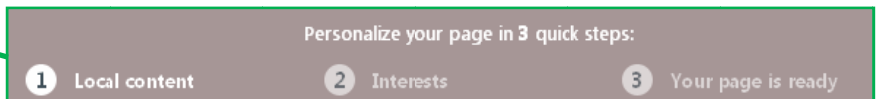## What is this Netvibes thing about?

Along with serving as a homepage, Netvibes is an aggregator for RSS feeds, websites and online embeddable content. That means that it allows you to collect all of the sites you already use and visit frequently on one page (or a few tabbed pages if you choose). In this way, you can quickly check your favorites and professional news without leaving the site.
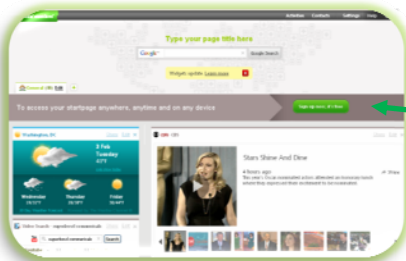
Taken a step further, Netvibes can become the one webpage that delivers a whole unit of content to your students. Load a page with educational videos, embedded websites, collaborative graphic organizers, podcasts, message boards, and the list goes on and on. Netvibes can strip away your fear of student web research from lack of direction and resulting in a waste of precious class time. It all starts one widget at a time.

Sign Up

1. Go to http://www.Netvibes.com/ .
2. You will be welcomed with the setup wizard. Follow the 3 steps.

3. Once you complete the personalization steps, you will be greeted with a generic page full of widgets. Finish the account creation process by clicking on the "sign up now button."

4. Fill in the form to create a username and password.

5. Go to your email account and Verify your membership by following the link that Netvibes sent you.

Create a Public Page

You may add or remove any widget you see on your personal page. For the purpose of this tutorial we are interested in harnessing Netvibes public page feature.
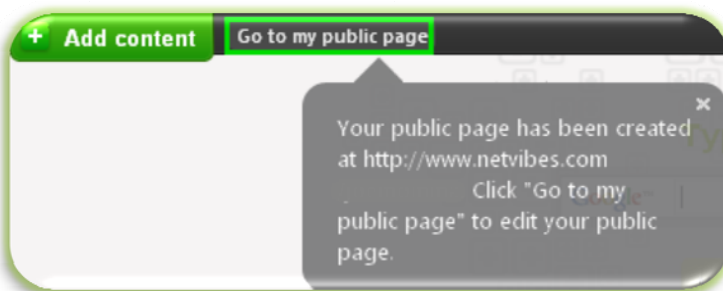
1. In the upper left corner of the screen you will see a green box entitled "Add content." Right next to it you will see "create my public page," click on it.

2. Fill in the information that it asks for. *You do not need to use your real information (in fact, I would not). For the age part, enter any date that would make you over 13 (the age requirement for a public page).

Prepare Your Public Page

You will notice a popup alerting you to the newly created "Go to my public page" button. The popup will also display your public page's URL. Write down your new URL. This URL is how your students will find the page you create for them. Click on the "Go to my public page" button. ***This "Go to my page" button is how you will get back to your public page in the future.**

1. Delete the two default Widgets on the page by clicking the white "X" in the header bar.

Personalize

1. Change Theme
   - Click on the "Settings" icon in the top right corner.

   - In the box that pops up you will see "Themes" and "Wallpapers" along the left side.   Choose <u>one</u> to customize your page. Themes are premade, where Wallpapers are 100% customizable.
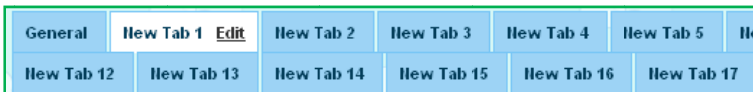

   - After you have made your choice, click The "Done" button.

2. Give the home tab a name
   - Click in the word "General" on the first tab.

   - Backspace over the existing text and label it whatever you like.
   - You can also add additional tabs by clicking "Add Tab." You can pretty much add as many tabs as you like.
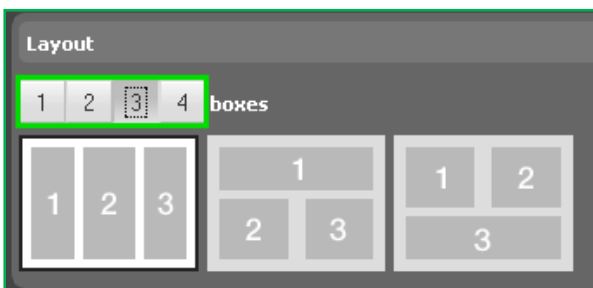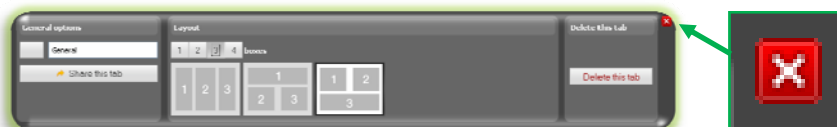

3. Change Layout
   - Click in the word "Edit" on the first tab.

   - In the "Layout" section of the menu you can choose the number of columns you want displayed on this tab as well as how the widgets will be arranged in those columns.

   - Choose a layout and then click the red "X" in the top right corner of the menu.
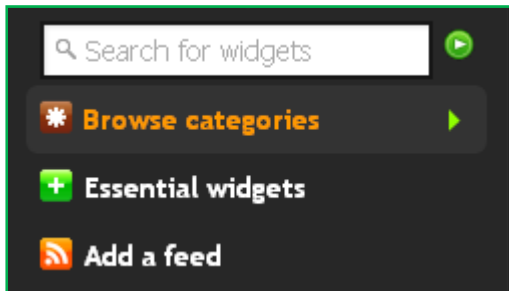
GCS/Jason Mammano, Kyle Wood   2/6/2009

Add Content

You are likely beginning to see that Netvibes is nothing more than a home for tiny web pieces called "widgets." Hundreds of thousands such widgets exist often times with their own customizable features.

1. Click the "Add Content" button in the top left corner.

2. Choose from one of the four ways to add content to your page. On the left side of the content menu you will see the four available categories.

   i. Search for widgets: To search for a specific widget, type the widgets name in the space provided and click the green arrow. For suggestions on widgets to search for, see the next page of this document.
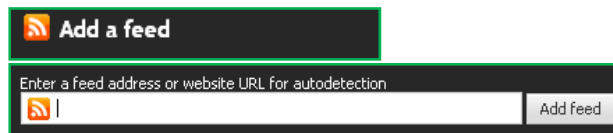

   ii. Browse category: To search for content by category (the least effective manner); click the "Browse categories" button. A listing of widgets will populate to the right. Click on one to preview it or add it to your page.   To add a widget your page click the green "add to my page" button.

   iii. Essential widgets: This your best bet for adding useful widgets to your page. Click the "Essential widgets" button. Just like the "Browse category" option, a list of widgets will populate to the right. Click a widget to preview it or add it to your page.   To add a widget your page, click the green "add to my page" button.

   iv. Add a feed: Create a new widget for your page with the feed from any website. Click the "Add a feed" button. A box will pop up with directions prompting you to enter a feed address from a website. Copy or write the feed address of the desired site in that box and click the grey "Add feed" button.   A widget will be generated and you can add it to your page like any other widget.

Some of our favorite widgets and what they do

You will find all of these widgets in the "Essential widgets" section or by keyword search.   *An effective way to search for additional widgets is from the Netvibes widget repository "Ecosystem". http://eco.netvibes.com/widgets

 "HTML" - Use this widget to display embed content from all sorts of online applications (ie, Slideshare, Teacher Tube, Google docs, Flikr, etc).
- Add the widget to your page.
- In the upper right corner of the widget, click the "Edit" button.

- Paste the embed code in the "Source" box and press the "Ok" button.

"Link Module"- Creates a dedicated link widget for a specific website (includes a preview icon). Simply enter the desired URL in the space provided and click the "Save" button.

"Web Page" - Displays <u>any</u> website within the widget.
- Add the widget to your page.
- In the upper right corner of the widget, click the "Edit" button.

- Paste the code in the "URL" box and press the "Ok" button.

"Webnote" - Creates an editable text box widget. We use this widget for page directions.
- Add the widget to your page.
- Below the header you will see the words "Type your text here." Simply type or paste any text you want in that space.
- To change the font style or color, click the "Edit" button in the upper right corner of the widget.

"Image widget" – Adds a widget to your page that displays a image. Upload your own or use one from the web.

"Storage" – Adds a Box.net widget to your page. Use the "Edit" button in the upper right corner of this widget to use your own Box.net account or click the link to create a new account. *Box.net gives you 1GB of free online storage.

"Delicious" – Adds your Delicious.com bookmarks to your page. Use the "Edit" button in the upper right corner of this widget to enter your delicious.com account information.

"Flash" – Adds a widget to your page that will display Flash animation from the web. Use the "Edit" button in the upper right corner of this widget to paste the Flash URL.