

Public Action: Content Widgets

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Use **Public Action's Content Widgets** (aka "no code") to display dynamic lists of discussions and comments directly on your website pages to increase Public Action traffic! There are two types of Content Widgets:

- Question/Comment Display Widget
- Discussion List Widget

Question/Comment Display Widget

Use this widget to display the question and comments from a specific discussion on any page of your website. It's like taking a live conversation out of Public Action and putting it anywhere you'd like! Comments automatically appear in the widget as users post them. Users can also join the discussion directly from the remote widget by *Clicking* on the **View the Discussion** button.

To Create a Question/Comment Display Widget:

- *Log in* to **Public Action Administration Tools**.
<http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/WXYZ/admin/login.page>
(replace WXYZ with your station or show name)
- *Click* on **Manage Discussions** and find a discussion in the list you want to create a widget from (the discussion you want to turn into a widget must already exist).
- *Click* on the **Green-Star icon** next to the discussion. This leads to the **Wizard**.
- *Select* applicable options:
 - *Check* **Show full discussion** to display the **article fields** at the top of the wizard. Leave *unchecked* to display the question and comments only.
 - *Select* the **Number of Comments to display** with the presented drop-down menu.
 - Organize comments **chronologically, in reverse-chronological** order, or by **rank** with the **Sort Order** drop-down menu. Chronological order lists from oldest to newest. Select **reverse-chronological** to have the most recent comments appear. **Rank** sorting uses the user-rating **star feature** to sort the list, with the highest average rated comment appearing at the top of the list.
- *Click* **Submit** to generate the HTML code. The code displays at the bottom of your page.
- *Copy* and *Paste* the HTML **code** into your web page.
- To change the default look and feel ("skin") of your wizard, see the **Style Sheet How-to** at the end of this document.

February 7, 2008

Fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan (3:40)

Anchor Marco Werman speaks with Thomas Gouttierre, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at the University of Nebraska, Omaha, about the challenges facing Allied forces in their fight against the Taliban.



RECENT COMMENTS:

Re: **Have U.S. efforts in Afghanistan been a failure?** Added: 02/09/2008 3:43:22 PM

They have not been a failure, but they have been grossly underfunded, undermanned, and the war itself has taken a backseat to Iraq. Let us not forget the terrorists who attacked us were based in and supported by the Taliban, not Saddam Hussein. Bush's illegal war in Iraq has cost our efforts in Afghanistan greatly. If the people of Afghanistan held democratic elections, would they elect the Taliban to lead them, just like the Palestinians did with Hamas? Our principle goal in Afghanistan was to liberate it from the extremist theocracy it was under and replace it with a unified, democratic society. But the materials and manpower are being exploited in Iraq, not used in Afghanistan.


Discussion List Widget (aka a "Bucket")


Use this widget to display lists of discussions remotely on your website. As new discussions are created, they automatically appear in your list. Create lists of different types and lengths. The discussion titles in your list act as direct links, so users can join the discussions by simply clicking on the discussion name.


To Create a Discussion List Widget:

- *Log in* to **Public Action Administration Tools**.
<http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/WXYZ/admin/login.page>
(replace WXYZ with your station or show name)
- *Click* on **Manage Buckets** and locate a bucket in your list you want to create a widget from.
- If you don't have a bucket created for your list, *click* on **Create New Bucket**
 - *Choose* a **Bucket Name** – this name will appear at the top of the widget
 - *Choose* a **Bucket Type** – for widgets, you should select **Most Active**
 - *Select* what order you want the discussions to appear the **Discussion Sorting** drop-down – for widgets, you should select **Most Active**
 - *Enter* a **number** for how many discussions should appear in your list (we recommend 3 to 5)
- *Click* on the **Green-Star icon** next to the discussion. This leads to the **Wizard**.
- *Select* applicable options:
 - *Check* **Show full discussion** to display the **article fields** at the top of the wizard. Leave *unchecked* to display the question and comments only.
 - *Select* the **Number of Comments to display** with the presented drop-down menu.
 - Organize comments **chronologically, in reverse-chronological** order, or by **rank** with the **Sort Order** drop-down menu. Chronological order lists from oldest to newest. *Select* **reverse-chronological** to have the most recent comments appear. **Rank** sorting uses the user-rating **star feature** to sort the list, with the highest average rated comment appearing at the top of the list.
- *Click* **Submit** to generate the HTML code. The code displays at the bottom of your page.
- *Copy* and *Paste* the HTML **code** into your web page.
- To change the default look and feel ("skin") of your wizard, see the **Style Sheet How-to** at the end of this document.

Active Discussions

 StoryCorps comes to Springfield: Everyone has a story to tell

 Cultural rebuilding from the heart of New Orleans

 The latest exhibit at the MFA Boston has people talking. Are the 2006 Paris fashions worthy of the MFA?



To Change the Look and Feel of Your Question/Comment Widget:

To change the look of the question/comment widget, you'll need to modify the CSS elements for this widget. Using styles, you can change the color, font, placement/layout, and even the visibility of each content element. You can do this in one of two ways:

- 1) If you want to make universal changes that apply to every Q/C widget on your site, then come up with suggested changes to the remote style sheet (e.g. http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld_nc.css) and send them to Public Interactive, where we'll apply the changes on our servers
- 2) If you want to make specific, local changes to the look of your Q/C widget, then pull down the remote style sheet and place it locally. Make changes locally in this version of the style sheet. When you do this, you'll also need to change the HTML copy-and-pasted from Public Action so that it points to your new, local version of the style sheet. Here's an example of what PRI's "The World" might create for a locally-pointing HTML:

```
<link href="http://theworld.org/theworld_nc.css" type="text/css"
rel="stylesheet">
<script
src="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/paNoCode/full/
19202/47609/3/2.page">
</script>
```

Keep in mind that the style changes you make locally only work for widgets that point to this local style sheet. By default, your widgets will always point to the remote style sheet on the Public Action servers.

It can be tricky to determine which style elements to change in order to affect the look and feel of the widget.. To make it easier, we've included example HTML that the widget creates along with the relevant parts of the widget style sheet.

Here's an example discussion that we'll be using:

<http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/posts/list/47609.page>

Here's the HTML snippet created by the admin wizard (settings = full, 3 comments, reverse chron):

```
<link
href="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld
_nc.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet">
<script
src="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/paNoCode/full/19202/
47609/3/2.page">
</script>
```

Here's the HTML that this widget displays when you put it on your pages:

(note: only first comment included for simplicity)

```
<div id="pan_container">
  <div id="pan_header">
    <div id="pan_stationAsksImage">
    </div>
    <div class="pan_pad">
      <div id="nocodeBridge">
        <div id=bLink class=bridge>
          <a
href="http://www.theworld.org/?q=no
```



```
de/10548" id=bLink
class=bridge>Read the whole
story</a>
</div>
<div id=bHeadline class=bridge>
    Climate change strategy
</div>
<div id=bTeaser class=bridge>
    Last year President Bush urged
    countries to agree on long-term
    goals for greenhouse gas
    emissions. Also in 2007 China
    unveiled its first national plan
    for climate change and just like
    the US, China says tackling the
    problem should not come at the
    expense of economic development.
</div>
</div>
<div id="pan_tq">
    <div id="pan_content_title">
        Is the United States doing enough
        about climate change?
    </div>
    <div id="pan_content_question">
        Should there be more
        international co-operation on
        this issue? How important a
        factor is economic growth when it
        comes to environmental issues?
        <br/> <br/> <br/> <br/>
    </div>
    <a id="pan_replyImage"
    href=\'http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/posts/list/47609.page\' ></a>
</div>
</div>
</div>
```

Here are the relevant parts of the style sheet that affects this HTML:

(the remote style sheet for this account is found here:

http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld_nc.css)

```
#pan_container {
    width: 435px;
    margin-top: 40px;
    padding-top: 0px;
    background-color: #FFF;
    font-size: 10px;
    color: #000;
    font-family: Verdana;
}
```



```
#pan_container[id] {  
  
}  
  
#pan_header, #pan_messages {margin: 0px 35px;}  
.pan_pad {padding: 5px;}  
  
/*****  
nocode topic header.  contains the question and a link to posting  
reply.  
*****/  
#pan_header {  
    margin-bottom: 15px;  
    background: #30618f  
    url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/theworld/t  
w-pan-header-bg.gif) repeat-x top left;  
    color: #FFF;  
    font-size: 14px;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    /*border: 1px solid #afafaf;*/  
}  
  
#pan_header .pan_pad {  
    padding: 0px 25px 10px 25px;  
    background:  
    url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/theworld/t  
w-corner.gif) no-repeat bottom right;  
}  
  
#pan_stationAsksImage {  
    background-image:  
    url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/theworld/t  
w-myworld-title.gif);  
    background-repeat: no-repeat;  
    height: 47px;  
    width: 177px;  
    float: left;  
    position: relative;  
    top: -25px;  
    left: 25px;  
    margin-bottom: 0px;  
}  
  
#pan_stationAsksImage[id] {  
    top: -25px;  
    left: 25px;  
    margin-bottom: 0px;  
}  
  
#nocodeBridge, #pan_tq {  
    top: -30px;  
    position: relative;  
}
```



```
#pan_tq {
    clear: both;
}

#nocodeBridge[id], #pan_tq[id] {top: -5px;}

#pan_content_title {margin: 10px 0px 10px;}

#pan_content_question {font-size: 12px;font-weight: normal;}

#pan_replyImage {
    background:
url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/nocode/pan
_viewDiscussion.gif) no-repeat top left;
    height: 23px;
    margin-top: 15px;
    cursor: pointer;
    display: block;
}

/*****
nocode message area
*****/
#pan_messages {margin-bottom: 15px;}

#pan_commentsTitle {
    background:
url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/theworld/t
w-recent-comments-title.gif) no-repeat top left;
    height: 23px;
    border: 1px solid #cccccc;
}

.pan_messageContainer {border-bottom: 1px dotted #000;}
.pan_messageStats {color: #4471a4;}

.pan_messageStats SPAN {
    font-weight: bold;
    color: #000;
    display: block;
    margin-bottom: 2px;
}

#nocodeBridge {
}

.pan_messageBody {}

A#bLink {
    color: #FFF;
    text-decoration: underline;
    font-size: 10px;
    float: right;
}
```

```

background:
url(http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/images/publicAction/postShow_fullStory.gif) no-repeat top left;
padding-left: 10px;
}

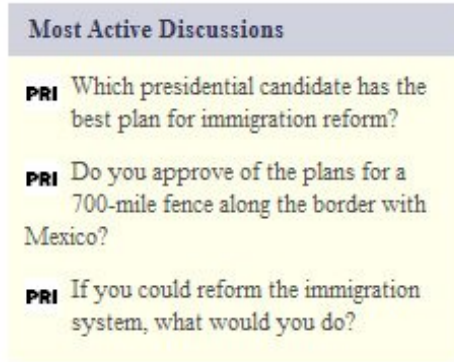
#bLink {margin-bottom: 15px;margin-top: 5px;}
#bLink[id] {margin-top: 10px;}

#bHeadline {
font-weight: bold;
font-size: 14px;
margin: 20px 0px 10px;
}

#bHeadline {clear: both;}

#bTeaser {
font-weight: normal;
font-size: 12px;
}

```



To Change the Look and Feel of Your Discussion List Widget:

To change the look of the Discussion List Widget, you'll need to modify the CSS elements for this widget. Using styles, you can change the color, font, placement/layout, and even the visibility of each content element. You can do this in one of two ways:

- 1) If you want to make universal changes that apply to every discussion widget on your site, then come up with suggested changes to the remote style sheet (e.g. http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld_nc.css) and send them to Public Interactive, where we'll apply the changes on our servers
- 2) If you want to make specific, local changes to the look of your widget, then pull down the remote styles sheet and place it locally. Make changes locally in this version of the style sheet. When you do this, you'll also need to change the HTML copy-and-pasted from Public Action so that it points to your new, local version of the style sheet. Here's an example of what PRI's "The World" might create for a locally-pointing HTML:

```

<link rel="StyleSheet"
href="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/default_nc.css" type="text/css">
<link rel="StyleSheet"
href="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld_nc.css" type="text/css">
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript"
src="http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/noCode/get/1322.page"></script>

```

Any changes you make either remotely or locally should be done in your css, not the default css. For example, changes would be put into theworld_nc.css and not the default_nc.css in this example. If there is a style in the default that you want to change, simply override it in your version by duplicating the style.



Keep in mind that the style changes you make locally only work for widgets that point to this local style sheet. By default, your widgets will always point to the remote style sheet on the Public Action servers.

It can be tricky to determine which style elements to change in order to affect the look and feel of the discussion list.. To make it easier, we've included example HTML that the widget creates along with the relevant parts of the widget style sheet.

Here's the HTML that this widget displays when you put it on your pages:

(note: only the first discussion is listed for simplicity)

```
<div id="theworld">
  <div class="bucketTop">
    <div class="corner"/>
  </div>
  <div id = \'bucket1\' class=\'bucketPanel\'>
    <div class=\'header\'>
      <div>Most Active Discussions
    </div>
    <div class=\'links\' id=\'bucket1_links\'>
      <a
        href=\'http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/theworld/posts/list/839411.page\'>
        <div class=\'theworld icon\'>
        </div>
        Which presidential candidate has the best plan
        for immigration reform? </a>
      </div>
    </div>
    <div class="bucketBottom">
      <div class="corner"/>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```



Here are the relevant parts of the style sheet that affects this HTML:

(the remote style sheets for this account are found here (all changes should be applied in the second file):

http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/default_nc.css

```
/*
*****
/* BUCKET RELATED STYLES
*****
.bucketTop, .bucketPanel, .bucketBottom {
    width: 154px;
    margin: 0px auto;
    padding: 0px;
    text-align: left;
}

.bucketTop, .bucketTop .corner, .bucketBottom, .bucketBottom .corner {
    background-image: url(/images/publicAction/bucketFrame2.gif);
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
}

.bucketTop,
.bucketTop .corner,
.bucketBottom,
.bucketBottom .corner {height: 10px;}

.bucketTop .corner,
.bucketBottom .corner {width: 10px;float: right;}

.bucketTop .corner {background-position: 100% 0;}
.bucketBottom .corner {background-position: 100% 100%;}

.bucketBottom {
    background-position: 0 100%;
    margin-bottom: 10px;
}

/* bucket content styles */

.bucketPanel .header {
    font-weight: bold;
    font-size: 12px;
    color: #FFF;
    margin: 0px;
    border-width: 0px 2px;
    border-style: solid;
    border-color: #FFF;
    background-color: #FF3939;
/*
    cursor: pointer;*/
}

.bucketPanel .firstBucket, .staticBucket .header {border-top: 0px;}
.bucketPanel .header div {padding: 2px 8px;}

.bucketPanel .links, .bucketPanel .welcomeBucketLink {
```



```
        background-color: #EBEBEB;
        padding: 2px 0px;
        border-width: 0px 2px;
        border-style: solid;
        border-color: #FFF;
    }

.bucketPanel .links .loginLinks {
    text-align: right;
}

.bucketPanel .links .loginLinks A {
    font-size: 10px;
    display: inline;
    margin: 0px;
}

.bucketPanel .links A, .bucketPanel .welcomeBucketLink A {
    display: block;
    color: #4D4D4D;
    text-decoration: none;
    clear: left;
}

.bucketPanel .links A {margin: 5px 8px 10px 8px;}
.bucketPanel .welcomeBucketLink A {margin: 3px 8px;}
.bucketPanel .links A:hover,
.bucketPanel .welcomeBucketLink A:hover {color: #666666;}

.bucketPanel .login {
    margin: 2px 0px;
    text-align: right;
}

.bucketPanel .login A.loginButton {
    background-image: url(/images/publicAction/btn_login.gif);
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    display: block;
    height: 23px;
    /*width: 74px;*/
    margin: 0px;
    padding: 0px;
    background-position: top right;
}

/*****/
/* BUCKET ICON RELATED STYLES
/* class names should match up with what we have in the db
/*****/
.icon {
    height: 18px;
    width: 18px;
    float: left;
    margin: 2px 5px 0px 0px;
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
}
```



```
}  
  
.badge {background-repeat: no-repeat;}  
  
.theworld {background-image:  
url(/images/publicAction/icons/theworld.gif);}  
  
http://action.publicbroadcasting.net/styles/publicAction/theworld\_nc.css  
  
/*****  
/* BUCKET RELATED STYLES  
*****/  
  
.bucketTop, .bucketTop .corner, .bucketBottom, .bucketBottom .corner,  
.bucketPanel {  
    background-image: none;  
    width: 100%;  
}  
  
.bucketBottom {  
    height: 2px;  
    background-color: #d0d2dd;  
}  
  
.bucketPanel .header {  
    background-color: #d0d2dd;  
    color: #333354;  
    border-width: 0px;  
    padding: 3px 2px;  
}  
  
.bucketPanel .links, .bucketPanel .welcomeBucketLink {  
    background-color: #ffffea;  
    padding: 2px 0px;  
    border-width: 0px;  
}  
  
.bucketPanel .links A {  
    display: block;  
    font-size: 12px;  
}  
  
.pan_messageBody A {color: #30618F;}
```