(Free!) Web Tools for Public Outreach and Engagement

Khris Dodson & Carissa Matthews Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University

Smart Management for Small Communities at Minnowbrook Conference Center, April 2012



For the Next 2.5 Hours...

- Overview of Outreach and Communications
- Introduction to Web tools for:
 - Collaboration
 - Surveys and forms (and how to write an effective survey)
 - Emails
 - Events and registration
 - Websites
 - Social networking



First: A Brainstorm

- Who currently conducts outreach activities?
- What are your communications needs?
- How often do you do outreach?
- Who are your audiences? Internal? External?
- What are your current outreach practices?
- What messages do you need to get across?
- What avenues for outreach currently exist?



Discussion

- Why use web-based communications?
 - Often inexpensive if not free.
 - Reach many more people for less mailing and printing costs. What do you do with your 'junk mail'? What do you do with your 'junk e-mail'?
 - Can send communications quickly and efficiently (i.e. reminders for meetings, events, emergency notices) and often
 - Reach a broader audience in a multitude of ways



An Introduction to Web Tools

- Wiggio
- Mail Chimp
- Wufoo
- Eventbrite
- Weebly
- Social Media



Use the tools your customers are using

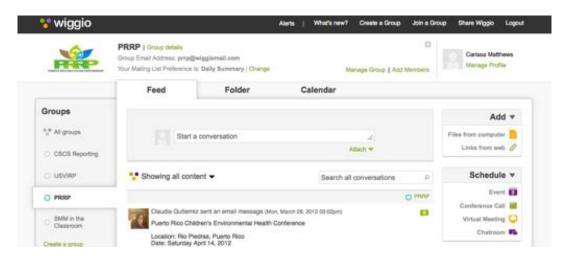








- What: A place for groups to work together
- Capabilities: E-mail listserv, sub-groups, share documents, manage events and meetings

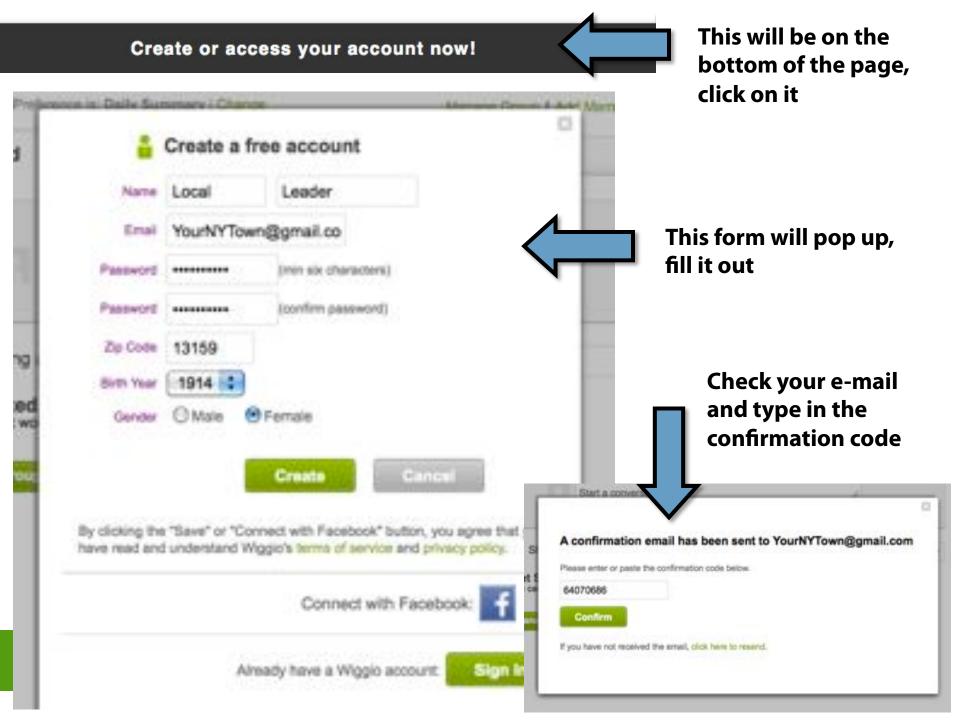


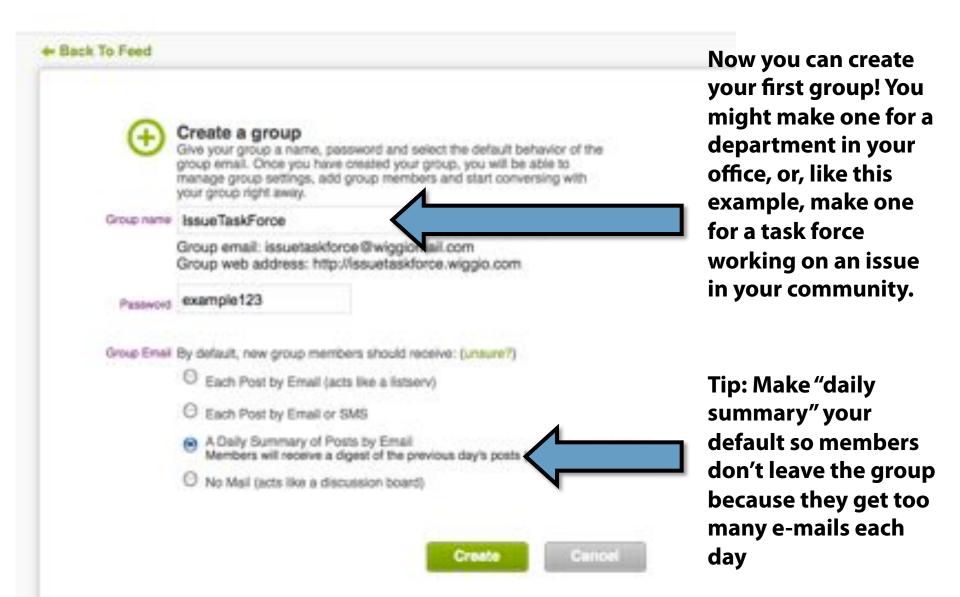


Signing Up – Wiggio.com

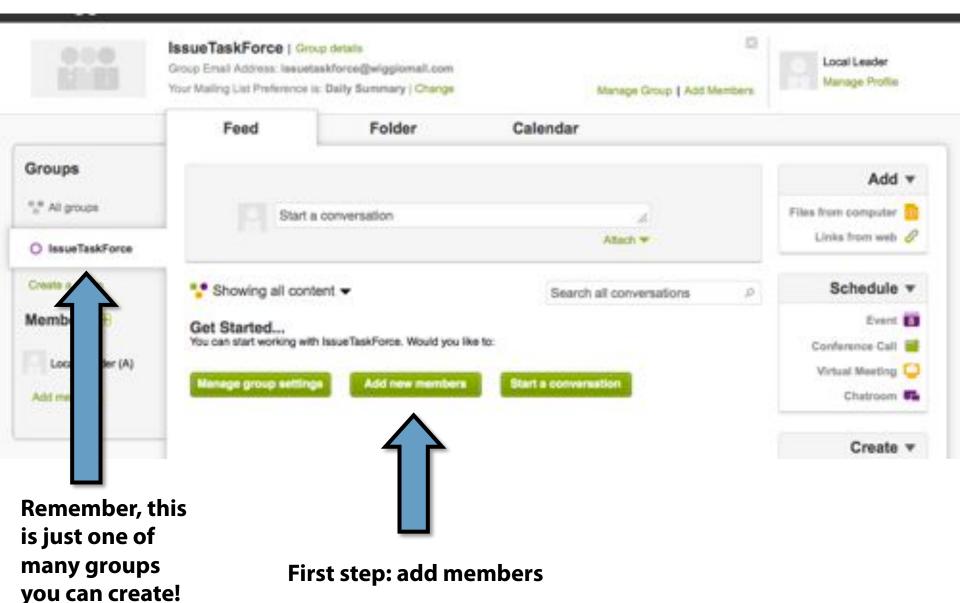




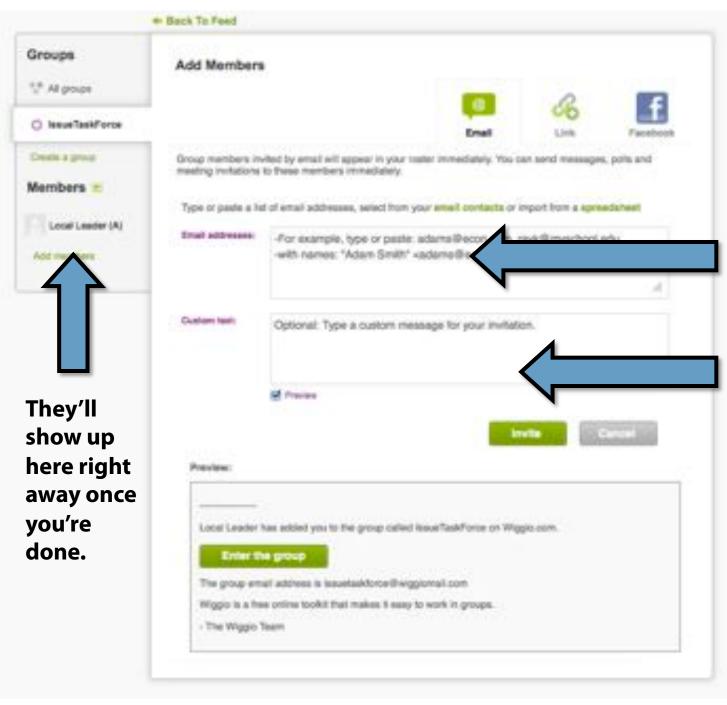












Simply copy/paste e-mails, no need to write out names

Tip: Write a custom message so folks know why they are getting an e-mail from Wiggio, since many have never heard of it before.



Three Main Functions of Wiggio

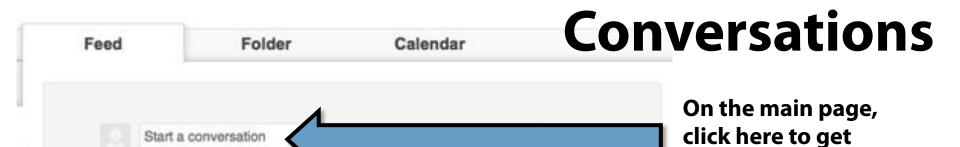
Conversations: group e-mails

IssueTaskForce | Group details

Group Email Address: issuetaskforce@wiggiomail.com

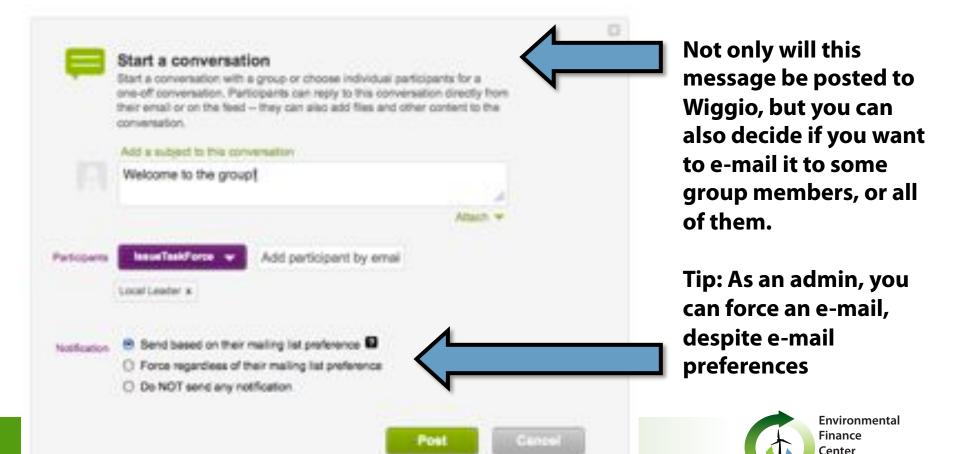
- Share files: folder system to both upload documents and create new ones
- Calendar: schedule events

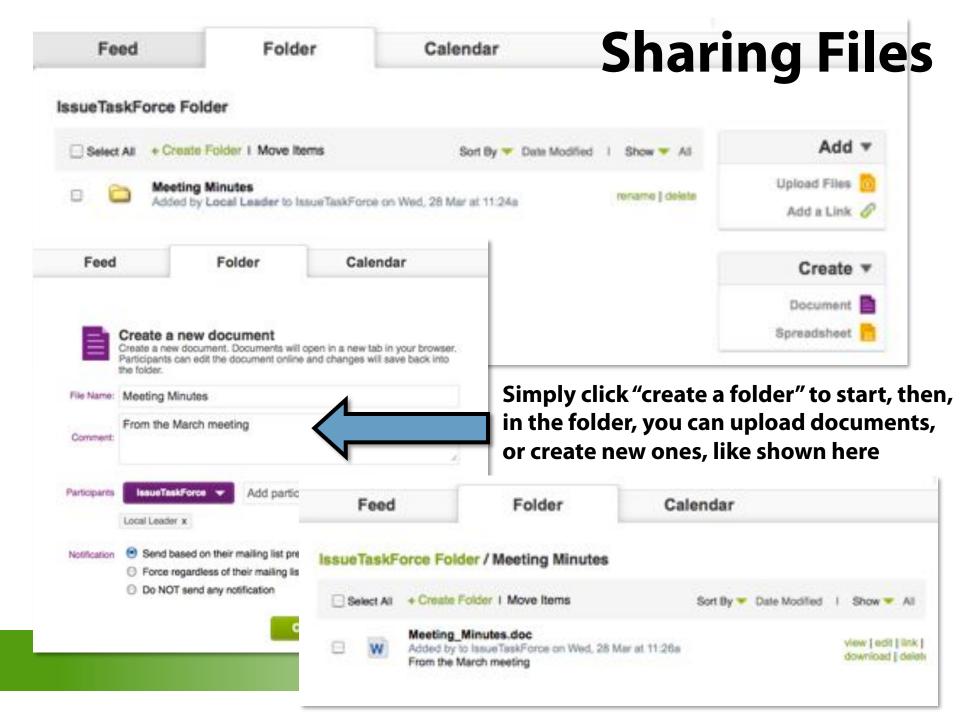




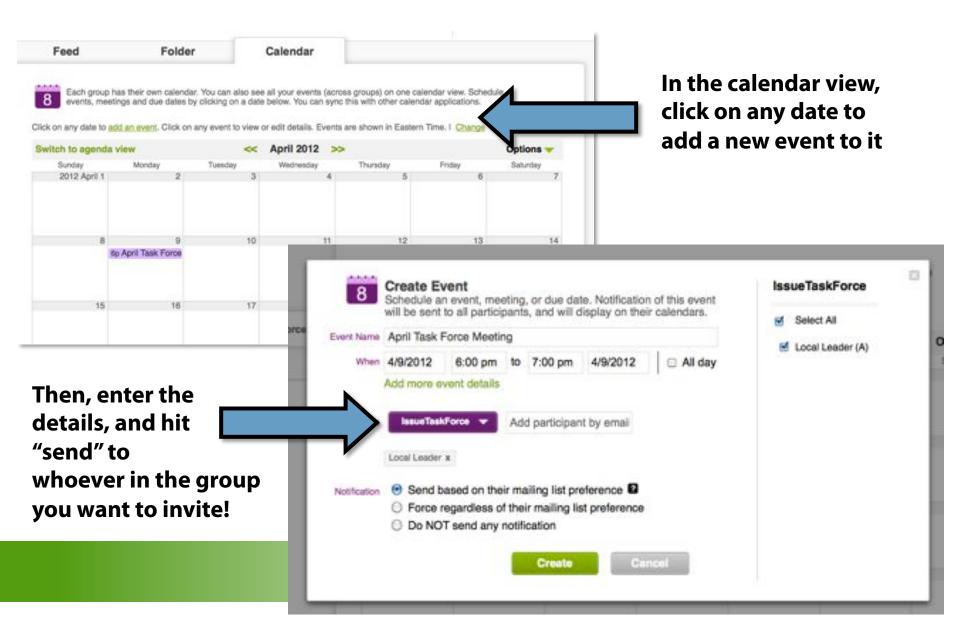
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Syracuse University





Calendar and Events



Live Demo

- Because it's easier to see in action:
 - http://www.wiggio.com



Questions on Wiggio?

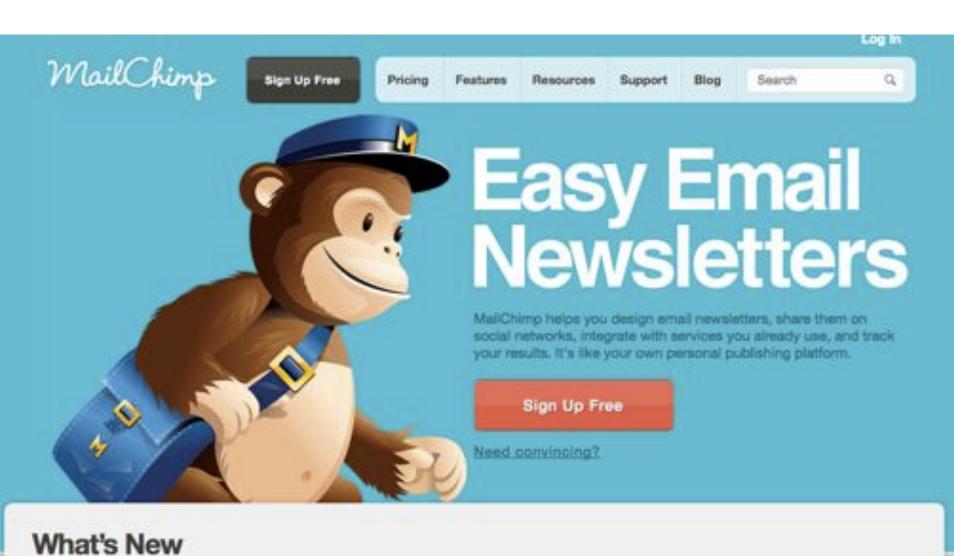




- What: A tool to send professional looking email announcements and newsletters
- Capabilites: Insert your website and it pulls in your logo and colors to match your webpage, sign-up for a series of 10 'how to' emails to get to know Mail Chimp



Isn't he cute?



Create Your MailChimp Account

Email

yournytown@gmail.com

Looks good.

Username

Superintendent

Choose a username that contains only letters and numbers, or use your email address.

The username Superintendent is available.

Password

That works!

Create My Account

The Forever Free Plan

Send up to 12,000 emails per month No contracts No credit card required

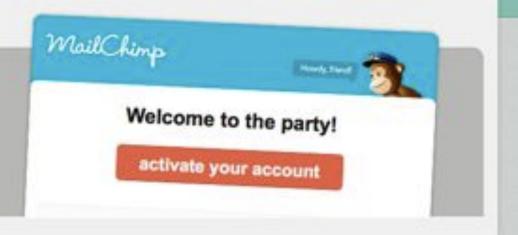
By clicking this button, you agree to MailChimp's Anti-spam Policy & Terms of Use.

Sign Up

Thanks for signing up!

Check your email.

Please click Activate Your Account in the email we just sent you.





Let's get started Create A Security Question We help protect your account by saving you a security question it we see patterns that seem unusual. accorby quastion. your answer 21 Please Select... Make your Mad During account over more secure with Combins, has forme persons Name & Address The will help us automatically build your error furthers to compay with the CASH SMAR Act and international sources. email address (at work) yournytown@gmail.com Street married DAT NAME address 2 address 1 state/province/region

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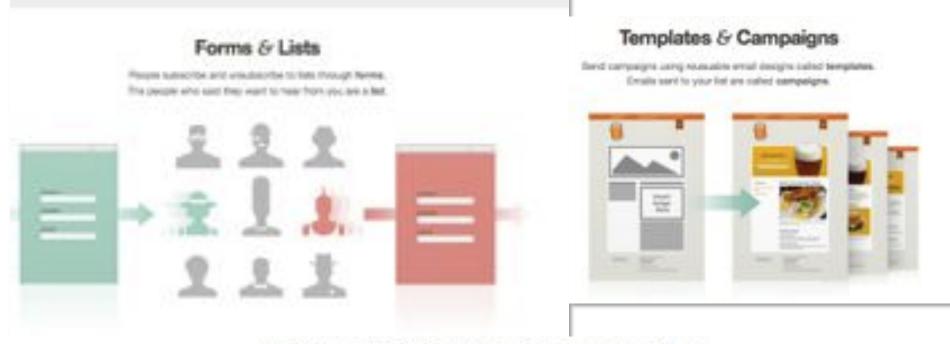
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Here's How MailChimp Works



Get Started With MailChimp in Three Easy Steps











Set Up Your New List **Greate List** Design Signap Farms. Bel name * Residents search list subscribers stellauff from name * Superintendent default reply-to innel " yournetown@gmail.com stefault subject Join Us for our Spring Community Clean-up and 68Q1 remind people how they got on your list." You are receiving this ame? because you are a revident of the foun of Disclosin In this the correct contact into for this list? \$\int \text{mby is the recession?}\$ Year Scentert 767 E Washington Breed. Synature, Ny 13018. sompany + Town Covernent address " 727 E Washington Street May " alp/poetal code * Spracuse 13250 country * state/province/region * USA. phone email me at yournytown@gmail.com edit when ... of people subscribe people unsubscribs ampel format Wpeople can pick small format (HTML, plain-less), or trobbel √ where mult Cancel Same



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Is my list allowed?

The care only import late of people who may up at your extents. No first late, no prospects, no little that you surraped from websites, no charakers of commerce lists, at:

To have held to be a bod erroll tracketor.

Import From ...

from my computer





Upload List from Constant Contact

from unother service





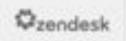




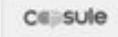


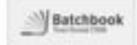


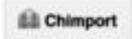








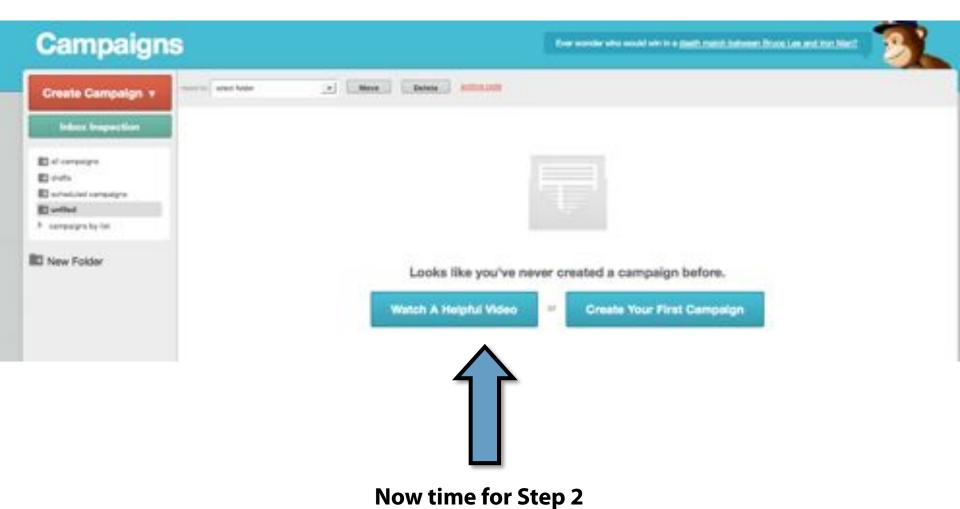




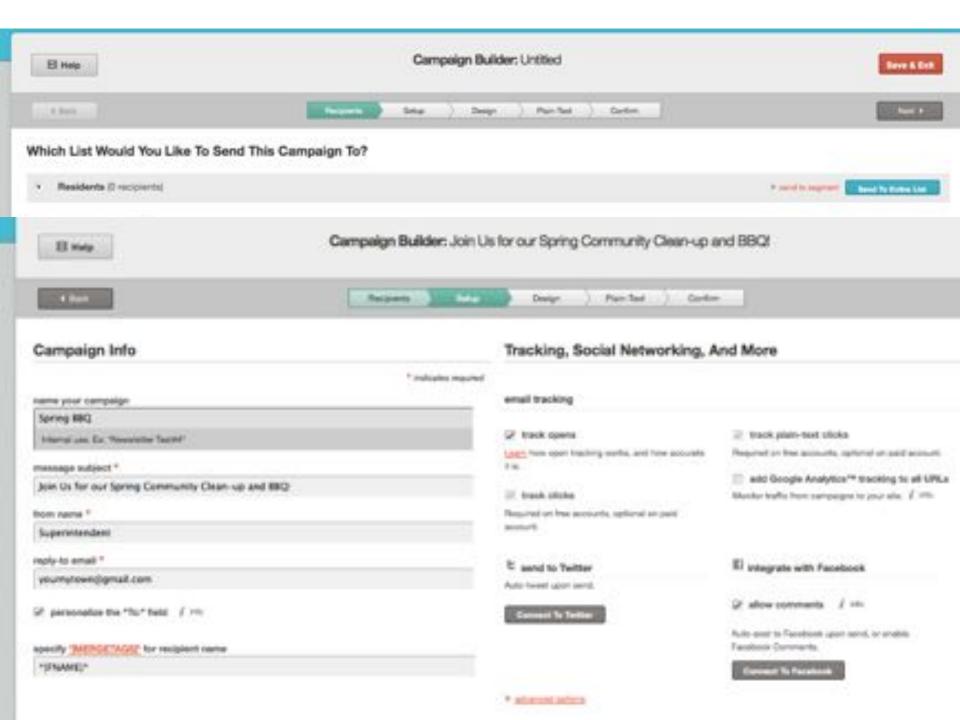
*Commerciant is a squared resonant of Commerciant Commerciant of Commerciant C













How are templates and campaigns different?



Templates

Temptates are recedible email designs that establish your branding. Dreate once, then reuse often as the starting point for email campaigns.



Campaigns

Campaigns add content to an instance of a template. Select a template, add copy and images, then send.

Close Forever

Start designing by selecting an option below.



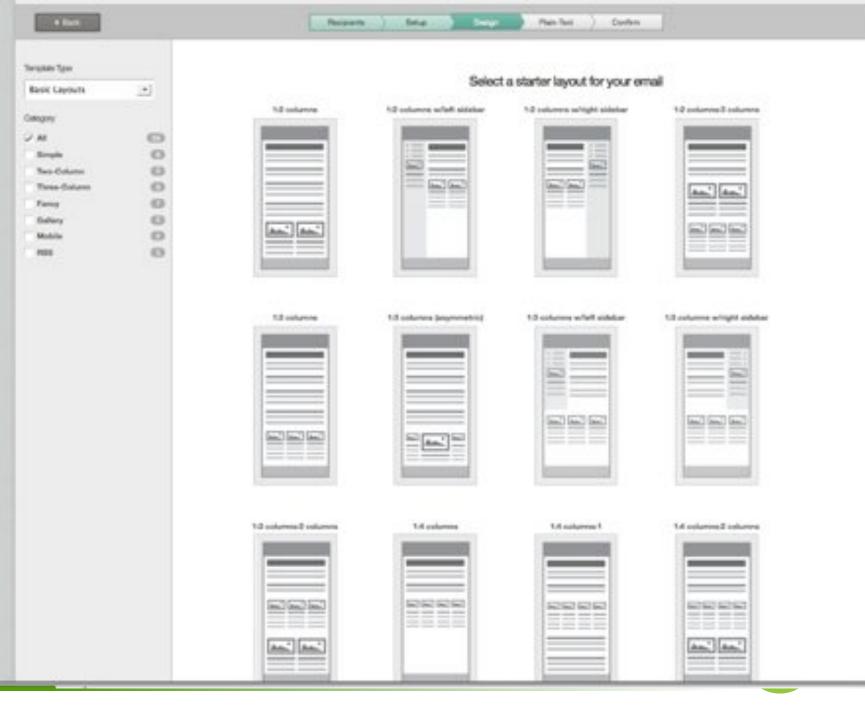


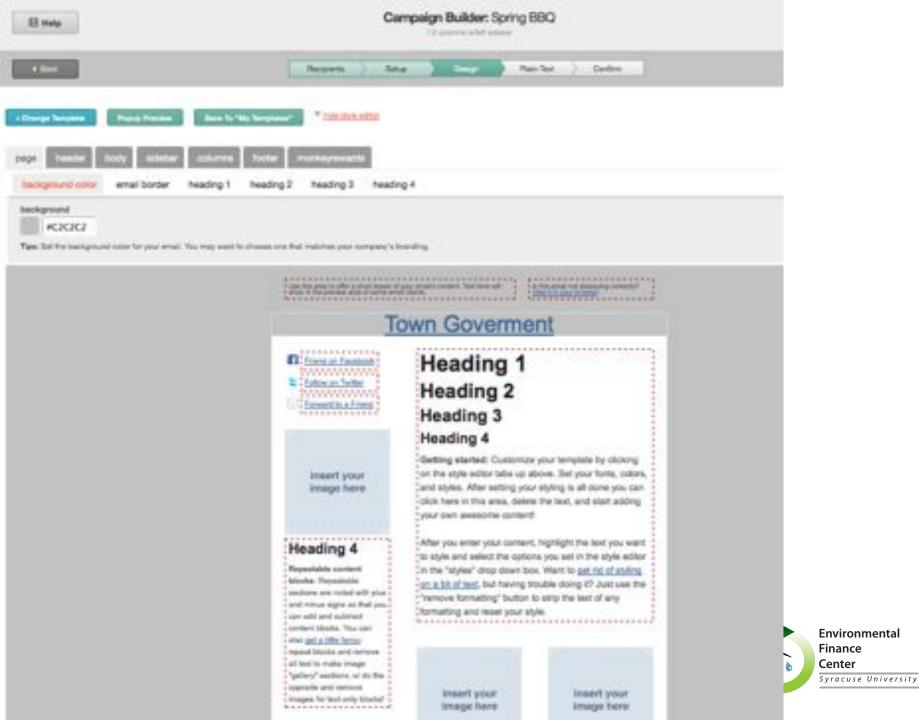


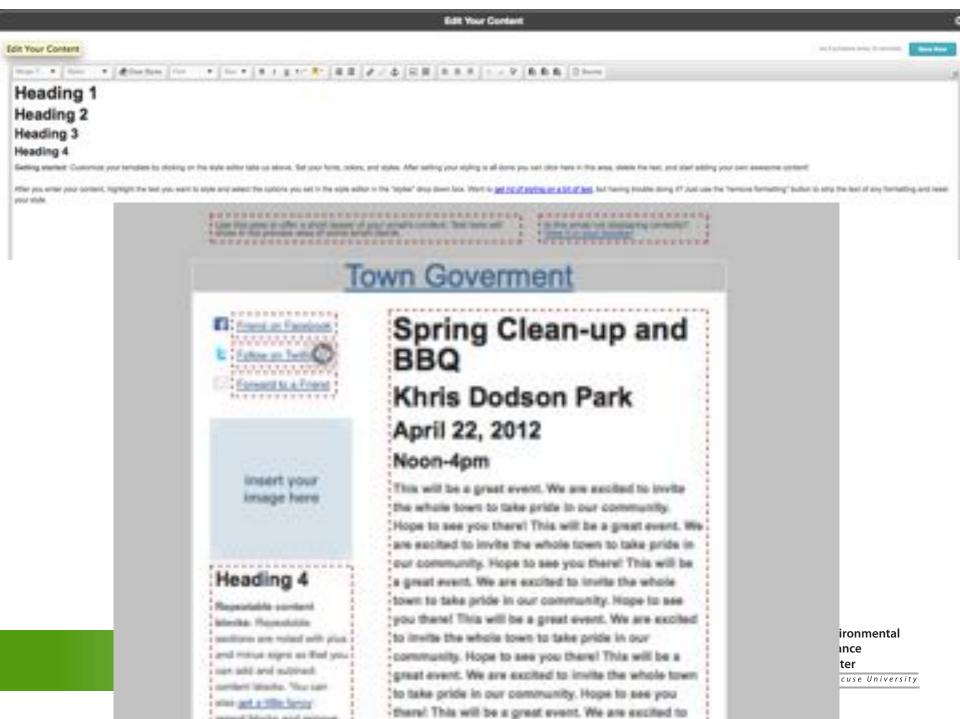


















Schedule Delivery

Send Now

send a test popup preview

You have warnings above.



Decide when you want to send you email...now or later!

Wanna Give it a Quick Try?

MailChimp.com





- What: Make forms for free, if you use it a lot, small fee
- Capabilities: Surveys, collect registration information, contact form for websites, etc.



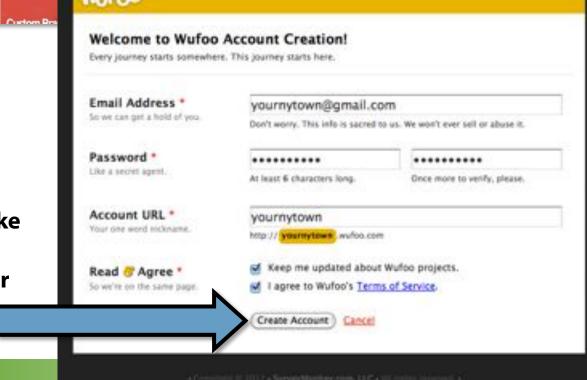


Signing Up

On the homepage, hit "sign up for free" to get straight to the free plan

Fill out your information, and review what comes with the free plan (if you like it, you could always pay for more later)

anybody build amazing online forms. When you design a form with Widoo it





Forms & Reports

100 Entries per Month

250MB File Storage

+

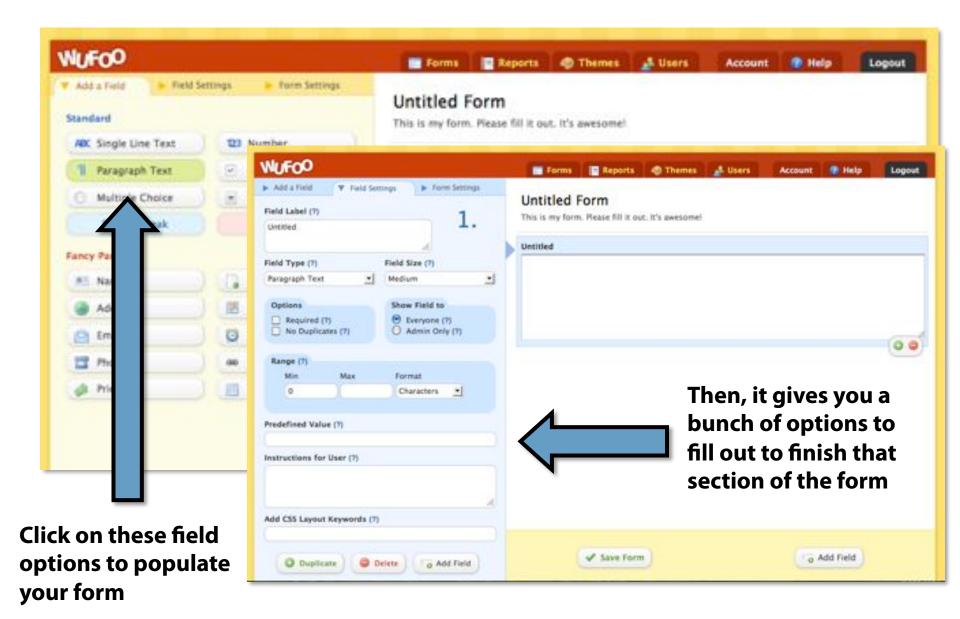
Always FREE! Use Your Own Logo Real Time Notifications Multi-Page Forms Logic & Branching And a whole lot more!

Yeah, they're quirky:

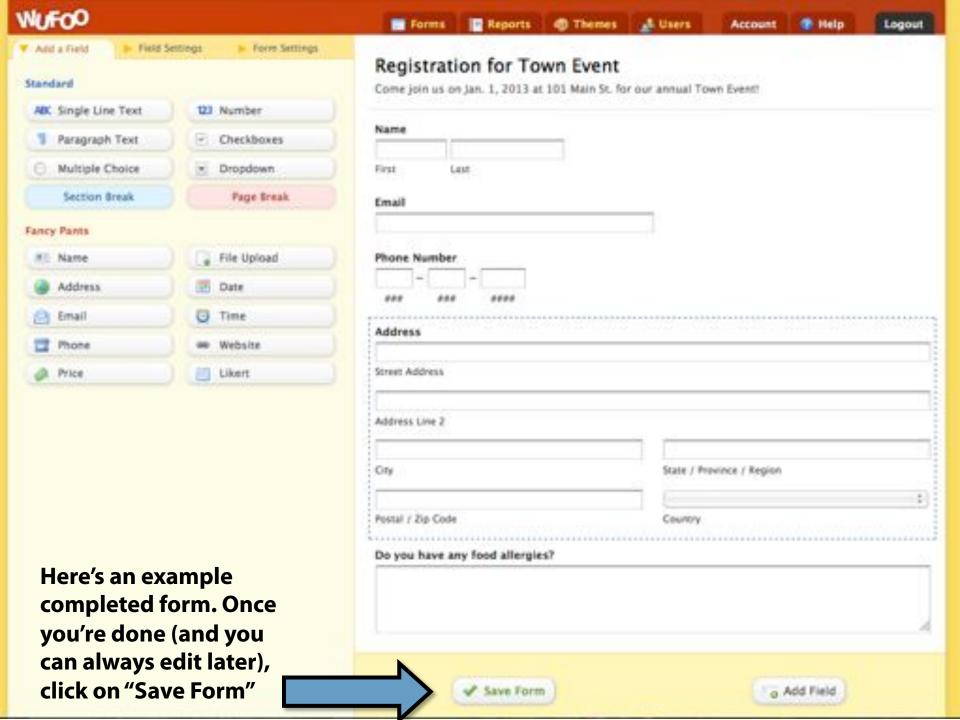


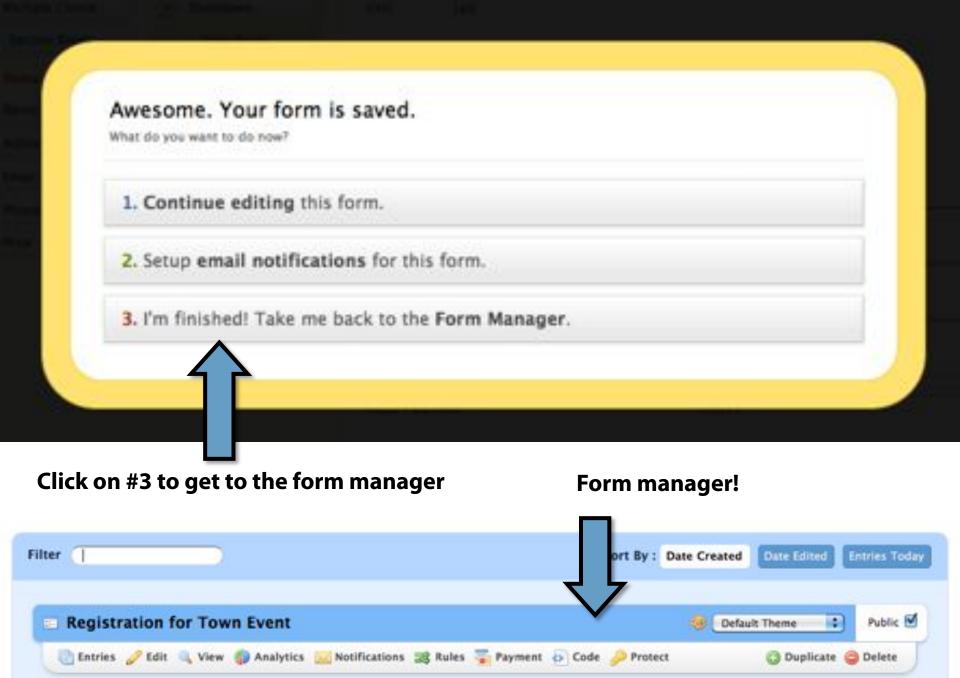
Click here to get started









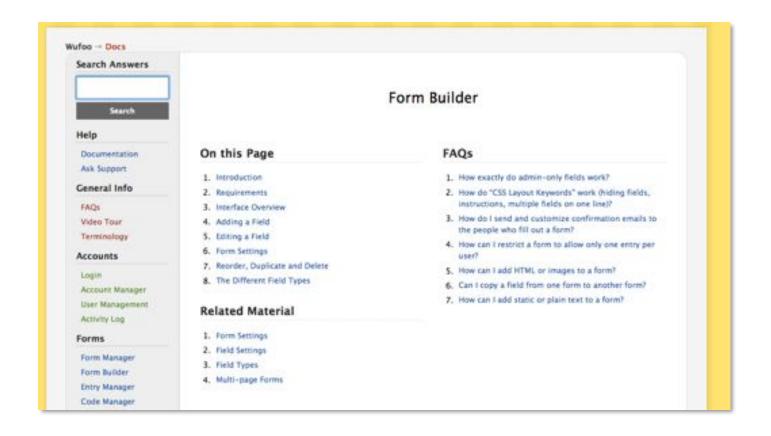


Live Demo

- Because it's easier to see in action:
 - http://yournytown.wufoo.com/build/



Questions on Wufoo?





Surveys

Before You Begin: General Guidelines

- Clearly state goals and objectives of the survey
- Address your own biases
- Explore available resources
- Clearly define and know your population
- Determine response format
- Decide on length
- Start with a statement then put in question form
- Define terms



Surveys

Types of questions

- Open Ended (How courteous are the people who make your appointments?)
- Closed-ended/Forced (The people who make my appointments are courteous. Circle one:1
 - = Definitely agree2 = Agree3 = Disagree4 = Definitely disagree)



Closed-Ended

- Used mainly for self-administered, mail, and phone surveys
- Generally not used for exploratory research
- Can measure knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors



Advantages of Closed-Ended Questions

- Easy to code
 - (Example: 1 = Strongly Agree; 2 = Agree; 3 = Disagree; 4 = Strongly Disagree)
- Easy to enter
- Easy to analyze
- Easy to present
- Quick turnaround
- Enhanced reliability
- Less researcher bias
- High degree of anonymity



Disadvantages of Closed-Ended Questions

- Harder to develop questions and response categories
- May force invalid responses
- Less depth and substance
 - Example: During the past month, have you felt depressed?
 - 0 = No
 - 1 = Yes, once in a while
 - 2 = Yes, some of the time
 - 3 = Yes, most of the time
 - 4 = Yes, all of the time



Disadvantages of Closed-Ended Questions

- Respondents unable to explain, qualify, or clarify answer
 - Example: Do you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion?
 Circle your response.
 - 1 = Yes
 - 2 = No



DO: Be Concise

Poor: How do you feel about building an ice arena in downtown Keene where the railroad property has been sitting unused for a number of years?

Better: An ice arena should be built on the railroad property in downtown Keene.



DO: Make Questions Concrete

Poor: Did you enjoy the book?

Better: Have you recommended the book to anyone else?

DO: Use mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories

Poor: What	is your marita	l status?	Married	_ Single
Better: Wh	at is your mar	ital status?	Marriec	k
Divorced	Separated	Widowed	Never N	/Jarried



DO:

- Group similar topics together
- Order questions well
 - Natural sequence of time
 - Most familiar to least familiar
 - Avoid items that look alike
 - Sensitive questions should be well after the start of the survey
 - End with easy questions
- Make instructions clear
- Get peer evaluation
- Pre-test items
- Pilot test survey



- Information unless you can act on it
 - Example: Do you support building a skyscraper in downtown Keene?
- Biased words/phrases
 - Example: You wouldn't say that you are in favor of gun control, would you?
 - Example: In these uncertain economic times with the stock market down and corporate scandals on the rise, would you support more regulation of big businesses?



- Double barreled questions (one thought per question, please)
 - Example: Curtailing development and protecting the environment should be a top priority for "Our" town.
- Vague words or phrases
 - Example: Do you consider yourself a liberal
 - Example: How often do you read the newspaper?



Abbreviations

- Example: Should a TANF recipient be allowed to pursue higher education?
- Example: Which political party is responsible for expanding the size of the GDP?

Jargon or technical terms

Example: India should formulate a stricter fertility policy.

Double negatives

– Example: Should the U.S. not oppose the world court?



Slang

- **Example:** How many kids do you have
- Example: Should parents know the whereabouts of their teens 24/7?

Ambiguous phrases

 Example: The death penalty should not be legal in most cases.





- What: An event registration website.
- **Capabilities:** Easy to set-up, maintain and monitor registrations, easily accepts payment from registrants and transfers funds to you.









Find events

Print tickets

Create an event

How it works

Help

LOGIN SIGNUP

If it's happening out there you'll find it here.

Browse 1000's of events. Or create your own events and sell tickets right here.

Create an Event

(it's free.)





Discover events in Syracuse Change your location

Search

FRI

VI Colombian Student & Professional Conference

Apr 13

Conferences, Networking

When: April 13, 2012 6:00 PM

Where: Ithaca, NY

FRI

WC_FOX, Wine & Cheese 2012, Start at Fox Run Vineyards

Apr 27

Food/Wine, Social Events

When: April 27, 2012 1:00 PM

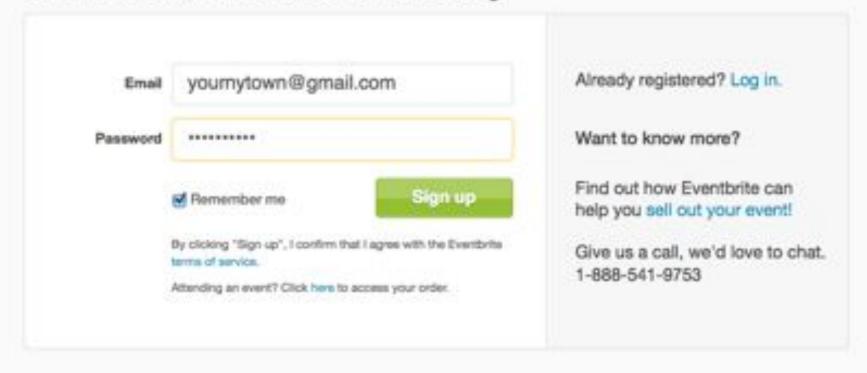
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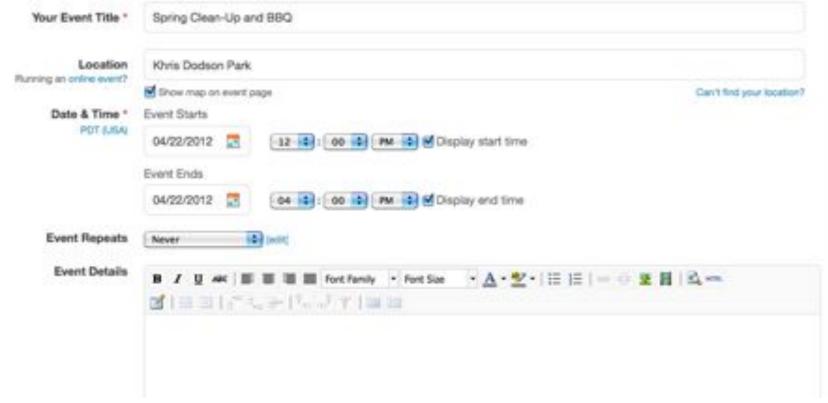
Start now, it's free and easy





Expert Tips









Spring Clean-Up and BBQ

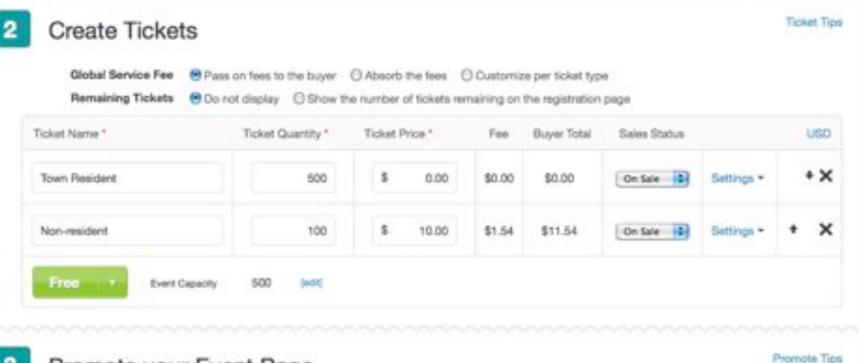
Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM (PT)

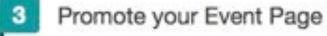




Add HTML

Display Attendees





Publicize, or keep it private

Search Categories

Outdoors

Customize Web Address

communitypicnic

eventbrite.com

Prefer to create events on the old design? Switch back to the original layout.

Save

Make Event Live





Greate Event

My Events

My Profile

My Tickets

My Contacts

Account

Spring Clean-Up and BBQ (draft)

Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM (PT)

Klyris Dodson Park











Find

Cancel Copy

Delete

EVENT SUMMARY ▶

REGISTRATION

Customize Order Form

Event Type & Language

Add News and Updates

ANALYZE

Google Analytics

ORDERS

Edit Order Confirmations

WAITLIST

Waitlist Settings

SELL

Create Promotional Codes

Create Affiliate Programs

Track Attended Activity







Recent Orders

Recent Attendees

No orders for this event yet.

Sales by Ticket Type

Create a Ticket Type in Step 2 to publish your event.

Your Links

Your Event URL: http://www.eventbrile.com/event/3314213903 (change)

Your Organizer URL: http://www.eventbrite.com/org/21620723017s=7879799 [change]



Congratulations, Your Event Has Been Published!



ment

P

Your Event Link:

http://townofdodson.eventbrite.com

How Eventbrite Payment Processing Works:

Eventbrite provides a seamless checkout experience for your ticket buyers by processing credit card payments directly on your event page.

Important: Make sure your payout information is complete so that we can pay you: Edit Payout Information

Tips from The Eventbrite Experts

Send Invitations

Send custom email invites: upload or create contact lists and send out email invitations to potential attendees.

Publicize Your Event

Make sure your event is publicly listed in the Eventbrite Directory. Eventbrite will automatically blast out event pages to search engines and a network of event partner sites that serve event seekers.

Collect Customized Attendee Information

You can survey attendees to collect additional information about their preferences for the event.

Find More Tips Like These In The Eventbrite Help Center!



Create invitations to invite guests to your event.

Spread the word about your upcoming event by sending invitations for your guests to register. Create Invitations =







Recent Orders

Recent Attendees

No orders for this event yet.

Sales by Ticket Type					
TICKET TYPE	PRICE	SOLD	STATUS	END SALES	
Town Resident	\$0.00	0/500	On Sale	1 hour before event	View Sales
Non-resident	\$10.00	0/100	On Sale	1 hour before event	View Sales

Try it out here:

http://www.eventbrite.com/





- What: This is a simple, very easy to use website program.
- Capabilities: Seriously, in 15 minutes you will have a live and free website!



The easiest way to create a website

Free, Powerful, Professional,



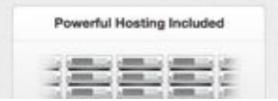
Watch how to create a free website



Why do over 10 million people & businesses use Weebly?

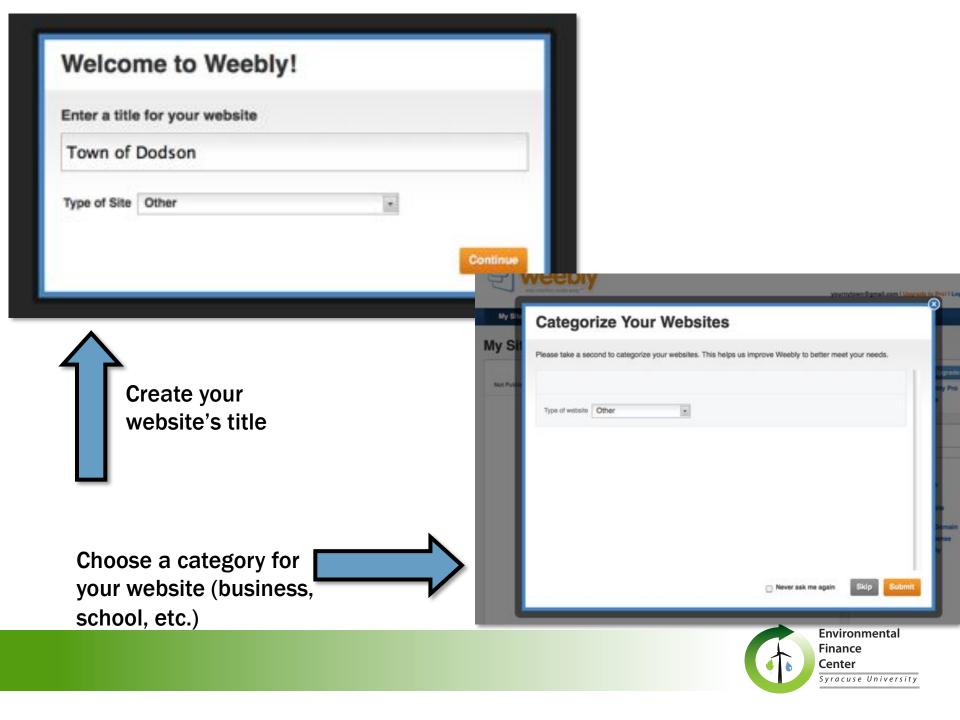
For the easiest, most powerful, and affordable website-building experience

Drag & Drop Website Builder



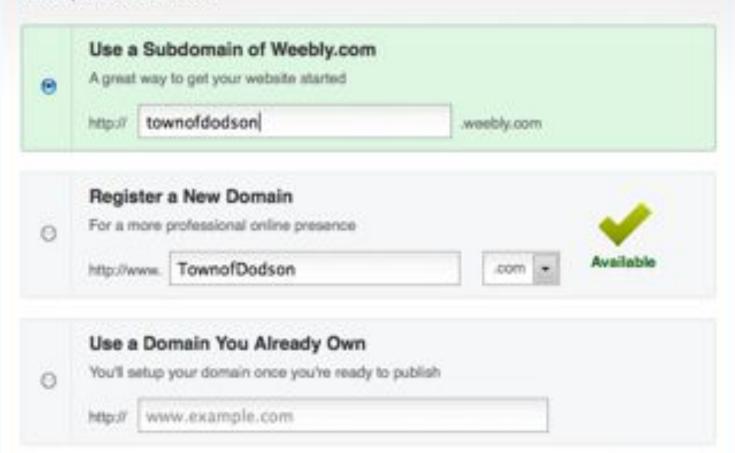
100s of Professional Themes





Choose Your Website Domain

This is the address where people will find your website online. Reserve your domain now or skip this step and choose it later.



Continue

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Jniversity



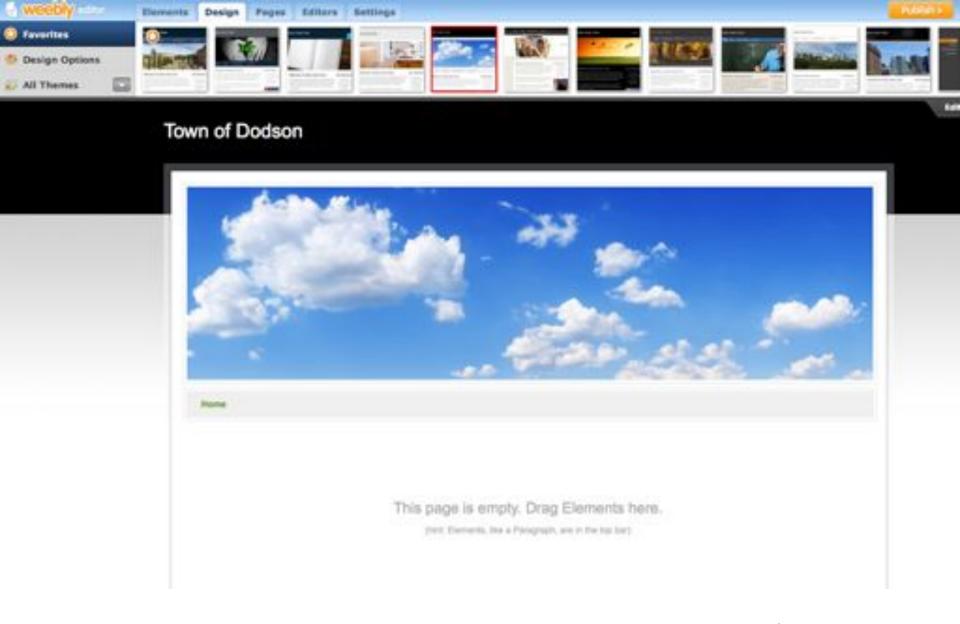
Town of Dodson



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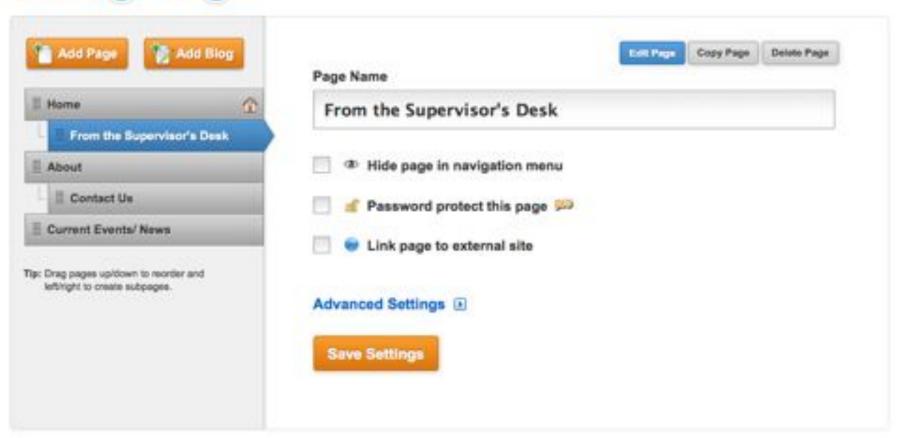
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Manage Pages





Town of Dodson



From the Supervisor's Desk

in inhad

This page is empty, Drag Elements here.

(hirt: Elements, like a Paragraph, are in the top ber)





settings, e-

Elements Design Pages

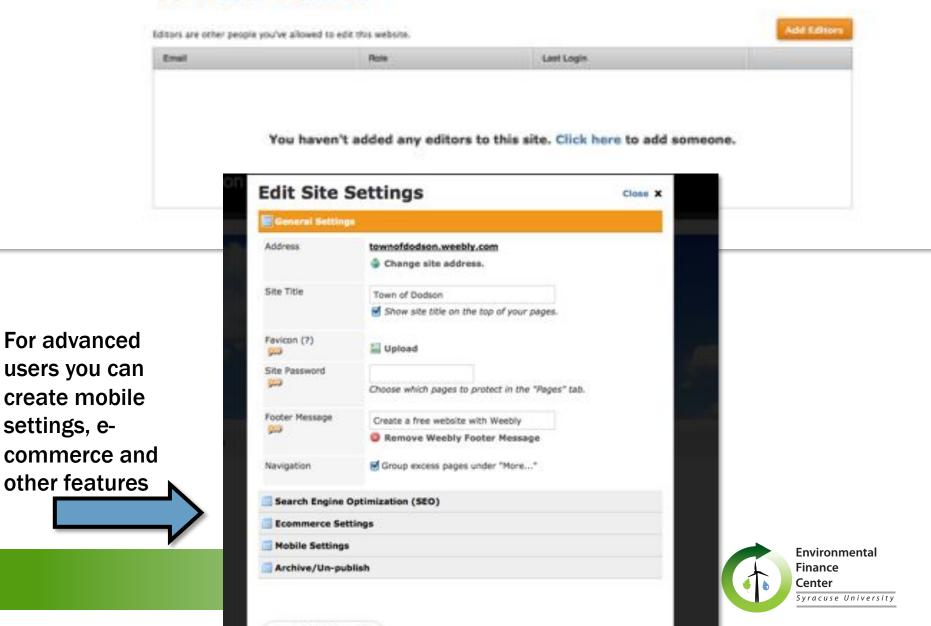




Save 🗸



Website Editors







reason to come back to this site. Write something profountly positive about your town; give people reason to come back to this site. Write something profountly positive

about your town; give people reason to come back to this ette.



Live Demo

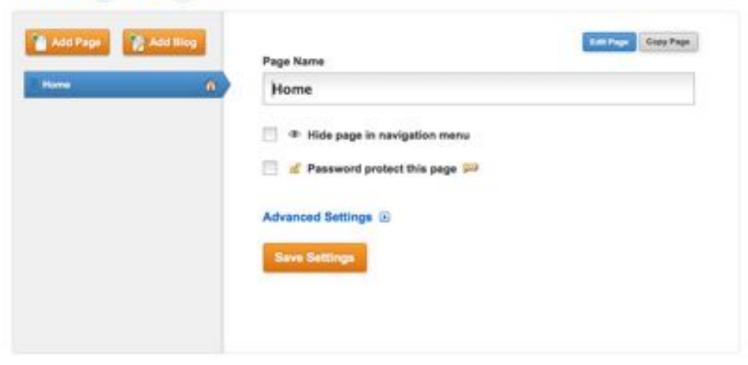
http://townofdodson.weebly.com/







Manage Pages

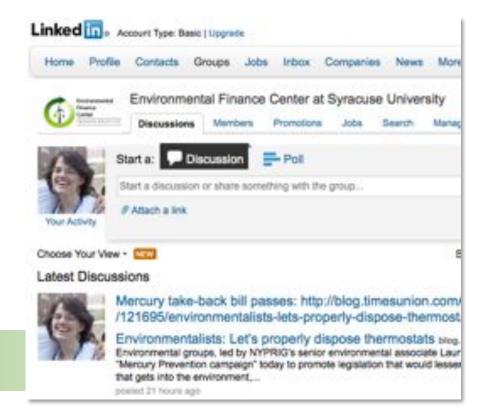




Social Media

- What: Reach tech-savvy audiences easily
- Capabilities: Advertise events and news





To Tweet, or Not to Tweet?

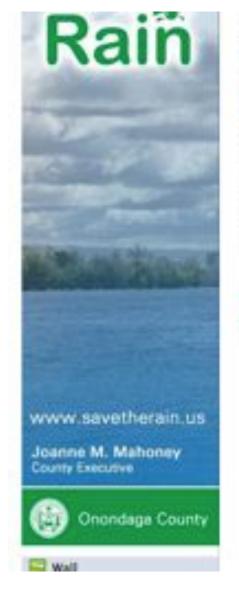
- Is social media the right tool for you?
 - Twitter easier than Facebook, Facebook easier than a blog…but which is best for your audience?
 - There are more Facebook users between 13-19 than older than 50 years old...but 800 million active users!
 - Who has the capacity to update your social media outlets?
 - Remember, social media is two-way communications (a conversation, not a campaign!)



Municipal Success Stories







Onondaga County Save the Rain

Government Agency - Syracuse, New York - # Edit Info



hare: 🗵 Status 📵 Photo 📲 Link 😭 Video 🔣 Question

What's on your mind?



Onondaga County Save the Rain

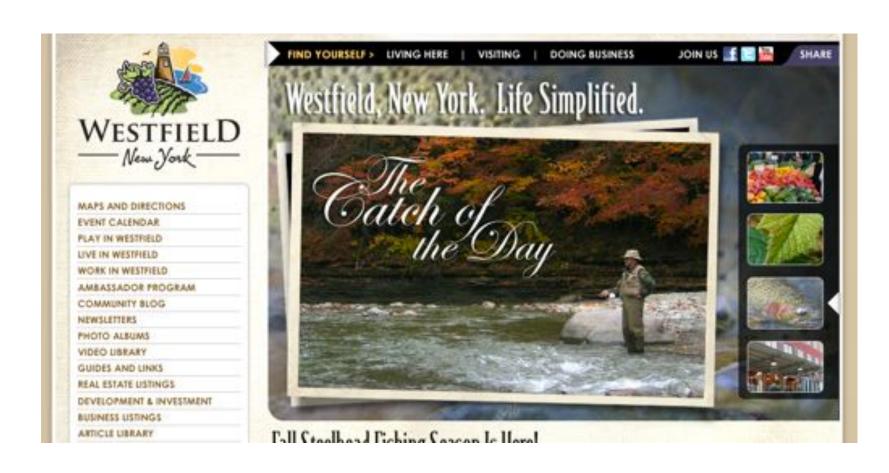
Spring is here! Who lives in the City of Syracuse, doesn't have a rain barrel yet, and wants one? We've got a rain barrel workshop at the Mundy Branch Library on April 25th at 5:30...who's coming?

Unlike - Comment - Share - Wednesday at 3:55pm





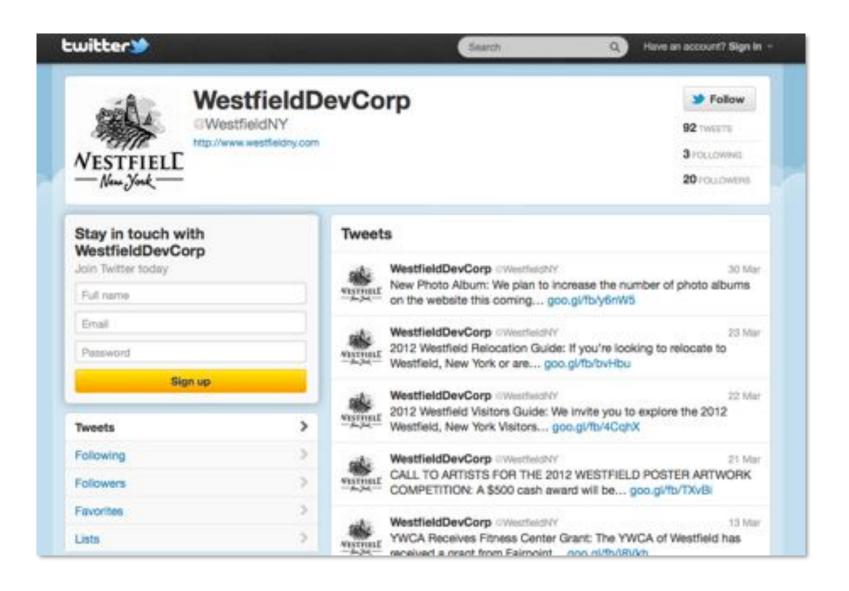
Westfield, NY













Other Resources

 http://www.placebrand.ca/8-tips-smalltowns-using-facebook-social-mediamarketing



Questions?

- We are happy to help you as you try out any of these tools! Please contact us during the conference, or afterwards at:
 - Carissa Matthews, cmatthews@syracusecoe.org
 - Khris Dodson, kdodson@syracusecoe.org

