

Yahoo! Application Platform (YAP) RSS application generator

A simple framework for generating a Yahoo! Application Platform application from an RSS feed

Preamble

This document is intended to address two typical use cases:

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

Installation and usage instructions follow, but in brief, this framework 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.

Installation

1. Obtain the source code:
 - Click the *download* button on the Github project page (github.com/erikeldridge/rssyapgen), pick a compression, and save the file.
 - OR
 - Clone this repository: `git clone git://github.com/erikeldridge/rssyapgen.git`
2. Upload the project to a server accessible by YAP

Usage

Requirements

- PHP 5.2 with SimpleXML

Initialization

1. Create a new YAP application
2. Set the *Application URL* of the app to point to the location of this directory on your server
3. Set the *Small View Default Content* to:

```
<style>
#loading {
    font-size: 12px;
    font-family: Verdana, Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
    margin: 10px;
    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>
<yaml:include replace="loading" params="index.php">
    <div id="loading">Loading ...</div>
</yaml:include>
```

4. Click the “Save” button
5. Click the “Preview” button to see your app

Customization

Setting the feed url

1. Open `index.php` in a text editor
2. Set the `$feedUrl` variable at the top of the file to point to the RSS 2.0 feed of your choice, e.g.
`http://sports.yahoo.com/sow/rss.xml`
3. Save the file and reload the app
4. Note: by default, `rssyapgen` only handles RSS 2.0 syntax. Some feeds may require special handling.

Defining special handling for a feed

If your feed uses custom xml namespaces, such as “y:navigation”, “y:search”, etc., you’ll need to create a custom template to render the feed as follows:

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](#) and short tags. Edit the styling, markup, and templating 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.

License

- Copyright: (c) 2009, Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.
- License: code licensed under the BSD License. See [license.markdown](#)
- Package: <http://github.com/erikeldridge/rssyapgen>