

RSS-based applications for the Yahoo! Application Platform (YAP)

Preamble

rss_yap_app is a simple framework for generating a [Yahoo! Application Platform](#) application from an RSS feed. This document is intended to describe usage of this project for two common scenarios:

1. “Porting” an app based on a [Yahoo! Front Door XSL-based template](#) to YAP
2. Creating a new YAP app based on a standard RSS feed

rss_yap_app operates by consuming a given feed, parsing the feed data using PHP’s SimpleXML library, and passing the parsed data to a PHP/HTML/CSS template for rendering. In an app’s description, the location of the framework is given as the base URL for the app, and the output from the template is returned back to YAP for display. Detailed installation and usage instructions are given below.

Prerequisites

- PHP 5.2 with the following enabled:
 - [SimpleXML](#)
 - The [short form](#) of PHP’s open tags
- A server that can serve content to YAP, i.e., a server accessible via a valid url and capable of receiving POST requests.

Steps for creating an RSS-based application for YAP

1. Obtain a local copy of this project:
 - Click the *download* button on the [Github project page](#), pick a compression, and save the file.
 - OR
 - Clone this repository: `git clone git://github.com/ydn/rss_yap_app.git`
2. Upload the project to your server
3. Create a new YAP application using the [YDN dashboard](#)
4. Set the *Application URL* of the app to point to the location of the *index.php* file in the project directory on your server, e.g. `http://example.com/rss_yap_app/index.php`
5. Set the *Small View Default Content* to:

```
<style>
#loading {
    font-size: 12px;
    font-family: Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    margin: 10px;

    <!-- the standard yap loading animation -->
    background-image: url(http://l.yimg.com/a/i/ww/met/anim\_loading\_sm_082208.gif);

    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    padding-left: 30px;
    height: 16px;
}
```

```
</style>
```

```
<!-- replace the element 'loading' w/ the content returned from the yml:include call -->
<yml:include replace="loading">
  <div id="loading">Loading ...</div>
</yml:include>
```

6. Click the “Preview” button to see your app

Customization

Using a standard RSS 2.0 feed

1. Open *index.php* in a text editor
2. Set the `$feedUrl` variable at the top of the file to point to the feed of your choice, e.g. <http://sports.yahoo.com/sow/rss.xml>.
3. Set the `$templatePath` variable to “templates/standard.php”
4. Save the file and reload the app
5. Note: As is, *standard.php* only handles RSS 2.0 syntax. Some feeds may require special handling.

Defining special handling for a feed

If you are “porting” an existing Yahoo! Front Doors template app, or if your feed uses custom xml namespaces, you may need to create a custom template to render the feed. Here are instructions for doing so:

1. Copy *templates/basic.php* as another file. For this example we’ll call the file *special.php* and save it in the *templates* directory.
2. Open *special.php* in a text editor.
3. Templates use standard PHP [alternate syntax](#). Edit the preprocessing, styling, and markup to match the structure of your feed.
4. Edit *index.php*:
 - Set the `feedUrl` variable to point to the new feed.
 - Set the `templatePath` variable to point to *templates/special.php*.
5. Save the file back to your server.
6. Refresh your app to see the changes.

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- License: code licensed under the BSD License. See [license.markdown](#)
- Package: http://github.com/ydn/rss_yap_app