: Time of day, 11 a.m.

Applet Configure: Get an email every day with a link to the latest Google Play Music free song

Event Service: Email

Event: Provides the link,

https://play.google.com/store/music/collection/deal_of_the_day daily to your email.

The above is an interesting Applet. Every day at 11 a.m. you will get an email with the https://play.google.com/store/music/collection/deal_of_the_day link. This link is the daily free song of the week.

This Applet is called “Free games Xbox & PSN”.

Trigger Service: Date & Time

Trigger: Day, 15th of the month at 7 p.m.

Applet Configure: Send text on XBOX/PSN free games

Event Service: SMS

Event: Provides a text on free games

You can value your phone number for the “SMS” service and setup “Date & Time” to send a text message.

Within the body of this Applet is the following code.

Check the Sony and Microsoft Stores for free games: <http://www.xbox.com/en-US/live/games-with-gold> <https://store.sonyentertainmentnetwork.com/#!/en-us/free-games/cid=STORE-MSF77008-PSPLUSFREEGAMES>

It sends the Xbox link <http://www.xbox.com/en-US/live/games-with-gold>, then sends the Playstation’s link, <https://store.sonyentertainmentnetwork.com/#!/en-us/free-games/cid=STORE-MSF77008-PSPLUSFREEGAMES>.

These two links show what games are currently available for free.

Chapter 9 Cloud Storage

Cloud Storage has become a tremendous asset for those working on multiple computers. Google Drive provides you 15 gigs of storage for every Gmail account. Dropbox gives you two gigs of storage for free.

This Applet is called, “Log how much time you spend at home/work/etc.”

Trigger Service: GPS

Trigger: Enter a certain location

Applet Configure: Will add a row to a spreadsheet in Google Drive when you arrive at a given location.

Event Service: Google Drive

Event: Gives a new row in spreadsheet each time it runs

It uses the current GPS, and submits a row within your Google Drive Spreadsheet named “Movement At Location”.

Fitbit

This Applet is called “Record your daily Fitbit activity in a Google Spreadsheet”.

Trigger Service: Fitbit

Trigger: Pulls from Fitbit each time it syncs

Applet Configure: Each sync will create a new row in Google Drive at the location “Fitbit/Daily Activity Summary”

Event Service: Google Drive

Event: Gives a new row in spreadsheet each time it runs

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	January 16, 2017	3142	0	2533	0	feet	1.42	miles	737	109	30	5
2												

Every time you sync your Fitbit, a new row of information will be provided in your spreadsheet.

This Applet is called “If new email in inbox labeled Email Failure, then add row to spreadsheet in Google Drive”.

Trigger Service: Email

Trigger: Email is placed with Label, “Email Failure”

Applet Configure: Create a new row in Spreadsheet, “Email Failure”

Event Service: Google Drive

Event: Gives a new row in spreadsheet each time it runs

This Applet is a bit more complex. Let’s first look at the Gmail setup then the Configure within the Applet.



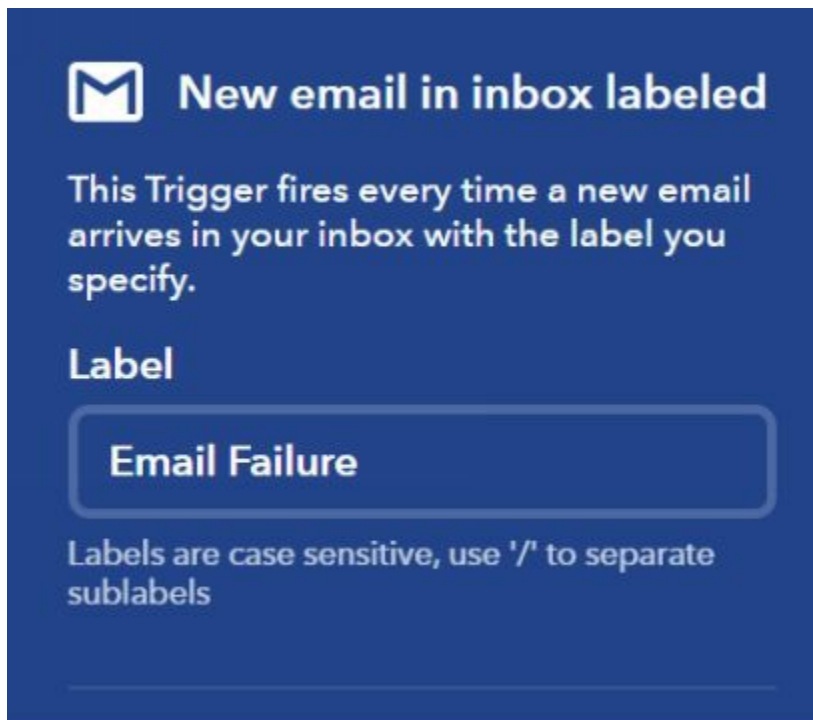
In your Gmail, choose settings then Labels. You can create the “Email Failure” label here.

Then go to the “Filters and Blocked Addresses” to create a Filter.

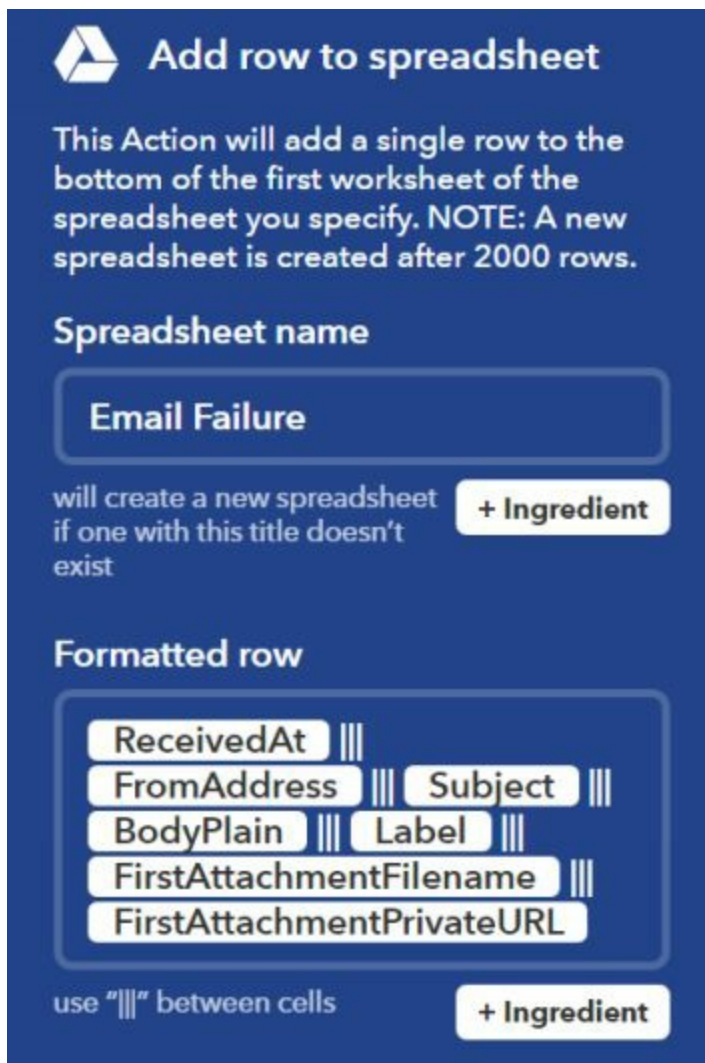
When creating the filter, you can either value the Subject with, “Delivery Status Notification (Failure)” or ‘Has the words’ with “recipient failed permanently”.

☒ Apply the label: Email Failure

Choose Continue, then apply the label, “Email Failure”. At this point, each failed email will be labeled.



Now for the Configure. The Label will be valued “Email Failure”, and IFTTT is case sensitive.



Add row to spreadsheet

This Action will add a single row to the bottom of the first worksheet of the spreadsheet you specify. NOTE: A new spreadsheet is created after 2000 rows.

Spreadsheet name

Email Failure

will create a new spreadsheet if one with this title doesn't exist **+ Ingredient**

Formatted row

ReceivedAt |||
 FromAddress ||| Subject |||
 BodyPlain ||| Label |||
 FirstAttachmentFilename |||
 FirstAttachmentPrivateURL

use "|||" between cells **+ Ingredient**

In the Spreadsheet name, I have called the spreadsheet “Email Failure”. I like to keep it simple. Notice the +Ingredients provides you all the available IFTTT codes.

Also, notice how I have my “Formatted row” valued. You need to use three pipes (|) to separate the columns within the Excel spreadsheet.

FromAddress
Subject
BodyPlain
FirstAttachmentPrivateURL
FirstAttachmentPublicURL
FirstAttachmentFilename
Label
ReceivedAt

If we open and look at the available +Ingredients, we see the selection above. I have used all the IFTTT codes offered with the Applet.

Now we can get a log of all our failed emails in a spreadsheet. This same idea can be expanded to keep a log of particular tweets, WordPress post entries, Facebook entries and ECT.

Chapter 10 Contacts

Currently, IFTTT offers three Services for the category Contacts. Those are Office 365 Contacts, Google Contacts, and iOS Contacts. This list of Services is bound to grow.

Google Contacts

The Applet called “Save new Google contacts to a Google Drive spreadsheet” provides you a backup for your Gmail contacts.

 **Add row to spreadsheet**

This Action will add a single row to the bottom of the first worksheet of the spreadsheet you specify. NOTE: A new spreadsheet is created after 2000 rows.

Spreadsheet name

Google Contacts

will create a new spreadsheet if one with this title doesn't exist

+ Ingredient

Formatted row

AddedAt

Name

PhoneNumber

Email

Address

Groups

Birthday

JobTitle

Company

Notes

use "|||" between cells

+ Ingredient

Drive folder path (optional)

IFTTT/Google Contacts

Format: some/folder/path (defaults to "IFTTT")

+ Ingredient

The Configuration is pretty straightforward. The name of the spreadsheet is “Google Contacts”. Note the value each row will pull from the newly created Gmail contacts in the “Formatted row”. This spreadsheet is located in your Google Drive, in the folder /IFTTT/Google Contacts.

AddedAt

Name

PhoneNumber

Email

Address

Groups

Birthday

JobTitle

Company

Notes

ContactUrl

If we opened the +Ingredients, we are provided a different list of available IFTTT codes for this

Applet.

This same concept can be used to back up your IOS Contacts or 365 Contacts automatically.

Chapter 11 Notes

Notes category had four current Services. I have personally used Evernote for a long while but now use OneNote extensively.

The IFTTT Applets work very similar in all these types of Services. Just as Google Drive, we can send our tweets to OneNote, via IFTTT. We can also send our iPhone screenshots, Pocket favorites, Tasks/Reminders all to OneNote by a specific Applet.

This Applet is called “Forward important emails to OneNote”.

With this Applet, you can forward your important emails to the email address trigger@recipe.ifttt.com and IFTTT will send the email onto the OneNote Notebook.

 **Create a page**

This Action will create a new page in the specified section of the specified notebook.

Notebook (optional)

Defaults to your default notebook + Ingredient

Section

+ Ingredient

Title

+ Ingredient

Body (optional)

via Email
 From:

Some HTML ok + Ingredient

You can value the name of your Notebook. The section value defaults to “IFTTT”, but can be revised.

From

Body

BodyHTML

Subject

AttachmentUrl

ReceivedAt

MessageId

Again, the +Ingredient values will be different here, due to the Applet and Service(s) in use.

If your email contains confidential information, I would not recommend this Applet due to the nature of sending emails over the Internet.

Chapter 12 Daisy-Chaining Multiple Accounts

I mentioned daisy-chaining before when we have multiple services. One action can provide different results across multiple social platforms.

In this chapter, I want to expand that concept and provide an example of daisy-chaining across multiple services with different accounts.

Let's take a real example using IFTTT.



Above are two actions, delivering similar results.

In the first path shown, the user likes a YouTube video. IFTTT post that video in WordPress, then the same video to Blogger.

The second path that is shown is when the user uploads a video to YouTube. IFTTT post that video to WordPress, then the same video to Blogger.

This is an example of daisy-chaining one action (Like or upload a YouTube video) and being provided with multiple results across differing platforms (WordPress and Blogger).

In order to daisy-chain across a Service with multiple accounts, we will need to first have two IFTTT accounts setup.

Below, I want to provide a background, then how to set up IFTTT to provide content to multiple sites you maintain. This is one example to show how to set up a specific scenario. You can take this same concept and apply it to other Services.

Background Scenario

You have two WordPress and Blogger sites you maintain. You are trying to build your website

with specific content. You wish to have the same YouTube video posted across all four sites, with one ‘Like’ of a video.

First Step

Register three separate accounts in IFTTT. For this example, we will simply say Gmail1, Gmail2, and Gmail3.

Why three accounts?

Hang with me here. We will jump through some hoops to get what we are after.

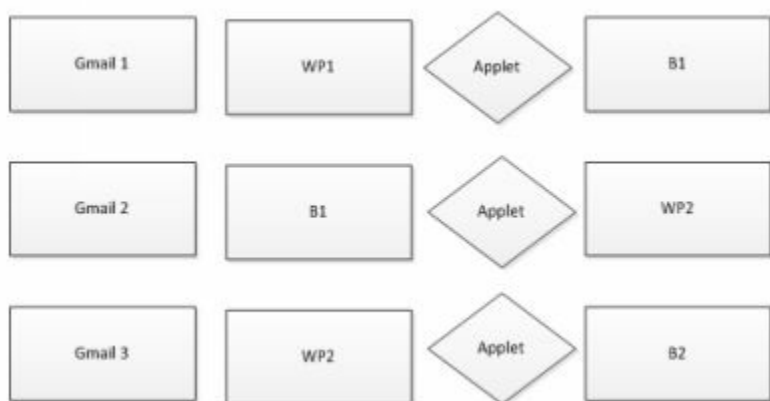
In Gmail1 account, we register the WordPress1(WP1) and Blogger1(B1) sites.

In Gmail2 account, we register WordPress2(WP2) and Blogger1(B1) sites.

In Gmail3 account, we register WordPress2(WP2) and Blogger2(B2) sites.



Visually we see the above. Each Gmail account has your WordPress and Blogger Services registered accordingly within IFTTT.

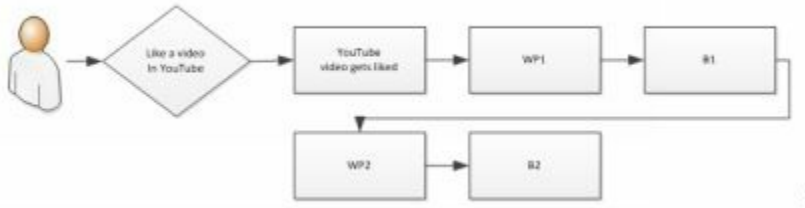


We will then create our IFTTT Applets within each, individual, email account. We still maintain a one-to-one relationship. One Gmail account to sign into IFTTT. We create one Applet to share our WordPress post to our Blogger post.

The key to this type of daisy-chaining is registering the same Blogger1 site in both Gmail 1 and 2 accounts.

We do the same thing with registering our WordPress 2 site in both Gmail 2 and Gmail 3 IFTTT

accounts.



This provides us one action to multiple Services and accounts.

You can expand this out to additional accounts. I highly recommend you first put this on paper, and keep good notes, prior to implementing it.

Dear reader.

Thank you very much for your interest and time in this book covering IFTTT (If This Then That). I hope you have enjoyed it and found it beneficial. I have enjoyed writing this book while attempting to fill in a niche.

As many authors before me, my success in writing, lay in the hands of the readers. I am truly grateful for you and happy you have found this book.

During the adventure of writing this book, I have learned feedback is critical. I would love to hear from all readers. I am asking for everyone to provide a review and reach out to me!

Sincerely,

Matt Cole

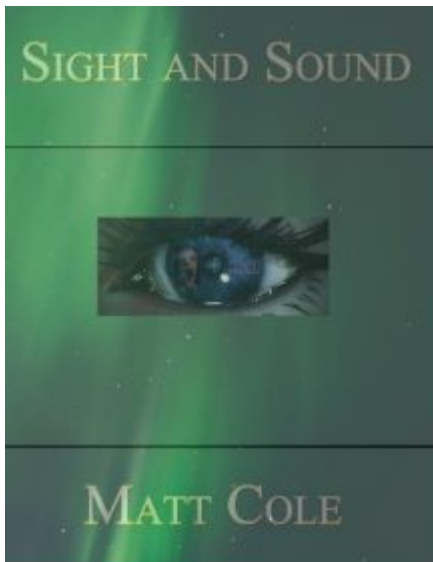
You can contact and follow me at the following links.

Twitter: [@authormattcole](https://twitter.com/authormattcole)

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Synopsis:

Jacob O'Brien won the VRD Gaming World Championship today. It's been his lifetime goal. Enhancing his personal VRD goggles beyond what the best geeks have produced. The goggles gave him more than he counted on. A new sight providing him the ability to see "others" beyond the dimensional "veil".

Jacob gains an unlikely partner, Sam, who can hear the "others". Sam has heard the "others" his whole life. Yet, he isn't prepared for what the two must go through.

Throw in Jacob's sister, who just wishes it all to go away while battling her own demons; the three must figure out what they must do to survive the "war", for control of Earth.

They have to work together to stay alive and help win this "war".

If the "war" is lost, the world belongs to the "others".

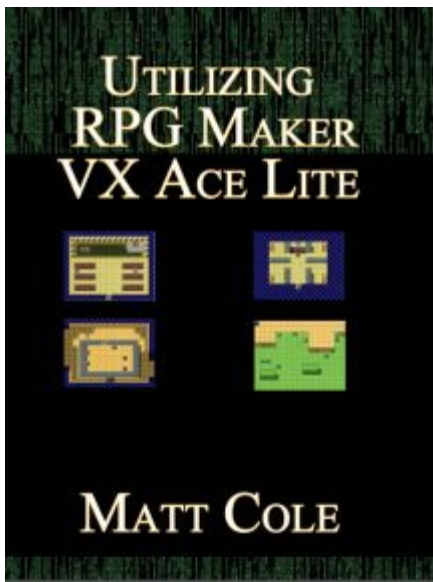
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RPG Maker VX Ace Lite. Simple Enough for a Child; Powerful Enough for a Developer RPG Maker VX Ace improves every aspect of RPG creation, making it not only the latest but also the greatest engine in the RPG Maker Series.

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