

Dynamic Deskbar v 1.5

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Introduction

You can build fully functional dynamic deskbar application to publish on your site in matter of minutes. No programming knowledge is required. After building a toolbar you can have a deskbar.exe file or web installation package as a .cab file.

The basic steps for creating your own toolbar are:

1. Unzip the distribution package that you have got from us.
2. Open the basis.xml file in a text editor of your choice and modify it as described in the following sections of this manual. You can download FREE editor for XML files from our website <http://www.besttoolbars.net/download.php>. After you made the changes, you'll need to run deskbar_.bat utility located in the same folder to create a .CAB file.
3. Upload the .cab and html files to your website as described in the [Preparing the deskbar to be downloadable and installable from your website](#)' section.
4. If you want to create an .exe installation package, please copy the deskbar.cab to the nsisdesk folder and run the cab2NSIS.bat. It will produce the deskbar.exe file.
5. When you will be ready to release a next version to the users, you should increase the version number in the version.txt file

Should you have any specific questions we are ready to help you.

Call our tech support 24x7 at: 866 862 1289

Or email us: support@besttoolbars.net

Features

You can build fully branded dynamic deskbar with your own links and unique functionality. The deskbar that you build can have the following features:

Branding:

You can have the deskbar branded with your own logo. You can use your corporate colors for background and text. Add a background image "skin" with your image to and build a fully branded deskbar to be placed on the screen of your customers!

Unlimited buttons, images and menus:

You can have unlimited number of buttons on your deskbar. Each button can have a menu that pop-up when the button is clicked. Alternatively clicking on a button can take the users to a predefined page located somewhere on the Web. Each location can be opened in a new web browser window.

Only 180KB size:

Unlike other deskbars our deskbar is only 180KB. It can be installed easily by your customers even with low-speed internet connection.

Search box:

That allows your customers to perform a search from your Deskbar. The users can enter either a question or keyword(s) and hit the "Enter" key on the keyboard, or click the "Search" button to search on your site or to search using search engine of your choice (multiple search options are possible). Users can view a history of their recent searches by clicking the down arrow on the right edge of the search box. Your users can also perform searches by selecting a desired text on any web page and then dragging and dropping that text into the search box on the Deskbar. Once the text is "dropped" into the search box, search will be automatically performed for that text (no need to click the "Search" button).

Catcher for Internet Explorer address bar and DNS error:

With our deskbar you can use the advantages of built-in address bar and DNS catcher. You can configure that if the user of the deskbar mistypes an URL he will be redirected to YOUR page instead of standard explorer DNS error and Error 404 pages. You can also configure the deskbar so that whenever the user enters a word into Explorer address bar he gets redirected to your page.

Dynamic menu contents and buttons:

Deskbar menus and submenus can be created from the output of server side scripts (such as PHP, Perl, CGI or ASP). This can be "Top 10 items", "hot list", "more search results" and so on. You can specify what buttons the deskbar will have and what menu contents to show basing on for example current URL opened in the browser or unique DESKBAR ID. DESKBAR ID can be used to give personal appearance and features to your deskbar customers. You can also have different features set like the one for logged in users and another for those who are not logged in. The DESKBAR ID stays the same after deskbar is updated and even if the deskbar was removed and installed again later.

Support for International characters:

Our deskbar supports International characters (UNICODE). German, Spanish, Japanese, Arabic or Chinese – you can easily customize it for any language.

Multiple configurations:

Several configuration files can be used for the deskbar. This allows you to create several different appearances for your users or have several versions of deskbar in different languages.

Deskbar scripting:

It opens a window into a world of new opportunities. In our recent version you can script the deskbar with JavaScript.

Menus and submenus:

Users can access important sections of your Web site quickly and simply by using a drop-down menu on the deskbar. Because you provide users quick links to the most relevant sections of your Web site right from the start, you save them time. Each link can be opened in a new web browser window. You can have unlimited menu items and submenu's in deskbar.

Hot icons / rollover effect:

Make your deskbar interactive by adding animated icons and images.

Keyword highlighting:

The highlight feature allows your users to locate their search terms on the search results page(s). Clicking the "Highlight" button will highlight all their search terms in different colors on the search results page. The highlight feature is a toggle switch that may be turned on or off simply by clicking on it.

News ticker integration:

If you want to keep your users informed and achieve higher interaction level you can put a scrolling news ticker or flashing news notifications on the deskbar. You can implement server side scripts to feed news to customers of your deskbar.

Mini Web page:

You can put a mini webpage on your deskbar. This opens the door to unlimited deskbar content. This way you can put notifications, banners, animations and sounds into your deskbar. You can put this page directly on a deskbar (BANNER feature) or as a minipage that opens up when the user clicks a button in a deskbar (BUBBLE feature).

User customization:

Allows your users to customize the deskbar in a number of ways:

- ? Define what buttons they wish to have on the deskbar
- ? Open a new window to display results each time you search
- ? Auto Complete
- ? Keep a search history in a drop-down list under the search box
- ? Automatically run a search when you make a selection from the search history
- ? Run Search Drag Automatically
- ? Update deskbar automatically

Also your users can set their own preferences like: whether they want text labels for the buttons or icons only. Choose width of the text box. Choose colors for the menu, and a font to use in deskbar menus.

Launch external applications:

It is possible to run external application as a result of clicking a button or menu item in the deskbar. You can run system commands, open Notepad to edit a file or you can launch .EXE applications that you distribute with the deskbar. You can pass the keywords into command line.

Edit and password boxes:

You can put edit boxes on your deskbar you can also put password box on your deskbar that hides typed symbols with a *.

Automatic Installation:

It's simple for your users. Once downloaded the deskbar gets installed automatically and integrated into user's browser.

Upgrade feature:

For your user's convenience, Deskbar is upgradeable. This means that your users will be able to download and install a new version of the Deskbar when additional features or functionality are made available. You can link this feature to any menu item or button in your deskbar. After successful upgrade of the deskbar the user will be redirected to a page that can be defined in configuration file.

Automatic Upgrade:

Deskbar can check automatically for the upgrades. If newer version is available from your website the deskbar will offer your users to download and install this version.

Uninstall feature:

This feature allows your users to uninstall the deskbar. You can associate this feature to any menu item or button in your deskbar. After uninstalling the user will be redirected to a special page that can be defined in configuration file.

Clear Search History:

The Deskbar remembers recent search queries. The search history can be accessed by clicking on a down arrow on the right edge of the search box. The Clear Search History option allows your users to clear the history of the search box.

About box:

Once the user selects "about" item in the menu the popup window will show the latest Deskbar version information and your company details.

Dynamic configuration files:

You can put the configuration .XML file within deskbar distributive, but also you can put it on your web sever achieving truly dynamic deskbar behavior. By altering a single XML file on your web server, you can completely change the look and operation of the deskbar without the need for your customers to upgrade the deskbar.

Distribute additional files with your deskbar:

You can distribute static HTML pages, Music, Flash and even executable programs (.EXE) with your deskbar. Integrate your .EXE with the deskbar and provide unique functionality to deskbar users.

Additional visual elements for your deskbar:

With the Deskbar you can add select-style combo boxes to your deskbar, add static texts and buttons with custom graphics. Menu elements can have custom styles including the color for menu background, color for menu texts you can also specify colors used for highlighting of menu items. The deskbar can be configured to have resizable edit and combo boxes to adapt to the different screen resolutions and user preferences.

External deskbar interface:

Deskbar has external program interface. You can access deskbar properties (to read or write) via JavaScript. You also can pass this information to the server forming a special response when user clicks a button or menu item in the deskbar. Properties available from JavaScript include current version of the deskbar, Unique Deskbar ID, User ID that you can set/read, user name and user password. Using this you can implement authentication through the deskbar, provide exclusive content for deskbar users and similar.

Do not limit your creativity!

Need SMS, quotes, currency converter or translation feature in your deskbar? Make sure to check the developer corner on our website. We have a scripts that will allow you to have all the above. Unsure how to achieve something? Please contact us at support@besttoolbars.net.

No limits at all!

Unsure if the feature you are looking for is supported? Please ask our sales@besttoolbars.net. Suggest a new feature to us and we will make this feature a part of our next deskbar version that you'll get for FREE. What if you need specific feature? Please ask our development department to implement it for you. Basing on your specifications we will provide free estimation for the development. Our rate for custom software development is \$20 USD per hour.

Showcase



Why the Deskbar is called Dynamic?

The majority of deskbar construction kits allow you to build the Static deskbar. Meaning that if you need to update it you would have to create a completely new deskbar, and get your users to upgrade their current version. Dynamic deskbar instead can include XML files from an HTTP server.

The Expire attribute is used to define refresh interval in minutes. The following example will refresh an XML file news.xml from the server yourdeskbar.com every ten minutes:

Example:

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://yourdeskbar.com/news.xml?id=%deskbar_id&user=%user_id"
expire="10"/>
```

Note: there are several substitutable variables in the URL. Substitutable variables' names are denoted by the leading percent sign. They will be substituted with actual values when the URL is going to be sent to the server. Please read the manual about substitutable variable names you can use.

Example:

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://yourdeskbar.com/news.xml?id=%deskbar_id&user=%user_id"
expire="10"/>
```

Manual

The deskbar configuration is stored in the basis.xml file. This file is always distributed with the deskbar package. basis.xml file can reference other .XML files so that the deskbar configuration could be combined from several files. Files referenced from basis.xml can be located on the server to achieve Dynamic Deskbar behavior (See the documentation for <INCLUDE_XML> tag).

The configuration file has to contain COMMANDS and SETTINGS sections it has to be enclosed between <TOOLBAR> </TOOLBAR> tags.

The simple format for the basis.xml:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<TOOLBAR name="Deskbar Sample" icons="icons.bmp" hot_icons="icons.bmp" dllname="deskbar">

<!--Deskbar definition goes here. -->

    <COMMANDS>
    <!--Deskbar commands goes here. -->

    </COMMANDS>

    <SETTINGS scope="1">
    <!--Deskbar settings goes here. -->
        <URL id="firstURL"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar.asp#how?deskbar_id=%deskbar_id"/>

    </SETTINGS>

</TOOLBAR>
```

To make the deskbar dynamic you need to put your configuration file on the server and reference it from the basis.xml.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<TOOLBAR name="Deskbar Sample" icons="icons.bmp" hot_icons="icons.bmp" dllname="deskbar">

    <INCLUDE_XML filename="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar.xml"/>

    <COMMANDS>
    <!--Deskbar commands goes here. -->

    </COMMANDS>

    <SETTINGS scope="1">
    <!--Deskbar settings goes here. -->
        <URL id="firstURL"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar.asp#how?deskbar_id=%deskbar_id"/>
    </SETTINGS>

</TOOLBAR>
```

In the above example the deskbar configuration is obtained from the server file <http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar.xml> each time a user opens his browser.

<TOOLBAR> tag

TOOLBAR tag has the following format:

```
<TOOLBAR name="Deskbar Sample" icons="icons.bmp" hot_icons="icons.bmp" dllname="deskbar"
layout="0" hotkey="S" deskbarMinsize="224">
```

Attributes of the <TOOLBAR> tag:

- ? name – the name of the deskbar displaying in the Deskbars option of the right-click menu of the windows taskbar. It also displays as an item in the Start->Control Panel->Software.
- ? icons – Bitmap file containing icons for the deskbar. This file is a Windows bitmap file that has to be like the following:



deskbar supports 16 x 16 pixels icons.

- ? hot_icons – Bitmap file containing hot icons for deskbar (used for rollover effect)
- ? dllname – name of the DLL file with the deskbar. (usually deskbar.dll)
- ? layout – if you are using several layouts you can specify the default layout here
- ? hotkey – when user presses the key specified here together with Ctrl and Alt while he works with another application, the focus will go to the deskbar
- ? deskbarMinsize – it is the minimum deskbar size measured in pixels. Users can not resize the deskbar narrower this value

See also: SETTINGS section, COMMANDS section, INCLUDE_XML tag

<BUTTON> tag

To add a new button into deskbar put the following command into the configuration file:

```
<BUTTON id="tb_button_1" caption="Home" img="5" hint="Navigate to homepage"
href="http://www.yoursite.com/" command="redirect"/>
```

In the fragment above caption defines the text that will be shown near the button. img attribute contains the index of the image in **icons.bmp** file.



img="5" setting will reference the 5th 16 x 16 image in **icons.bmp** file (the one with an envelope in the above example).

Id attribute contains identifier for the button. This identifier can be used to control visibility of that button from deskbar options page.

The hint setting allows you to specify 'tooltip' text to show when the user rolls the mouse over the button (this is useful to provide some details about the functionality of the button).

The href attribute is the URL of the page to which the user will be redirected when they click on the button. There are some substitutions performed like the %url—current URL the user is visiting, %deskbar_id – unique deskbar id for the deskbar. See the Macro substitution section manual for further details.

The toggle-type button (like popup blocker button) can also have an attribute `captionp` and `imgp` that defines the caption and icon for the button in pushed state. The format for `<BUTTON>` in the latter case is usually following:

```
<BUTTON id="some_id" caption="Blocker disabled" captionp="#cnt# blocked" img="4" imgp="5"
command="blockPopups" />
```

The command attribute defines the command action performed when the button is clicked. "redirect" means that clicking on a button will redirect the user to a webpage specified in href= attribute. Also the command can reference any command defined in `<COMMANDS>` section and usually can have the following values:

- ? command="uninstall" – uninstalls the deskbar.
- ? command="update" – update the deskbar.
- ? command="reload" – reloads the deskbar .XML file.
- ? command="Highlight" – toggles Highlighting of the words in a search page on/off.
- ? command="ClearCache" – Clears browser cache.
- ? command="ClearHistory" – Clears search history.

By defining additional commands in `<COMMANDS>` section more sophisticated behavior can be added to the deskbar. For example you can define:

```
<WEBJUMP name="search1" href="http://www.google.com/search?q=%combol&amp;hl=en" />
```

And reference it from the button as:

```
<BUTTON id="tb_button_search" caption="GO" img="1" hint="" command="search1" />
```

so that when you click that button search will be performed on Google.com using the keywords from combo1 combobox.

See also: controlling the elements visibility, Options page, Button with an image, defining button images as transparent.

NOTE: There are several special cases, when a button doesn't have an image on it, but there is a space left for the image. If it is undesirable, add an `img="-1"` attribute, this will collapse the space.

<BUTTON> tag and buttons with wide images

You can create a button with wide image, such as a name of your company or a logo. The image must be in a bmp format and have a height of 16 pixels. The image attribute points to the image file and the optional hot_image to an image that is displayed when a mouse pointer moves over the button.

```
<BUTTON id="logobtn" caption="MyCompaby" image="logo.bmp" hot_image="logo_h.bmp" />
```

<BUTTON> tag and transparent button images

The pixel in the upper left corner of the image is considered to be transparency color. All other pixels with the same color are displayed as transparent. Please note that you should use a "windows palette" for your images.

<BUTTON> tag as options button for the <COMBO> and <EDIT>

If you have a combo or edit box (described below) and a button with a menu that is logically associated with that combo or edit box, you can assign a key combo that will open the menu when pressed while that combo or edit box is in focus.

There are two attributes for the <BUTTON> tag used in pair to achieve such effect. optionsFor specifies the name of the combo box and keyToOptions contains a alphabetical key that is used in combination with the Ctrl key.

In the example below there is a combo box and a menu. If user presses Ctrl-N while the focus is on the combo, the menu will open.

```
<COMBO name="searchcombo" command="search"/>
<BUTTON id="searchmenu" name="searchoptions" optionsFor="searchcombo" keyToOptions="N" />
<MENU type="Single">
  <ITEM caption="YourSite" img="1" href="http://www.yoursite.com/" command="redirect"/>
  <ITEM caption="Entertainment" img="2"
href="http://www.yoursite.com/search.php?q=music&m=tb" command="redirect"/>
</MENU>
```

<BUTTON> as anchor for resizable <COMBO> and <EDIT>

Combo and edit boxes can have a variable width adjustable by user. When user moves the deskbar, the combo box changes its width.

You should choose one of the buttons or menus to the right of the combo box to act as an anchor. If this button is beyond the right edge and thus invisible, the combo box will have its minimal width. When user enlarges the deskbar, the combo will grow until it will be as wide as its maxwidth attribute specifies. Only after the combo will hit its limit in width, the deskbar items that are located to the right of the anchor will become visible as user resizes the deskbar.

```
<COMBO name="mainsearch" id="cmb_search" command="mainsearch" minWidth="80" maxWidth="150">
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
</COMBO>
<BUTTON caption="Search" command="search" id="btn_search" img="6" combomove="mainsearch" />
```

<COMBO> tag

You can add an editable combo box search field to the deskbar. To do this you need to use the <COMBO> tag. Example:

```
<COMBO id="se_search_text" name="se_search_text" hint="" command="musicSearch" limit="40"
histmax="10" minlength="40" maxwidth="200" background_type="image" background_image="search.bmp">
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
</COMBO>
```

COMBO tag has a following set of attributes:

- ? Name specifies the name of the search box. Combo box text can be accessed via substitutable variable like this:
http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search?q=%se_search_text
- ? Hint - specifies the message that will pop-up when the user rolls the mouse over the Search box.
- ? Command specifies the WEBJUMP command to be executed when the user clicks "Enter" or just "drag-and-drops" text fragments into the search box. See the commands section below on how to define the WEBJUMP command like the one below.

```
<WEBJUMP newbrowserwindow="false" href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search?q=%se_search_text"
name="musicSearch"/>
```

- ? Limit specifies how many characters the user can type into that Search field (maximal length of the search terms).

- ? Histmax - how many items to keep in Search box history.
- ? Optional Id attribute contains identifier for the <COMBO>. This identifier can be used to control visibility of that combobox from deskbar options page. See the [<BUTTON> as anchor for resizable <COMBO> and <EDIT>](#) section for details
- ? Using <WIDTH>100</WIDTH> you can specify the width for that Search box in pixels. You can specify several widths for the combo box. The default value is usually the first in the list. The other values are the values that the customer can choose from the "options page" as defined in <SETTINGS> section (see below).

The combo box can display a static text that disappears once the users starts to input. Several additional attributes are used for this effect:

- ? text – the string of text to be displayed
- ? fname – font name
- ? fsize – font size
- ? minwidth, maxwidth – minimum and maximum width. These attributes are used in conjunction with a <BUTTON> with a combomove set to this combo
- ? background_type – if you want the combobox to display something when it is empty, you can set this attribute to either "time" to display current time or "image" to display an image
- ? background_image – if you have set the background_type="image" then you should specify here a bmp file with the image

```
<COMBO text="Enter text here" fname="Webdings" fsize="16"
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search?q=%se_search_text" name="musicSearch" />
```

<COMBO> tag and select-type combo boxes (non-editable)

You can add a non-editable combo box using <COMBO> tag. Accompanied with <VALUE> tag. For example:

```
<COMBO id="se_search_option" name="se_search_option" hint=""
command="musicSearch">
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
  <VALUE display="Artist" >Artist</VALUE>
  <VALUE display="Single" >Single</VALUE>
  <VALUE display="Album" >Album</VALUE>
</COMBO>
```

In that case the following attributes are supported:

- ? Name specifies the name of the search box. Combo box text can be accessed via substitutable variable like this: http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search?type=%se_search_option. Actually when the user selects one of the options from the list the value specified in display= will be substituted instead of %se_search_option.
- ? Hint - specifies the message that will pop-up when the user rolls the mouse over the Search box.
- ? Command specifies the WEBJUMP command to be executed when the user clicks "Enter" or just "drag-and-drops" text fragments into the search box. See the commands section below on how to define the WEBJUMP command like the one below.

```
<WEBJUMP newbrowserwindow="false"
href="http://www.kwiklink.com.au/deskbar.php?se=%se_search_option&q=%se_search_text"
name="musicSearch"/>
```

- ? Optional Id attribute contains identifier for the <COMBO>. This identifier can be used to control visibility of that combobox from deskbar options page.
- ? Using <WIDTH>100</WIDTH> you can specify the width for that combo box in

pixels. You can specify several widths for the combo box. The default value is usually the first in the list. The other values are the values that the customer can choose from the "options page" as defined in <SETTINGS> section (see below).

<EDIT> tag

You can create an edit box inside the deskbar by using an <EDIT> tag:

```
<EDIT id="edt_user" name="edt_user" hint=""
      command="loginuser" limit="40">
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
</EDIT>
```

Attributes of the EDIT tag are following:

- ? Name specifies the name of the edit box. Edit box text can be accessed via substitutable variable like this:
http://www.yourdeskbar.com/login.php?username=%edt_user
- ? Hint - specifies the message that will pop-up when the user rolls the mouse over the edit box.
- ? Command specifies the WEBJUMP command to be executed when the user clicks "Enter" or just "drag-and-drops" text fragments into the edit box. See the commands section below on how to define the WEBJUMP command like the one below.

```
<WEBJUMP newbrowserwindow="false" href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/login.php?username=%edt_user"
name="loginuser"/>
```

- ? Limit specifies how many characters the user can type into the edit box (maximal length of the search terms).
- ? An optional Id attribute contains identifier for the <EDIT>. This identifier can be used to control visibility of that edit box from the deskbar options page.
- ? Using <WIDTH>100</WIDTH> you can specify the width for that edit box in pixels. You can specify several widths for the edit box. The default value is usually the first in the list. The other values are the values that the customer can choose from the "options page" as defined in <SETTINGS> section (see below).

<PASSWORD> tag

You can create password box (that marks all the characters entered as *) using <PASSWORD> tag:

```
<PASSWORD id="pwd_user" name="pwd_user" hint=""
          command="loginuser" limit="40">
  <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
</PASSWORD>
```

Attributes of the PASSWORD tag are following:

- ? Name specifies the name of the password box. Password box text can be accessed via substitutable variable like this:
http://www.yourdeskbar.com/login.php?username=admin&pwd=%pwd_user
- ? Hint - specifies the message that will pop-up when the user rolls the mouse over the password box.
- ? Command specifies the WEBJUMP command to be executed when the user clicks "Enter" or just "drag-and-drops" text fragments into the password box. See the commands section below on how to define the WEBJUMP command like the one below.

```
<WEBJUMP newbrowserwindow="false"
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/login.php?username=admin&pwd=%pwd_user" name="loginuser"/>
```

- ? Limit specifies how many characters the user can type into that password box (maximal length of the string accepted).
- ? Optional Id attribute contains identifier for the <PASSWORD>. This identifier can be

The href attribute is the URL of the page to which the user will be redirected when they chose the item from the menu.

The command="redirect" is a command action for the menu item and means that choosing this menu item the deskbar will redirect the user to another location on the web. By defining additional commands you can link more sophisticated behavior to the menus.

The command can also be:

- ? command="uninstall" – uninstalls the deskbar.
- ? command="update" – update the deskbar.
- ? command="reload" – reloads the deskbar .XML file.
- ? command="Highlight" – toggles Highlighting of the words in a search page on/off.
- ? command="ZoomIn" and command="ZoomOut" zooms the current HTML page.
- ? command="ClearCookies" – Clears cookies in the user browser.
- ? command="ClearCache" – Clears browser cache.
- ? command="ClearHistory" – Clears search history.
- ? command="BlockPopups" – Toggles Pop-up blocker on/off.
- ? command="AllowPopups" – Adds currently visited website to the pop-up whitelist.

You can define additional commands in <COMMANDS> section of the configuration file.

<ITEM> tag and submenu items

This is done in the same way as adding new menu items. The only difference is that you have to put the <item> tag between of two another <item> tags. The following fragment of configuration file demonstrates this. (It defines 2 submenu items called "History" and "Science" under a menu item called "Books". The menu itself is shown when the user clicks the "Order" button):

```
<BUTTON caption="Order" img="18" hint="" href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/shop"
command="redirect">
<MENU type="Split">
  <ITEM caption="Books" img="1" hint="" href="" command="redirect">
    <ITEM caption="History" img="1" hint=""
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/shop/category.asp?a=history" command="redirect"/>
    <ITEM caption="Science" img="1" hint=""
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/shop/category.asp?a=Science" command="redirect"/>
  </ITEM>
</MENU>
</BUTTON>
```

You can have unlimited number of menu items and submenu items you can also define sub-sub menu items.

<SEPARATOR> tag

Inserts a horizontal or vertical separator line between menu or submenu items or between buttons. The separator is useful to divide the items that are logically different.

```
<ITEM caption="Login" img="1" hint="" href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/login.asp"
command="redirect"/>
<SEPARATOR/>
<ITEM caption="Forgot password?" img="4" hint=""
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/forgotpassword.asp" command="redirect"/>
```

In the above fragment <SEPARATOR/> will insert the line in between "login" and "Forgot password?" menu items.

<TEXT> labels

You can create label by using a <TEXT> tag:

```
<TEXT id="tb_text" hint="Some hint" caption="Some text"/>
```

In the fragment above the caption attribute contains the text to be shown.

Optional Id attribute contains identifier for the text label. This identifier can be used to control visibility of that text label from the deskbar options page.

The hint setting allows you to specify 'tooltip' text to show when the user rolls the mouse over the button (this is useful to provide some explanatory information).

An optional img attribute specifies index of the image in the **icons.bmp** file.

<BANNER> tag

There is a <BANNER> tag that lets you to create a news or advertisement banner inside your deskbar.

```
<BANNER id="banner_1" url="http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar_news.html" width="200" expire="10" />
```

It has the following attributes:

- ? url is an URL of an HTML page that refreshes itself periodically.
- ? Width – exact size of the banner in pixels.
- ? Expire forces banner to reload at given rate in minutes.

If you have any links in the banner, they will open a page in the main IE window. If you want them to open inside the bubble instead, you have to add #inbanner to the end of the URL:

```
<a href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/#inbanner">
```

NOTE: If you want to have a frame inside the banner, the links inside the <frameset> structure also have to have #inbanner added to the tail.

<BUBBLE> tag

This is done in the same way as adding menu. The only difference is that you have to put the <bubble> tag in between <BUTTON> </BUTTON> tags like it is shown in a following fragment of configuration file. The below defines an HTML mini webpage to pop-up when the arrow on the left of the button is clicked.

```
<BUTTON .....>  
  <BUBBLE type="Split" width="500" height="200" local="local_bubble.html"  
  href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/tb/bubble.html" />  
</BUTTON>
```

Attributes of the <BUBBLE> tag:

- ? type – type of the <BUBBLE> define whether it is displayed when the button is pressed or when the arrow near the button is pressed (the button then can have a separate action associated). Type="Single" and type="Split" .
- ? Width – width of the HTML mini page in pixels.
- ? Height – height of the HTML mini page in pixels.
- ? href – URL of the html page to show in the Mini page. Can be local .html file or URL pointing to some page in the internet.
- ? local – name of the local file that is displayed when the one specified in the href is not accessible.

To close a bubble, you have to provide a link inside a bubble to the bubble:close link.

Links inside a bubble behaves the same way they do in the banner and there is a #inbanner addition to an URL with the same meaning.

<INCLUDE_XML> tag

INCLUDE_XML tag allows you to implement many important functionalities including Dynamic deskbar features and Multiple configurations. With the help of this tag you can achieve deskbar interaction with the server allowing to have dynamic menus and notifications in your deskbar. Being combined with macro substitutions as Deskbar ID, User ID, Username, UserPassword and current URL, current domain this allows to achieve personal appearance for the deskbar users and provide targeted deskbar content.

The basic format for the INCLUDE_XML is the following:

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://www.yourserver.com/deskbar/deskbar.xml" />
```

This will tell the deskbar to query the file located on your server at <http://www.yourserver.com/deskbar/deskbar.xml> each time the browser with the deskbar is open. Changing this file on your server will allow to dynamically change the deskbar appearance of your deskbar for all your customers. The following attributes are supported for INCLUDE_XML tag:

- ? filename – is a reference to a file that can either be made a part of deskbar distributive (then it can be referenced as tb12.xml) or this can be a server side file like <http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbarconf.xml>. This can also contain a reference to a server side script and macro substitutions as in the below example:

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://yourdeskbar.com/news.php?URL=%deskbar_id"/>
```
- ? expire – defines the period in minutes to refresh the file. The default value of 0 means that the XML file is only refreshed when the browser starts. Setting this to non-zero value will allow to refresh XML file periodically. So that you can notify the users while they surf the internet.

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://yourdeskbar.com/news.xml?id=%deskbar_id&user=%user_id" expire="10"/>
```
- ? layout – this numeric attribute is used to achieve multiple deskbar configurations. The default setting for this attribute is 0. The deskbar will use the layout="0" to parse the XML files. Using the special command CHANGELAYOUT you can change the layout used for the deskbar achieving multiple deskbar configurations.
- ? no_cache – if this attribute is set to 1, the included file will not be cached to use while offline.
- ? local – if the file specified in the filename attribute is unavailable (e.g. the system is offline and can not load an XML from the net) and is missing in the cache then the local file specified here would be loaded instead.

Using multiple configurations for your deskbar

To use multiple configuration for the deskbar you need to define several includable .xml files via <INCLUDE_XML> tag with different numeric values for the layout=. To switch between layouts the CHANGELAYOUT command is used. This command can be associated with any button or menu item so clicking the button will change appearance of the deskbar instantly. Most usual use for multiple layouts is multilanguage deskbar. The multiple layouts are achieved with the following:

```
...
<INCLUDE_XML filename="tb_english.xml" layout="0"/>
<INCLUDE_XML filename="tb_german.xml" layout="0"/>
...
<COMMANDS>
  <CHANGELAYOUT name="to_eng" layout="0"/>
  <CHANGELAYOUT name="to_ger" layout="1"/>
  <LOCALHTML name="options" href="options.html"/>
</COMMANDS>
...
```

Associate any button or menu item with a command "to_ger" and clicking on it will immediately trigger the deskbar to parse tb_german.xml.

Macro substitutions

There are a lot of variables available in the deskbar that can be substituted into the url that is the deskbar uses for BANNER, BUBBLE and INCLUDE_XML tags. These substitutions can also be put into URL that opens after a user presses a button or a menu item. The following macro substitutions are available:

%deskbar_id – unique deskbar ID (generated automatically, unique for each deskbar installation, but stays the same after deskbar is updated or reinstalled)

%deskbar_version – deskbar version.

%user_name – user name (this variable is used to store the username. Value for this variable could be set via Javascript).

%user_pass – user password. (this variable is used to store a password. The value for this variable can be set via Javascript).

%user_id – user ID. (this variable contains userid and value for this variable could be set via Javascript).

Plus, you can substitute value currently entered into any <PASSWORD>, <EDIT> or <COMBO> control by preceding the name of that control with the percent sign.

%<combo_name> - text from combo box with specified name.

```
<INCLUDE_XML filename="http://www.yoursite.com/getrank.asp?deskbar_id=%deskbar_id&URL=%url"/>
```

Using national non-latin symbols in the deskbar

You should write them using the Unicode notation, like ä for the symbol ä. Where 00E4 is the code for the symbol. You can look for the symbols' codes at <http://www.unicode.org/charts/>

For example: symbols such as äöå (ä å ö) should be written in a following manner:

```
&#x00E4;&#x00F6;&#x00E5
```

Alternately, you can use the "UTF-8" encoding for the deskbar XML file.

<DNSCATCH> tag to catch DNS and Error 404

To use this feature you need to add the following code to the <SETTINGS> section of the XML file:

```
<DNSCATCH href="http://yoursite.com/search?text=%s"/>
```

%s will be replaced with the site URL that was not found or the page is not available.

<AUTOSEARCH> tag to capture address bar searches

To use this feature you need to add the following code to the <SETTINGS> section of the XML file:

```
<AUTOSEARCH href="http://yoursite.com/search?text=%s"/>
```

%s will be replaced with the word being searched.

<COMMANDS> tag

You can define the following commands: <WEBJUMP>, <LOCALHTML>, <CHANGELAYOUT>, <SWITCHCOMMAND>, <CLEARHISTORY>, <HIGHLIGHT>, <RELOAD>, <UNINSTALL> and <UPDATE>.

The command definitions have to be placed in between <COMMANDS> and </COMMANDS> tags in the configuration file.

A defined command could be associated with any button or menu item by name:

```
<BUTTON caption="The caption you need" img="5" hint="hint" command="newcommand1"/>
```

menu item:

```
<ITEM caption="My menu item" img="" command="newcommand1"/>
```

or COMBOBOX, EDIT or PASSWORD control.

Some of the commands have a simple syntax demonstrated by the example:

```
<COMMANDS>

<!-- Clears history in combo boxes-->
<CLEARHISTORY name="clearhistory"/>

<!-- Highlights combo text in document-->
<HIGHLIGHT name="Highlight"/>

<!-- Reloads deskbar XML-->
<RELOAD name="reloadDeskbar"/>

<!-- Uninstall the deskbar-->
<UNINSTALL name="uninstall"/>

<!-- Check if update is available and perform the update-->
<UPDATE name="update"/>

</COMMANDS>
```

More sophisticated commands are described verbosely in the following sections.

<LOCALHTML> command

The <LOCALHTML> tag is used to reference HTML pages, and other local files that you distribute with your deskbar (in the deskbar download package).

For example when you distribute an HTML page called myinfo.html and would like it to be opened in a new "modal" browser window you can define the following command:

```
<LOCALHTML name="myinfo" href="myinfo.html" newbrowserwindow="modaldialog"/>
```

A Modal browser window means that you have to close it prior to accessing other browser windows.

The options possible for the newbrowserwindow attribute are: "true", "false" and "modaldialog". True means that the html page will be opened in a new window, false means that it will be opened in the same browser window and modaldialog means that it will be opened in a new window that has to be closed before the user can continue to browse (useful for dialog-box pages). Another attribute that is supported by LOCALHTML command is the options attribute that defines how the open window is formatted. Here is an example demonstrating use of the options attribute:

```
<LOCALHTML href="about.html" name="about" newbrowserwindow="modaldialog"
options="status:no;help:no;dialogHeight:220px;dialogWidth:450px;scroll:no;" />
```

<WEBJUMP> command

The WEBJUMP command has the following syntax:

```
<WEBJUMP name="newcommand1" href="http://yourdeskbar/somepage.html" newbrowserwindow="false" />
```

All LOCALHTML attributes are supported for WEBJUMP command. Plus, it is possible to use additional attributes: post and encoding. Post allows to send a data via HTTP POST request (submitting a form) instead of HTTP GET.

```
<WEBJUMP name="newcommand1" post="var1=%combob1&amp;var2=%domain" />
```

<CHANGELAYOUT> command

The syntax for the CHANGELAYOUT command is the following:

```
<CHANGELAYOUT name="to_german" layout="1"/>
```

There are two attributes: name – is used to reference the command from a button or menu item, layout – defines the numeric value for the layout to switch to.

<SWITCHCOMMAND> command

The SWITCHCOMMAND has the following syn tax:

```
<SwitchCommand name="thisswitchname" target="target_combobox" command="New_command_Name"/>
```

It can be used to switch search engines on the fly by using a code like the following:

```
<BUTTON id="swbtn" caption="MyCompaby" img="8" command="swtch"/>
<COMMANDS>
  <WEBJUMP href="http://www.yoursite.com/search?q=%search" name="keMdXGRo"/>
  <WEBJUMP href="http://www.anotheryoursite.com/?q=%search" name="redir2"/>
  <SWITCHCOMMAND name="swtch" target="keMdXGRo" command="redir2"/>
</COMMANDS>
```

Additionally, the SWITCHCOMMAND can change one button if used like the following:

```
<SWITCHCOMMAND name="swtch" target="keMdXGRo" command="redir2" switchbutton="buttn"
switchtext="New label" switchicon=3 />
```

Where switchbutton is a name of the button being changed; switchtext is the new label on the button and switchicon specifies a new icon for it. If the button uses an image tag insted of img, the switchbmp should be used instead of switchicon.

<HIGHLIGHT> command

Highlighting allows marking search keywords with different colors on a webpage. To place a highlight button add a button with command set to Highlight:

```
<COMMANDS>
  <HIGHLIGHT name="Highlight"/>
</COMMANDS>
<BUTTON caption="" hint="Toggle highlighting of search terms on this page" id="tb_btn_KVasNoxV"
img="99" command="Highlight"/>
```

The colors used for highlighting are got from <HIGHLIGHT> subsection of the <SETTINGS> in configuration file. The example below

```
<HIGHLIGHT>
  <COLOR>F6FF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>00FFE4</COLOR>
  <COLOR>5AFF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>0087FF</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FFCC00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FF00F0</COLOR>
</HIGHLIGHT>
```

defines several different colors that will be used to highlight the search keywords within a webpage. The first keyword located will be highlighted with the color F6FF00 (yellow), the next will be highlighted with 00FFE4 (Cyan) and so on.

<SETTINGS> section

This section usually looks like this:

```
<SETTINGS scope="10">

<MESSAGE id="corruptedMsg" default="One of the XML files is corrupted or invalid. Press OK to
uninstall."/>
<MESSAGE id="uninstallMsg" default="This will remove the Deskbar from your computer! Are you
sure?"/>
<MESSAGE id="updateMsg" default="This will try to update the Deskbar from the server.
Continue?"/>
<MESSAGE id="autoUpdateMsg" default="New version of Deskbar is available. Would you like to
download and install new version?"/>
<MESSAGE id="versionError" default="Can not find current version information."/>
<MESSAGE id="connectionError" default="Can't establish a connection."/>
<MESSAGE id="lastVersionMsg" default="You have the latest version of the Deskbar."/>
<MESSAGE id="UpdateError" default="Unable to update deskbar"/>
<MESSAGE id="AlertMsg" default="Alert"/>
<MESSAGE id="ErrorMsg" default="Error"/>

<URL id="serverpath" default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar"/>
```

```
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar.cab"/>
<URL id="urlAfterUninstall"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/deskbar/deskbar_update.asp?deskbar=uninstall"/>

<FIRSTSTARTPAGE url="firstpage.html" width="500" height="350" resizable="1" align="left"/>

<CHECKBOX id="OpenNew" default="0"/>
<CHECKBOX id="AutoComplete" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="KeepHistory" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchAutomatically" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchDragAutomatically" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="DescriptiveText" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="ShowHighlightButton" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="UpdateAutomatically" default="0"/>

<COMBO id="EditWidthcombo1" default="1"/>

<COMBO id="EditWidthcombo2" default="2"/>

<RADIO name="EditWidthcombo1" default="1">
  <id>Widthcombo10</id>
  <id>Widthcombo11</id>
  <id>Widthcombo12</id>
</RADIO>

<RADIO name="EditWidthcombo2" default="2">
  <id>Widthcombo20</id>
  <id>Widthcombo21</id>
  <id>Widthcombo22</id>
</RADIO>

<FONT name="Tahoma" size="13"/>

<HIGHLIGHT>
  <COLOR>F6FF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>00FFE4</COLOR>
  <COLOR>5AFF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>0087FF</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FFCC00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FF00F0</COLOR>
</HIGHLIGHT>

<COLOR_SCHEMA>

  <!-- Deskbar skin image -->
  <TOOLBAR_SKIN></TOOLBAR_SKIN>

  <!-- Deskbar color -->
  <TOOLBAR_FACE>235,233,217</TOOLBAR_FACE>

  <!-- Menu background color -->
  <MENU>235,233,217</MENU>

  <!-- Selected menu background color -->
  <SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>170, 0, 0</SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>

  <!-- Text color -->
  <TEXT></TEXT>

  <!-- Text of item(s) selected in a menu -->
  <HIGHLIGHT_TEXT></HIGHLIGHT_TEXT>

  <!-- Grayed (disabled) text in a menu -->
  <GRAY_TEXT></GRAY_TEXT>

  <!-- Highlight color for three-dimensional display elements (for edges facing the light
source.) -->
  <HIGHLIGHT3D></HIGHLIGHT3D>

  <!-- Shadow for three-dimensional display elements. -->
  <SHADOW3D></SHADOW3D>

</COLOR_SCHEMA>

</SETTINGS>
```

This section contains all the settings that you may decide to adjust.

The attribute scope defines a time-out interval (in hours) which deskbar uses to check for updates when it works in auto-update mode (see below).

The first few items are <MESSAGE/> tags. Those tags are used to define the messages that the deskbar shows.

The next few items are the URLs used for update, auto-update and other redirect URLs:

<URL id="serverpath" default="http://... /deskbarinstfolder/" /> - this has to contain the path to the folder where the deskbar installation files are stored. This folder is used to store .cab file with all the contents of the deskbar package. It is also required that version.txt file is located in that folder.

<URL id="updateUrl" default=" http://... /deskbarinstfolder/deskbar.cab" /> - this URL is used to download the newer deskbar package when the customer chooses an "update deskbar" option. The update will only happen if the version.txt file contains a version number greater than the one that is already installed.

<URL id="urlAfterUninstall" default=" http://... /afteruninstall.html" /> - this page is shown after uninstalling of the deskbar.

The <FIRSTSTARTPAGE> tag allows an html file to be displayed in a window alongside the deskbar for the first time the deskbar is shown on the desktop. If the resizable attribute is not set, the window will have the specified dimensions and aligned as specified by align attribute in relation to the deskbar. If the resizable tag is set, the window will have a specified height, but it will adjust it's width to match the deskbar perfectly.

The next few lines contain default values for the items that are shown on the user "options page". The default values could be adjusted to make the options default to on or off.

<CHECKBOX id="OpenNew" default="0" /> - Open a new browser window each time the user clicks search? (0 -no, 1 -yes)

<CHECKBOX id="AutoComplete" default="1" /> - Use the auto-completion feature of the search box (it suggests an afore typed search request if it's beginning matches with what is typed into the search box). (0 -no, 1 -yes)

<CHECKBOX id="KeepHistory" default="1" /> - Keep the history of the searches? (0-no, 1 -yes)

<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchAutomatically" default="1" /> - Execute the search automatically after a text string was picked from the history? (0 -no, 1 -yes)

<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchDragAutomatically" default="1" /> - Execute the search automatically after "drag-n-drop" into search box? (0 -no, 1 -yes)

<CHECKBOX id="DescriptiveText" default="1" /> - Show only icons in deskbar (=0) or show the full text descriptions of the buttons (=1).

<CHECKBOX id="ShowHighlightButton" default="1" /> - The highlight feature is turned on if that value is 1 and it is off when 0.

<CHECKBOX id="ShowFindButtons" default="0" /> - Word find feature is turned on if 1 and off if that is 0

<CHECKBOX id="UpdateAutomatically" default="0" /> - Perform auto-update automatically each time the browser is open? (0 -no, 1 -yes)

```
<COMBO id="EditWidthcombo1" default="1" />
<COMBO id="EditWidthcombo2" default="2" />
```

- Default widths for combo boxes. The "default" number is an index of <WIDTH> tag from <COMBO> definition. In general Id has to be defined as the following pattern: EditWidth<combo_box_name>.

```
<RADIO name="EditWidthcombo1" default="1">
```

```
<id>Widthcombo10</id>
<id>Widthcombo11</id>
<id>Widthcombo12</id>
</RADIO>
<RADIO name="EditWidthcombo2" default="2">
  <id>Widthcombo20</id>
  <id>Widthcombo21</id>
  <id>Widthcombo22</id>
</RADIO>
```

Several different widths are supported for edit box on the user options page. In general Name has to be defined as the following pattern:
Width<combo_box_name><width_index>.

The next few lines are used to customize the appearance/colors used in buttons and menus.
 - specifies what font will be used for text captions and menu items.

Subsecion:

```
<HIGHLIGHT>
  <COLOR>F6FF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>00FFE4</COLOR>
  <COLOR>5AFF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>0087FF</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FFCC00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FF00F0</COLOR>
</HIGHLIGHT>
```

defines the colors used for highlighting search keywords inside the document.

```
<COLOR_SCHEMA>
  <!-- Deskbar skin image -->
  <TOOLBAR_SKIN>skin.bmp</TOOLBAR_SKIN>

  <!-- Deskbar color -->
  <TOOLBAR_FACE>235,233,217</TOOLBAR_FACE>

  <!-- Menu background color -->
  <MENU>235,233,217</MENU>

  <!-- Selected menu background color -->
  <SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>170, 0, 0</SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>

  <!-- Text color -->
  <TEXT></TEXT>

  <!-- Text of item(s) selected in a menu -->
  <HIGHLIGHT_TEXT></HIGHLIGHT_TEXT>

  <!-- Grayed (disabled) text in a menu -->
  <GRAY_TEXT></GRAY_TEXT>

  <!-- Highlight color for three-dimensional display elements
  (for edges facing the light source.) -->
  <HIGHLIGHT3D></HIGHLIGHT3D>

  <!-- Shadow for three-dimensional display elements. -->
  <SHADOW3D></SHADOW3D>

</COLOR_SCHEMA>
```

This defines the color scheme used for the deskbar. Here you can define background color that the deskbar uses, skin for the deskbar, and background image for the deskbar and foreground color for the deskbar. The windows bitmap (.bmp) files for skin or background of the deskbar can have arbitrary dimensions. If you do not define the colors or simple remove the section <COLOR_SCHEMA></COLOR_SCHEMA> from the configuration file the default windows colors will be used for the deskbar appearance.

The colors are defined in RGB format so light red is "255,0,0" and green is "0,255,0" and so on.

Setting background image and colors for the deskbar

In the <SETTINGS></SETTINGS> section of the configuration files please find the sub-section <COLOR_SCHEMA></COLOR_SCHEMA>. The colors are defined as RGB triples so light red is "255,0,0" and green is "0,255,0" and so on. The following can be defined:

```
<COLOR_SCHEMA>
  <!-- Deskbar skin image -->
  <TOOLBAR_SKIN></TOOLBAR_SKIN>

  <!-- Deskbar color -->
  <TOOLBAR_FACE></TOOLBAR_FACE>

  <!-- Menu background color -->
  <MENU></MENU>

  <!-- Selected menu background color -->
  <SELECTED_MENU_ITEM></SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>

  <!-- Text color in menu items -->
  <TEXT></TEXT>

  <!-- Text of item(s) selected in a menu -->
  <HIGHLIGHT_TEXT></HIGHLIGHT_TEXT>

  <!-- Grayed (disabled) text in a menu -->
  <GRAY_TEXT></GRAY_TEXT>

  <!-- Highlight color for three-dimensional display elements (for edges
facing the light source.) -->
  <HIGHLIGHT3D></HIGHLIGHT3D>

  <!-- Shadow for three-dimensional display elements. -->
  <SHADOW3D></SHADOW3D>

</COLOR_SCHEMA>
```

Setting the "skin" for the browser

You can change the skin for the browser i.e. a background image for all of the browser menus and deskbars like this:



To do this you have to use <TOOLBAR_SKIN>skin.bmp</TOOLBAR_SKIN> tag that has to be included into the configuration file in between <COLOR_SCHEMA> and </COLOR_SCHEMA> tags. The name for the file does not matter but you have to provide this file within the contents of the deskbar .CAB file. The file has to be windows bitmap file (.bmp). Dimensions of the image can be arbitrary.

Automatic deskbar update

Deskbar can be updated whenever a new version is released.

The automatic update is controlled by scope="" attribute of the SETTINGS tag. This attribute defines time interval (in hours) between auto-update attempts. scope="1" tells the deskbar to check for the updates each hour. Please set it to 168 to perform the check for updates once a week or to 24 to check once a day.

When the time to update comes, the deskbar downloads the file from your server called version.txt. This file has to be located in the folder identified by "serverpath" setting.

So that when you have:

```
<URL id="serverpath" default="http://yoursite.com/deskbar/" />
```

It will download the file http://yoursite.com/deskbar/version.txt

After version.txt file was downloaded the version number gets extracted and if that version number greater then the current deskbar version the deskbar will update itself downloading the new .CAB file from your server. This new .CAB file is got from the URL specified in updateUrl setting.

The new version of the deskbar is downloaded from the URL defined in the SETTINGS section:

```
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar/deskbar.cab"/>
```

This URL has to point to the .CAB file. The .CAB file is being downloaded and installed. After successful update the user's browser is redirected to urlAfterUpdate page (also configurable in the SETTINGS section).

In the same section you can control if it should perform automatically updates:

```
<CHECKBOX id="UpdateAutomatically" default="1"/>
```

Manual deskbar update

You can disable automatic update. In this case the deskbar will only be updated by choosing an update option in a menu or clicking on appropriate button. In the SETTINGS section you should set UpdateAutomatically to 0:

```
<RADIO id="UpdateAutomatically" default="0"/>
```

'User options' page

Layout of the page is controled by the html file usually named options.html or settings.html. To access the page you should have a LOCALHTML or WEBJUMP command binded to a button or menu item.

```
<LOCALHTML name="setting" href="settings.html" newbrowserwindow="optionspage" optionswidth="400" optionsheight="300" optionsalign="docked" optionstitle="Deskbar options"/>
```

It has some special attributes:

- ? newbrowserwindow – should be set to optionspage
- ? optionsalign – specify position of the window:
 - o center – the window will be in the center of the screen
 - o docked – the window will be visually attached to the deskbar
- ? optionswidth – width of the options window
- ? optionsheight – height of the options window
- ? optionstitle – title of the window

The options page has two links with the special URLs: setpg:save and setpg:close. After hitting the first URL all changed options take effect. The second URL just closes the page.

Options supported on the 'user options' page

The following options are supported on the user options page:

- ? Open a new window to display results each time you search
- ? Auto Complete
- ? Keep a search history in a drop-down list under the search box
- ? Automatically run a search when you select from the search history
- ? Run search automatically when users drags and drops the text into the search box
- ? Update deskbar automatically
- ? Define what buttons to show on the deskbar

If you do not wish to allow your user to setup these options you can simple remove the link to the options page from the deskbar menu. If you wish to allow your users to adjust only sub-set of the above options you can customize options.html page that is distributed with the deskbar.

There is one additional option to help webdevelopers. It enables or disables javascript error messages that appears when pop-up blocker is working.

```
<CHECKBOX id="DebugDisable" default="1"/>
```

Note: The options.html file can be located on a web server, instead of local disk.

Preparing the deskbar to be downloadable and installable from your website

Please decide from which folder located on your website you'll distribute the deskbar .CAB file. Let's say that it will be <http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/>. After that you'll need to design the following pages for your website:

- Install.html page, (Required) – the page that users can access to download and install the deskbar automatically
- UninstallComplete.html page (Optional) – this page can will be shown to the user after he has uninstalled the toolbar.

The names for those pages can be different and they do not need to have .html extension (for example .php page can be used to track how many users have downloaded and installed the deskbar). Please note that Install.html page has to be located in a folder with .CAB file (<http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/> in our example) the other pages could be located anywhere else.

After that you'll need to modify the tunings.xml file <SETTINGS> </SETIINGS> section and provide the correct links to the above pages like in the fragment below:

```
<URL id="serverpath" default="http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/" />
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/deskbar.cab" />
<URL id="urlAfterUninstall" default="http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/UninstallComplete.html" />
```

Minimal configuration will require only one page to be provided – install.html and in this case you can set the following configuration settings:

```
<URL id="serverpath" default="http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/" />
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/deskbar.cab" />
<URL id="urlAfterUninstall" default="http://www.mysite.com/" />
```

So the user will be redirected to the entry page of your website after he installs/uninstalls or successfully upgrades the deskbar to the latest version.

After building .CAB file you'll have to upload this file to <http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/> folder and reference it from the install.html page like it is shown below:

```
<object classid="clsid:92F02779-6D88-4958-8AD3-83C12D86ADC7"
codebase="deskbar.cab" id="deskbar" height="0" width="0">
</object>
```

Please do not forget to upload version.txt file to the <http://www.mysite.com/deskbar/> folder so that the deskbar will support versions and automatic upgrades.

You can define an error message that appears when the update process fails for some reason (e.g a network connection failure) in a <SETTINGS> </SETIINGS>.

```
<MESSAGE id="UpdateError" default="Unable to update deskbar" />
```

FAQ – Frequently asked questions

How can I organize news or advertising via the deskbar?

The simple way: just include a <BANNER> tag in your deskbar and redirect it to an HTML page, which will refresh itself periodically.

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<TOOLBAR name="Deskbar Sample" icons="icons.bmp" hot_icons="icons.bmp" dllname="deskbar">

    <!-- News banner (HTML approach) -->
    <BANNER caption="news" href="http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar_news.html" width="200"
expire="3"/>

    <!-- News include (XML approach) -->
    <INCLUDE_XML filename="http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar.asp" expire="10"/>

</TOOLBAR>
```

Another way: Use <INCLUDE> tag with a server side XML file.

Included XML file (placed at URL <http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar.asp>):

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<TOOLBAR>

<%
Randomize
MyValue = Int((4 * Rnd()) + 1)
advText = "Advertisement #" & MyValue
%>
    <BUTTON href="http://www.yoursite.com/advert.asp?adv=<%=MyValue%>" command="redirect"
hint="" caption="<%=advText%>" />

</TOOLBAR>
```

How can I refresh the mini web page in the banner periodically?

You should use the expire attribute of the BANNER tag to specify a time interval at which the banner shall be reloaded.

```
<BANNER caption="news" href="http://www.yoursite.com/deskbar_news.html" width="200" expire="1"/>
```

How can I have news, short jokes or ads scroll across the deskbar?

Use the <BANNER>. The below will create a 200 pixel wide HTML banner inside the deskbar that is downloaded from your site (jokes.html).

```
<BANNER id="Jokebox" caption="Jokes" url="http://www.yoursite.com/jokes.html" width="200"
expire="1" />
```

Please see an example jokes.html below:

```
<html>
<head>
<META HTTP-EQUIV="PRAGMA" CONTENT="NO -CACHE">
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Cache-control" CONTENT="NO -CACHE, must-revalidate">
<style>
a.ticker { color: #FFFFFF; font-weight: bold; height: 10px;
filter: progid: DXImageTransform.Microsoft.dropshadow(OffX=1, OffY=1, Color='#666666', Positive='true')}
</style>
<script language="javascript">
started = true;
</script>
</head>
<body bgcolor="#D5D2CD" leftMargin=0 topMargin=0 marginWidth=0 marginHeight=0>

<marquee scrollamount=3 direction=left onMouseOver="if (started) { this.stop() }" onMouseOut="if (started)
{
```

```
this.start() }" onClick="if (started) {started=false; this.stop();} else {started=true; this.start();}">
<table cellspacing=0 cellpadding=0 border=0>
<tr>

<!-- TICKER TEXT 1 -->
<td width=12></td>
<td width=200><a href= http://www.yoursite.com/jokes1.html class="ticker">A funny joke</a></td>

<!-- TICKER TEXT 2 -->
<td width=12></td>
<td width=200><a href= http://www.yoursite.com/jokes2.html class="ticker">A very funny
joke</a></td>

<!-- TICKER TEXT 3 -->
<td width=12></td>
<td width=200><a href= http://www.yoursite.com/jokes3.html class="ticker">Another funny
joke</a></td>

<!-- TICKER TEXT 4 -->
<td width=12></td>
<td width=200><a href= http://www.yoursite.com/jokes4.html class="ticker">And yet one more funny
joke</a></td>
</tr>
</table>
</marquee>

</body>
</html>
```

The jokes.html can also be a script like jokes.php or jokes.asp.

How do I know if the update feature is working?

Normally you need to verify that your serverpath and updateurl inside the <SETTINGS> </SETTINGS> are correctly configured like below:

```
<URL id="serverpath" default="http://yoursite.com/deskbar/" />
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://yoursite.com/deskbar/deskbar.cab" />
```

Please make sure that they correctly point to existent folder on your website and the deskbar.cab file is there. Plus, please make sure that the version.txt file is there. It should be accessible as <http://yoursite.com/deskbar/version.txt>

The deskbar will upgrade itself either manually (when UPDATE command is triggered by button or menu item) or automatically (see automatic update).

It will only update itself if the version.txt file on your server has greater version number than the existent.

How does it know in general to update?

It pulls version.txt file from the server after each X hours (where X is defined using the scope attribute of the SETTINGS tag). And if it finds that the version number has changed it performs an upgrade.

Why do we need to sign this cab file?

The .cab files are signed for security reasons. Unless Internet Explorer security level (available at Internet Options menu) is set to LOW, Internet Explorer will not install an unsigned .cab file.

For security purposes, you must register the deskbar's CAB file to make sure it will be accepted by browsers with a confidentiality level.

You may obtain a Code Signing Certificate by contacting an authorized organization such as Verisign (www.verisign.com) and Thawte (www.thawte.com).

Once registered, you will receive two files:

104 6th Street, Unit B
Lynden, Washington 98264
www.besttoolbars.net
15:18 07/05/2004

Sales: +1 877 243 8735
Fax: +1 801 457 8820
Tech: +1 866 862 1289
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A certificate (.spc file). The certificate informs users that the software is secure.

An official registering key (.pvk file). The registering key is used to lock the software. During the installation, users need to accept to install the key on their desktop in order to be able to install the software.

Pricing for a certificate application vary from one company to another. Upon request, your key should be sent to you in approximately two days.

The Code Signing Certificate guarantees users that the software does originate from you and that the software is free of alteration or corruption. It is then safe for users to install it.

We also can sign your .CAB file with our own certificate.

NOTE: When installing a deskbar signed with a certificate, users need to accept the digital signature.

How can I make a digital sign for the deskbar?

After you purchase the code signing certificate from Verisign.com or Thawte.com, they will send you the email with instruction for how to use the certificate. Following their instruction, you will download two files:

mycredentials.spc

myprivatekey.pvk

To make the .cab signed you need to run the following commands:

```
signcode -n "name of product" -i "Additional info(usually URL)" -spc mycredentials.spc -v  
myprivatekey.pvk -t http://timestamp.verisign.com/scripts/timestamp.dll deskbar.cab
```

How can I obtain a certificate to sign the deskbar with?

We can offer you 3 options for digital certificate.

- 1) You can purchase the certificate from THAWTE.com and use it at your website. You need to order 'code signing certificate' it costs \$199 per year. This certificate will be issued on your own business name and will contain it inside. or You can purchase the certificate from Verisign. According to Verisign (<http://www.verisign.com/products/signing/code/>), the certificate name is Microsoft Authenticode Digital ID: In conjunction with Microsoft's Authenticode technology, this enables you to digitally sign 32-bit .exe (PE files), .cab, .dll and .ocx, files.
- 2) We can sign the deskbar with SOFTOMATE.COM (our company) certificate for \$20.
- 3) .EXE installer (no digital certificate is required). You can use the Cab2exe utility from our site <http://www.bestdeskbars.net/download.php> to convert .cab into setup.exe application. This setup.exe once downloaded and executed will install the deskbar. To use cab2exe: Unzip cab2exe.zip archive into a folder where your .cab file is and run cab2exe.bat. You'll get the self extracting archive called deskbar.exe. Upload it to your website and give your customers a link to download it.

How can I sign the deskbar with the Softomate's certificate?

Signing with our certificate is the cheapest way to have your deskbar signed. Signing with our (SOFTOMATE) certificate works as follows:

1. You send us your .cab file.
2. We analyze if it is ok.
3. We sign it with our certificate (issued on Softomate/BestToolbars)
4. We send you .CAB file back.

The whole procedure takes about one day.

I would like to know how can we change the test certificate from Softomate to our company name.

You can use test certificates to sign your deskbar. The test certificate will display a warning to your users. You can download test certificate signing utility from our website at:

<http://www.besttoolbars.net/download.php>

Please take a look over sign_code.bat inside the signing.zip archive you'll find the following line:

```
makecert -sv test.pvk test.cer
```

Please change it to:

```
makecert /sv "test.pvk" /n "CN=YOUR COMPANY NAME" test.cer
```

Do I need to sign the .cab file that is used for updates?

You do not need to sign the .CAB file that is used for the update functionality. The deskbar will download this .CAB and unpack transparently for the user.

What type of commands can I use with the "Shell command on the User PC"?

You can launch any programs (such as word.exe, notepad.exe) or execute any commands that are accessible from the Start->Run menu (like tracert and cmd).

How can I include an .EXE into my deskbar's .CAB and make this .EXE file to be executed when someone presses a button or clicks menu item in my deskbar?

To achieve this, you should add the following lines to the <COMMANDS> section:

```
<LOCALHTML name="prog" href="progname.exe"/>
<SHELLEXECUTE name="Prog" command="progname.exe" options="/s %combol" not_found="Can't open Prog application..."/>
```

Could you create a new GUID or CLSID for us? We do not want it to conflict with others.

Yes, we will provide unique GUID DLLs for you.

Do you use MFC or WTL for the deskbar? Will it require additional DLL's or downloads?

We use Visual C++, ATL and WTL. It does not require any additional DLL's to be downloaded. That is why our deskbar is only 180KB in size and very fast.

Opening a page in a new or modal browser window

To do this, define a new WEBJUMP command. The command has to be defined between <COMMANDS></COMMANDS> tags in the configuration file. The syntax is as follows:

```
<WEBJUMP name="newcommand1" href="http://yourdeskbar.com/somepage.html" newbrowserwindow="true" />
<WEBJUMP name="newcommand2" href="http://yourdeskbar.com/somepage.html"
newbrowserwindow="modaldialog"
options="status:no;help:no;dialogHeight:600px;dialogWidth:600px;dialogHide:yes;scroll:auto;" />
```

options parameter defines an options of the modal dialog or new window. It is the same as in javascript: window.open() function. This command can then be added to any button or menu item.

Sending POST requests via the deskbar

To do this, define a new WEBJUMP command. The command has to be defined between <COMMANDS></COMMANDS> tags in the configuration file. The syntax is as following:

```
<WEBJUMP name="newcommand1" post="var1=%combol&var2=%domain"/>
```

How to use multiple search sites in the deskbar

If you need to search on multiple search sites like google.com and your own site with your own site being the default, define the following commands:

```
<WEBJUMP name="search1"
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search.asp?q=%combo1&Searchtype=from_deskbar"/>
<WEBJUMP name="search2" href="http://google.com/search?q=%combo1"/>
```

In the above lines %combo1 symbol shows the position into which the search string will be substituted. "Combo1" here is a name of the combo box, from which deskbar should get the search terms.

To specify that by default the search will be performed on your site you'll have to specify that the Search combo box uses the search1 command as shown in the fragment below:

```
<COMBO name="combo1" caption="search" hint="enter text to search" command="search1" limit="40"
histmax="10">
  <WIDTH>10</WIDTH>
  <WIDTH>15</WIDTH>
  <WIDTH>20</WIDTH>
</COMBO>
```

Disabling the down arrow shown beside buttons

You have to change the menu type from Split to Single. So that it will not show the down arrow near the button.

```
<MENU img="logo.bmp" type="Single">
  ...
</MENU>
```

Providing news/information

You can insert the following lines:

```
<BANNER width="100" url=http://www.yorserver.com/news.html expire="60"/>
```

That will insert a mini web browser window into the place. By defining the url=<http://www.yorserver.com/news.html> you can achieve that the current news from your website will be displayed each time the new browser window is open. You can insert any html code into that page so that you can provide scrolling lines, flashing items and so on.

How can I make some buttons disabled by default?

The BUTTON tag has the visibility attribute. Setting the value to 0 disables a button until it's enabled in the options page.

```
<BUTTON id="btclrnt" caption="CLEARCOUNT" img="4" command="clearcount" visibility="0" />
```

APPENDIX

Example basis.xml

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<TOOLBAR icons="nav.bmp" hot_icons="nav.bmp" name="Search Bar" dllname="deskbar"
deskbarMinSize="92">

  <BUTTON image="logo.bmp" id="tb_btn_CPXisijo">
    <MENU type="Single">
      <ITEM caption="Your Deskbar" img="46" href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/"
command="redirect"/>
      <SEPARATOR/>
      <ITEM caption="Terms Of Use" img="54"
href="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/terms.html" command="redirect"/>
    </MENU>
  </BUTTON>
  <COMBO name="mainsearch" hint="Enter Search Terms" limit="40" histmax="10"
id="tb_cmb_EYNHOTmc" command="yLbfQWuw" minWidth="80" maxWidth="220" background_type="time">
    <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
    <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
    <WIDTH>100</WIDTH>
  </COMBO>
  <BUTTON hint="Search" id="tb_btn_SfMUoUK1" img="86" combomove="mainsearch">
    <MENU type="Single">
      <ITEM caption="Search The Web" img="28" command="GwlPcPNv"/>
      <ITEM caption="Search Images" command="ARKCrtCF"/>
      <ITEM caption="Search Usenet" command="GwlPcPNv"/>
      <SEPARATOR/>
      <ITEM caption="Clear Search History" command="clearhistory"/>
    </MENU>
  </BUTTON>

  <BUTTON id="ergewrgj" img="34" caption="reload" command="reload"/>

  <BANNER id="herergerg" url="banner.html" width="110" expire="1"/>

  <BUTTON id="tb_btn_highlight" img="-1" caption="Highlight" hint="Toggle highlighting of
search terms on all opened IE pages" command="Highlight"/>

  <BUTTON id="tb_btn_example" img="-1" caption="USER_ID:%user_id, USER_NAME:%user_name"
hint="Bubble" visibility="1" combomove="mainsearch2">
    <BUBBLE type="Single" width="335" height="291" href="bubble.html"/>
  </BUTTON>

  <BUTTON id="ergewrgj" img="24" caption="options" command="setting"/>

  <COMMANDS>
    <HIGHLIGHT name="Highlight"/>

    <UPDATE name="update"/>
    <UNINSTALL name="uninstall"/>
    <WEBJUMP href="http://www.google.com/search?q=%mainsearch" name="yLbfQWuw"/>
    <WEBJUMP href="http://groups.google.com/groups?q=%mainsearch" name="GwlPcPNv"/>
    <WEBJUMP href="http://images.google.com/images?q=%mainsearch" name="ARKCrtCF"/>
    <WEBJUMP href="" name="redirect"/>
    <WEBJUMP newbrowserwindow="true" href="" name="redirect2"/>
    <CLEARHISTORY name="clearhistory"/>

    <RELOAD name="reload"/>

    <LOCALHTML name="setting" href="options.html" newbrowserwindow="optionspage"
optionswidth="400" optionsheight="300" optionsalign="docked" optionstitle="Deskbar options"/>

    <LOCALHTML name="bubblehtml" href="bubble.html"/>

  </COMMANDS>
  <SETTINGS>
    <MESSAGE id="corruptedMsg" default="One of the XML files is corrupted or invalid. Press
OK to uninstall."/>
    <MESSAGE id="uninstallMsg" default="This will remove the Fizzle Wizzle Entertainment
Searchbar from your computer! Are you sure?"/>
    <MESSAGE id="updateMsg" default="This will try to update the Fizzle Wizzle Entertainment
Searchbar from the server. Continue?"/>
  </SETTINGS>

```

```
<MESSAGE id="autoUpdateMsg" default="New version of Fizzle Wizzle Entertainment Searchbar
is available. Would you like to download and install new version?"/>
<MESSAGE id="versionError" default="Can not find current version information."/>
<MESSAGE id="connectionError" default="Can't establish a connection."/>
<MESSAGE id="lastVersionMsg" default="You have the latest version of the Fizzle Wizzle
Entertainment Searchbar."/>
<MESSAGE id="contextMenuItemName" default="Search Fizzle Wizzle Entertainment"/>
<MESSAGE id="closeAllWindowsForUpdate" default="All running IE Windows will be closed
before updating the Fizzle Wizzle Entertainment Searchbar. Continue?"/>

<URL id="firstURL" default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/new.html?id=%toolbar_id"/>
<URL id="serverpath" default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/">
<URL id="updateUrl" default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/toolbar.cab"/>
<URL id="urlAfterUpdate"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/updated.html?id=%toolbar_id"/>
<URL id="urlAfterUninstall"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/toolbar/bye.html?id=%toolbar_id"/>
<URL id="contextSearch"
default="http://www.yourdeskbar.com/search.php?m=tbc&q=%mainsearch"/>

<CHECKBOX id="OpenNew" default="0"/>
<CHECKBOX id="AutoComplete" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="KeepHistory" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchAutomatically" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="RunSearchDragAutomatically" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="DescriptiveText" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="ShowHighlightButton" default="1"/>
<CHECKBOX id="ShowFindButtons" default="0"/>
<CHECKBOX id="UpdateAutomatically" default="1"/>

<COMBO id="EditWidthcombol" default="1"/>

<RADIO name="EditWidthcombol" default="1">
  <id>Widthcombol0</id>
  <id>Widthcombol1</id>
  <id>Widthcombol2</id>
</RADIO>

<COMBO id="EditWidthcombo2" default="1"/>

<RADIO name="EditWidthcombo2" default="1">
  <id>Widthcombo20</id>
  <id>Widthcombo21</id>
  <id>Widthcombo22</id>
</RADIO>

<FONT name="Tahoma" size="13"/>

<HIGHLIGHT>
  <COLOR>F6FF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>00FFE4</COLOR>
  <COLOR>5AFF00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>0087FF</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FFCC00</COLOR>
  <COLOR>FF00F0</COLOR>
</HIGHLIGHT>

<COLOR_SCHEMA>

  <!-- Toolbar skin image -->
  <TOOLBAR_SKIN></TOOLBAR_SKIN>

  <!-- Toolbar color -->
  <TOOLBAR_FACE></TOOLBAR_FACE>

  <!-- Menu background color -->
  <MENU></MENU>

  <!-- Selected menu background color -->
  <SELECTED_MENU_ITEM></SELECTED_MENU_ITEM>

  <!-- Text color -->
  <TEXT></TEXT>

  <!-- Text of item(s) selected in a menu -->
  <HIGHLIGHT_TEXT></HIGHLIGHT_TEXT>
```

```
<!-- Grayed (disabled) text in a menu -->
<GRAY_TEXT></GRAY_TEXT>

<!-- Highlight color for three-dimensional display elements (for edges facing the
light source.) -->
<HIGHLIGHT3D></HIGHLIGHT3D>

<!-- Shadow for three-dimensional display elements. -->
<SHADOW3D></SHADOW3D>
</COLOR_SCHEMA>
</SETTINGS>
</TOOLBAR>
```