

Add Your Website to Firefox's Search Bar Using OpenSearch XML

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PC20DWALSH

By David Walsh on December 3, 2008



The ability to search right from your browser's address toolbar is a Godsend. No more extra Google or Yahoo page loads -- simply open a new tab and roll off your search terms. Of course Firefox comes with Google, Yahoo, and other search engines by default, but what if you want to offer search for YOUR website in the address bar? Using Open Search, you can create an XML file to do just that.

{Track:js} JavaScript Error Monitoring

Better Error Context. Squash More Bugs.

The XML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<OpenSearchDescription xmlns="http://a9.com/-/spec/opensearch/1.1/">
  <ShortName>David Walsh</ShortName>
  <LongName>David Walsh Blog Search</LongName>
  <Description>Search through articles posted on the David Walsh Blog</Description>
  <InputEncoding>UTF-8</InputEncoding>
  <OutputEncoding>UTF-8</OutputEncoding>
  <AdultContent>>false</AdultContent>
  <Language>en-us</Language>
  <Developer>David Walsh</Developer>
  <Contact>david@davidwalsh.name</Contact>
  <Description>Search for web-related topics like PHP, CSS, XHTML, jQuery, MooTools, and</Description>
  <Tags>php css david walsh xhtml jquery mootools programming mysql xml</Tags>
  <Attribution>Search data from David Walsh, https://davidwalsh.name/</Attribution>
  <SyndicationRight>open</SyndicationRight>
```

```
<Query role="example" searchTerms="Apple"/>
<Image height="16" width="16" type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon">https://davidwalsh.name
<Image height="64" width="64" type="image/png">https://davidwalsh.name/demo/opensearch
<Url type="text/html" template="https://davidwalsh.name/?s={searchTerms}"/>
</OpenSearchDescription>
```

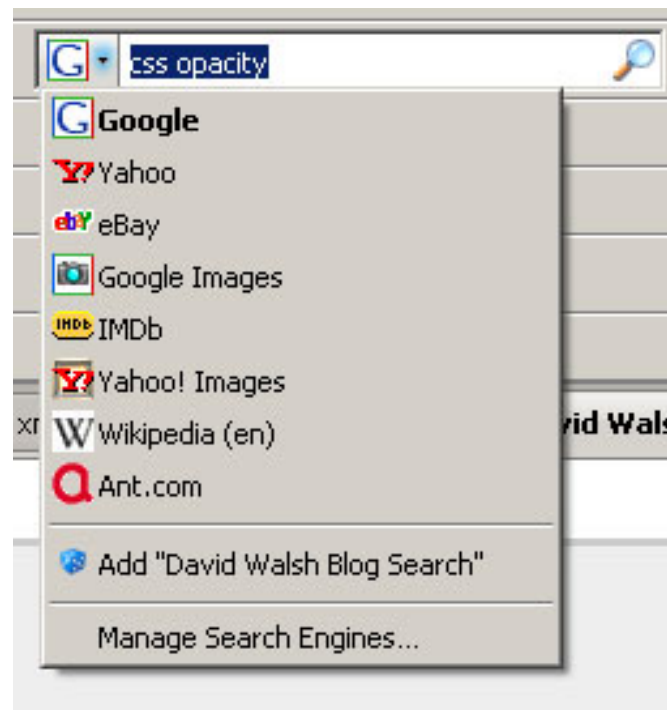
I based my Open Search XML file on Digg's since theirs is probably one of the most used. And since the Open Search file is written in XML, the code explains itself.

The XHTML

```
<link rel="search" type="application/opensearchdescription+xml" href="/opensearch.xml" ti
```

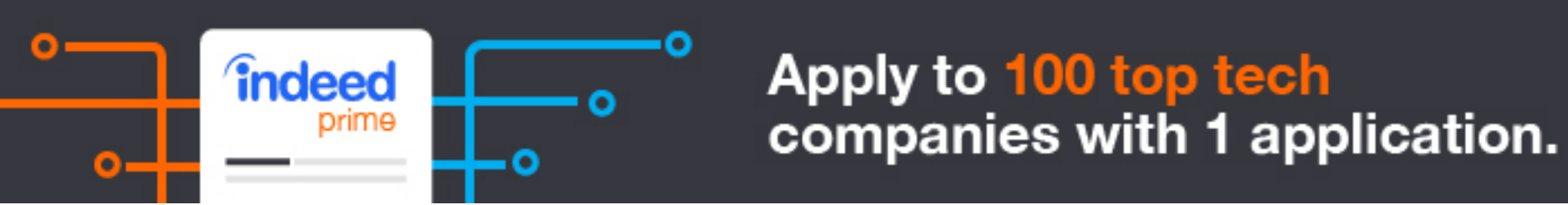
To allow each browser to sense that I have an Open Search document available, I need to add a "link" element to the header.

Adding Open Search Items to Your Browser



To add a website's Open Search ability to your browser's search engine list, click the favorite icon near your search bar. Firefox now shows you an item that says "Add 'Your Site Name Here'." Select that and now your site is available within your browser -- and with your favorite icon!

Even if you don't expect a ton of search traffic, it's another easy-to-implement website feature. Add my website to your search bar now!



Recent Features



Create Namespaced Classes with MooTools

MooTools has always gotten a bit of grief for not inherently using and standardizing namespaced-based JavaScript classes like the Dojo Toolkit does. Many developers create their classes as globals which is generally frowned up. I mostly disagree with that stance, but each to their own. In any event...

Create a CSS Flipping Animation

CSS animations are a lot of fun; the beauty of them is that through many simple properties, you can create anything from an elegant fade in to a WTF-Pixar-would-be-proud effect. One CSS effect somewhere in between is the CSS flip effect, whereby there's...

Incredible Demos



Create Spinning Rays with CSS3 Animations & JavaScript

Thomas Fuchs, creator of [script2](#) (scriptaculous' second iteration) and Zepto.js (mobile JavaScript framework), creates outstanding animated elements with JavaScript. He's a legend in his own right, and for good reason: his work has helped to inspire developers everywhere to drop Flash and opt...

Redacted Font

Back when I created client websites, one of the many things that frustrated me was the initial design handoff. It would always go like this: Work hard to incorporate client's ideas, dream up awesome design. Create said design, using Lorem Ipsum text Send initial design concept to the client...

Discussion

Benjamin Sterling



Once again, brilliant!

Johns Beharry



Oh this is just awesome I've looked into this some time ago but didn't get any success. I use iDotz.net for domain registration and would love to have a domain search like the GoDaddy one so there's (another) little project for me.

Great post

Thanks

weston



does this work for chrome also? Where you press tab and it will search the site with google?

Botanicus



Hey David, I completely **love** your blog – so many interesting posts there!

Jeff Starr



Ouch! You beat me to the punch! ;) I had a very similar article ready to go for next week on this same topic. I will probably go ahead and post it anyway just because I hate deleting drafted content. Obligatory link to *David Walsh the mind reader* to be included of course! :)

Jermayn Parker



In regards to getting it work for Chrome, I have had mixed success in getting mine to work but it does work. I used very similar code as this for a Family Friendly Search Engine I am creating at the moment and it does help a lot.

I will prob look at your script as well and see if I can improve at all. Thanks

Janko



Awesome, man!

Bleyder



Jeff, I'm impatient for read your article!!

Nathan Chancellor



I did it for my site. Thanks for the code. Convinced Chris Coyier to do it for CSS-Tricks too!

Thomas



This is great. Thanks for useful tips

Maurizio Vittoria



Very very good code!!

Thanks for Your good idea!

Yopee



Interesting code, thank you so much.

balanza



Very useful, as it even works with IE7.

Does anybody know why it doesn't for IE8?

And last but not least, David, d'you know how automatize it? I mean, i'd like to put a button in my page with something like "add my search to your browser" and it'll do it itself automatically....

David Walsh



@balanza: I'll look into that soon. Great idea.

u2013



@David Walsh

Did you ever establish the code/method to do what balanza was asking? Such as having a link or button be cickable ato cause the adding of the search engine to the visitors browser? Most likely with a question indicating if they want to continue or indicating what is about to happen.

Ken



Brilliant, thanks alot for this :)

Peter



I tried to modify the above code to work with my Google Custom Search and it tells me there is a problem with the search providers information. Can anyone help?

Goob



Fantastic feature, thank you very much for posting this! Quite easy to implement on any WordPress site.

Peter



I finally solved the error message for my Hagggle Toolbar hagoole.com.au by fixing the last line...

```
” Url type=”text/html” template=”http://hagoole.com.au/index.html?cx=partner-pub-1726639534363061%3Akz4kws3tfqi&cof=FORID%3A9&q={searchTerms}&sa=Search”/ ”
```

Thanks for the code Dave.

Great stuff!

Eric



Check this implementation of OpenSearch,

<http://imagery.gettyimages.com/searchbar/index.html>

pretty nice banner and video. The OpenSearch.XML code looks similiar to this great code David provided here.

Kapoue



Vraiment top comme fonction. Très utile pour nos sites sous wordpress

satrap



Thank you so much for writing this great article. i enjoyed reading it. it will certainly add to my limited info, and help me do better with my blog everything related to it. thanks again.

Anthony



You have the tag twice.

Anthony



That is, you have the Description tag twice.

flxa



I found that having 2 parameters was causing me problems on a site that I attempted to implement it on.

e.g. `?action=refinesearch&keywords={searchTerms}`

I could not get it to work like that and viewing the xml file directly in firefox told me that I had a parse error in the Url tag. So I changed the way the site searched to only require 1 parameter (keywords) and it's all good. It works great in Firefox (obviously). Slightly harder to find in IE8 but it works the same, probably works in IE9 but it decided to be a shit today and crash before I could open the site (time for a restart). Chrome works too but it's difficult to add [go to the site then options>default search>manage>find it under other search engines>select>click "make default"] it becomes your default then you can pick and choose from it. Safari is a no go zone for open search by the looks of things.

flxa



This function from the getty images site works great:

```
function addOpenSearch(url) {  
    try { window.external.AddSearchProvider(url); }  
    catch (e) {  
        alert("You need to use Internet Explorer (7.0 or later) or Firefox (2.0 or la  
    }  
}
```

thanks @eric

u2013



@flxa Could you please elaborate on how I can use the code you indicated. Where does it get placed? Do I put it in between a in the html code? Does it need other code, and what is that other code please?

I reference the following code you posted above:

```
function addOpenSearch(url) {  
    try { window.external.AddSearchProvider(url); }  
    catch (e) {  
        alert("You need to use Internet Explorer (7.0 or later) or Firefox (2.0 or  
    }  
}
```

u2013



That was suppose to post, Do I put it in between the script tags.

esaf swilm



Island Devils joined another world to us and live the adventure

Gnanes



Thanks. This code still works. :)

Panique



Dude! When did you make this browser screenshot ? Back in 1999 ? ;) Seriously, why does your firefox look like the Windows 2000 GUI ?

Timothy Edwards



Surfing with Firefox, I have a plugin (“add to search bar”) that will craft the xml file and place it in the proper folder, for any site with a reasonable site-search. I add searches the way others add bookmarks! If I wanted to add the xml to my website (one has been there for years already), I could just edit a copy from my Firefox searchplugins folder to the site, and add the link. ‘Course if _you_ have a site, you have a slew of browsers for real site validation – just use your Firefox for this task too, whatever you normally use for surfing.

anybody know what the edits are to include qualifiers in the search terms? Gutenberg.org has “a.jones” as a search for books _by_ Jones as auther, and “t.jones” for books with “Jones” in the title... how do I edit the search terms string “{search terms}” so that “a.” is always pre-pended to what I type?

Alan James



What should the XML file be called and where should it be put?

David Walsh



It should be called `opensearch.xml` and placed at root.

Ramiz Syed



Very use full topic,
can used google AdSence ads in this, can redistribute this code, we can make money to
put ads on this and install on client system.

Wrap your code in `<pre class="{language}"></pre>` tags, link to a GitHub gist, JSFiddle fiddle, or CodePen pen to embed!

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Use Code Editor