Saba University

Job Aid: Working with MicroApps

Core Concepts

What is a MicroApp?

MicroApps are a type of small REST applications that were designed to be integrated with other applications. When they are integrated into other applications they can change the entire way one can make use of that application.

What is the difference between a MicroApp and other REST applications?

The difference between MicroApps and the other REST applications is mainly the fact that unlike the REST applications, MicroApps cannot be used on their own. MicroApps cannot be used without being part of another application.

Can I create a MicroApp?

A working knowledge of some programming languages is necessary, along with the best uses for each different language is required to create MicroApps. Some languages are built better for Internet only MicroApps, such as Java or PHP. Languages like Python and Ruby are better suited to desktop MicroApps. The choice of language will depend on what kind of resources or prerequisite programs the application will be based on.

What is a Gadget?

Alternatively referred to as a gadget, a widget is an additional feature or extension to a program, operating system GUI, or web page, which enables additional features; improving the user's overall experience.

A widget or gadget can add a wide variety of functionality. Widgets and gadgets are often made available through the website that supports them.
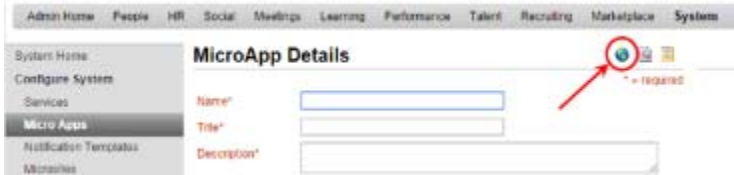
Process

Process flow

Access MicroApp Page → Create MicroApp → Localize MicroApp (optional)

Process steps

Step	Action
1. Access MicroApp Page	• Click the app menu ▦ in the upper-left corner of your browser window. • Choose the **Admin** tile. ⮎ *Note: The tiles you see in your app launcher depend on your role and security privileges.* Or • Click the **Admin** tab in the main navigation bar.

Step	Action
	- The **Admin Homepage** displays. - Click the **System Admin** link. The **System Home** page with the **Top System Activities** page displays. - In the left navigation pane, click **Configure System**. The **Services** sub-menu is automatically selected. - Click the **MicroApps** sub-menu. The **MicroApp** page displays.
2. Create MicroApp	- Click the **New MicroApp** link. The **New MicroApp** page opens. - Enter the information in the fields (* denotes required field): **Name***: A unique name that identifies this MicroApp internally in the searchable list. **Title***: Title that is displayed for users in the title bar of the MicroApp. **Description***: Description of the MicroApp for users. **Gadget URL***: The URL to the gadget specification XML file for the MicroApp. The XML should align with OpenSocial standards. **File**: You can upload the gadget xml, host it in a directory under Saba Cloud and auto generate the URL for the gadget xml. This removes the need for the customers to host the gadget xml in their data center. This also provides the ability to access the gadget directly from Saba Cloud. ⮑ *NOTE: You can either upload a gadget xml file or provide the gadget URL.* After you update the microapp configuration with a new gadget xml file, the system replaces the existing xml file with the new one. If the microapps earlier had an URL outside of Saba, the new URL will now be the uploaded file name. The name of the file that will be uploaded must be alphanumeric and should not include any **special** characters. **Gadget** Type*: Defines where the MicroApp is displayed for users. You can choose from: **Home view** - (the MicroApp appears in the Home page) **Profile view** - (the MicroApp appears in the Me tab, at the bottom of the left navigation menu. **Params To Gadget**: Filtering parameters for requesting and displaying specific data in the MicroApp. - Click the **Save** button. The application saves your changes.

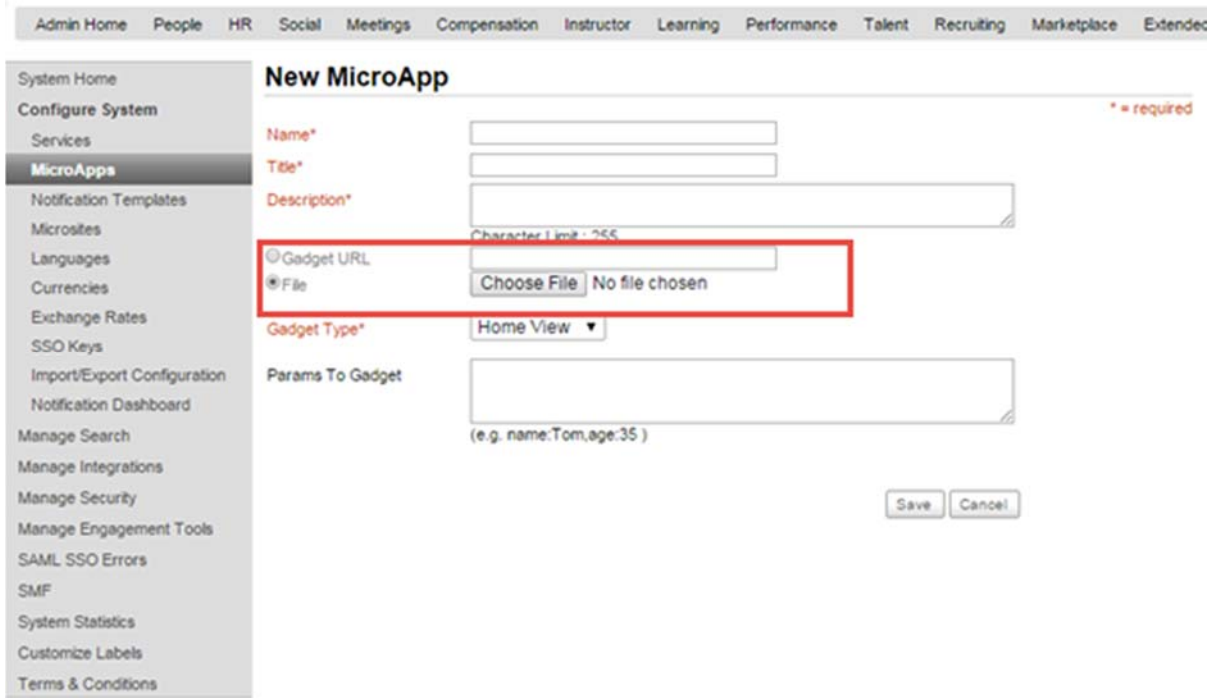| Step	Action
3. Localize MicroApp (optional)	• Search for a MicroApp you wish to localize. • In the search results, click the name of the MicroApp. • In the **MicroApp Details** page, click the **Localize** icon in the top-right corner. • In the **Translate MicroApp** pop-up window, select the desired locale. • Enter the locale specific values for the **Name**, **Title**, and **Description** fields. • Click **Save**.

Additional Information

Can I upload a gadget xml file instead of specifying a gadget URL for a microapp?

Yes, you can upload a gadget xml file instead of specifying a gadget URL for a microapp.

The system administrator can upload the gadget xml, host it in a directory under Saba Cloud and auto generate the URL for the gadget xml. This removes the need for the customers to host the gadget xml in their data center. This also provides the ability to access the gadget directly from Saba Cloud.

The existing **New MicroApp** page (**System** > **Configure System** > **MicroApps** > **New MicroApp**), allows uploading the gadget xml file.
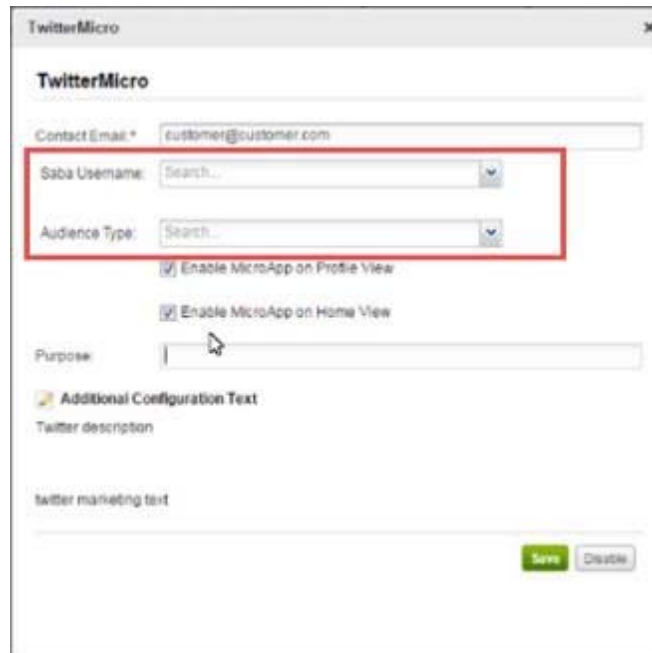
➲ *NOTE: You can either upload a gadget xml file or provide the gadget URL. The name of the file that will be uploaded must be alphanumeric and should not include any special characters.*

After you update the microapp configuration with a new gadget xml file, the system replaces the existing xml file with the new one. If the microapps earlier had an URL outside of Saba, the new URL will now be the uploaded file name.

Can I use a picker to select username and audience type while configuring a MicroApp?

While configuring a MicroApp (under **Marketplace** > **MicroApps**), the user can select the appropriate username and the audience type for a MicroApp.
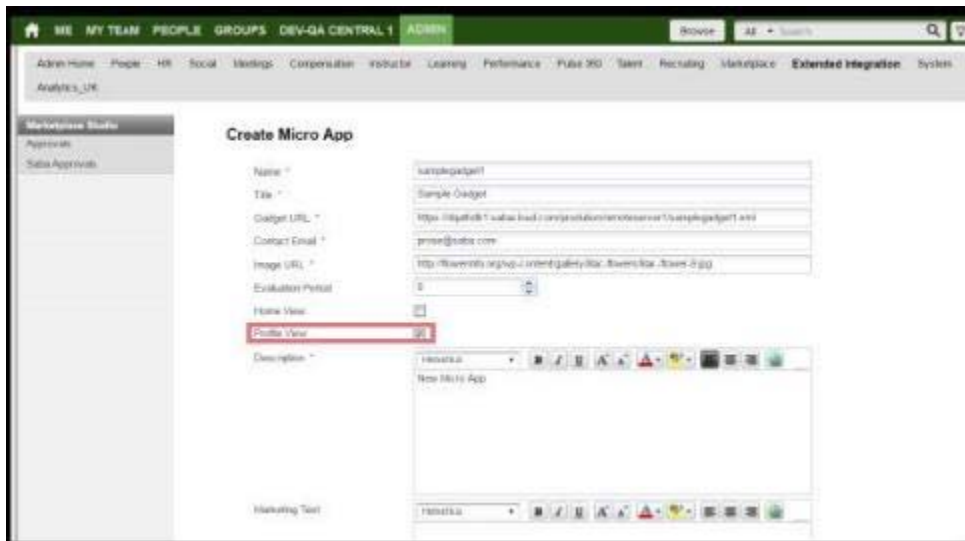
Can partner administrators choose which view the microapp should be available in Saba home page/profile page?

When creating the microapp, the admin can choose either the **Home View** option or the **Profile View** option or both and based on these selections, the microapp will show on the Home page, Profile page or both pages of the user.

To create a new Micro App:

1. Navigate to: **Admin** > **Extended Integration** > **Marketplace Studio** > **Integration**
2. Click on **New Micro App** link.
3. In the **Create Micro App** screen enter the details for all required fields and select either the **Home View** or the **Profile View**.
4. Click on **Save**.

Since you selected the **Profile View** option, the microapp will be available on the **Profile page** of the User. If, at a later time you want to include Home View also, you can click the Edit button on the corresponding MicroApp listing from the Integration page and select both options.

References

- Saba Cloud Information Center
- http://sabacloud.com/support/index.php/Saba_Admin:Home