

## Presenting Slidy ICE

The other day Jon Udell wrote about [HTML Slidy](#), a javascript library that allows you to make presentations using HTML conforming to a sort of microformat. I have spent a few hours working out how to add Slidy to the [ICE](#) content management system. This means I can write a document in my word processor, sprinkle it with slides, click a button to blog it, another button to make a presentation and one more button to make a PDF version.

More on how I did this below, with links to the results, but first some background, sprinkled with Slidy slides. If you're viewing this via the atom feed then you'll need to come to the website to see the slides. You'll recognize them 'cos they have my usual top- notch finger- down- the- throat graphic design.

Jon Udell on Slidy
Jon <a href="#">says</a> :  Given my skills and inclinations, it's no surprise that I'm an instant convert. To use it, you create a single XHTML file that pulls in CSS stylesheets and JavaScript code. Each slide's content is wrapped in a DIV tag decorated with a class attribute of "slide." Folks like me, who compose directly and easily in HTML, will love it.  <a href="http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/05/17/78280_210_Pstrategic_1.html">http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/05/17/78280_210_Pstrategic_1.html</a>

Given my propensities, I was plotting to make ICE spit out Slidy presentations as soon as I saw this. Later, there was a follow up from Jon about some of the political aspects of presentations and the web. This contained a call to action, to the effect that we **should create easy ways for people to publish presentations in a web friendly format**. So, I sprang into action. As springy as I get, anyway.

## Jon Udell on the politics of presentation software

Jon Udell again – with emphasis by me.

That said, I'll argue that it's democratic, not elitist, to believe that presentations ought to be first- class citizens of the web, viewable by any standards- based browser with full interactive fidelity. If we've failed to **fully democratize the necessary authoring software** -- as, so far, we have -- then shame on us. There's no longer any good reason why we couldn't make it **easy for people to create effective presentations** through the web as well as for the web, and there are plenty of good reasons why we could and should.

<http://weblog.infoworld.com/udell/2006/05/22.html#a1452>

For our ICE users at USQ and beyond (numbering a couple of dozen and growing) this new technique using ICE + Slidy will be an easy to use avenue to create presentations. But more than that, it will allow a new amalgam of presentation and document about which I'm very excited. Courseware written using ICE is already sprinkled with little boxes containing activities, readings and the like. I think there's great potential for picking out key points, quotes and images and highlighting them as slides. This will make the print and full- text versions a bit livelier, and you'll get a presentation for nothing, without the hassles of syncing between two different sources.

All this of course depends on the great work that Dave Raggett did on Slidy. A real triumph. Thanks!

Here's how it works in my proof- of- concept implementation.

### ICE + Slidy: how to use it

- Use ICE as usual, using OpenOffice.org Writer or MS word and the ICE template.
- Use autotext to insert a slide in- text.
- Fill out the slide (pictures, bullets, blockquotes, whatever you like).
- View your page through your ICE web site.
- Click 'Slidy' to see the presentation.
- Save the presentation from your browser.

Some background might help here: ICE runs on your computer as a little web server that watches your files and converts them to HTML and PDF for you. ICE is extensible, so it only took a few minutes to add the button that says 'Slidy' to my ICE site.

## ICE + Slidy: How it works

- ICE now recognizes a one- column, two row table with a paragraph of style 'h- slide' as a slide.
- ICE turns slides into [HTML Slidy](#) compatible divs.
- ICE pages display as normal, with slides inline. You can use CSS to format the slides.
- A new button in ICE generates a document containing only your slides, and applies an HTML Slidy template to it.
- At this stage, you can save the resulting presentation from the browser.

Now there's a number of things to do to get this into production.

## Next Steps for ICE

To get ICE + Slidy out to the public:

- Tidy up the code.
- Add autotext entries for slides to ICE templates.
- Add the 'Present' button to ICE / integrate into IMS package output.
- Document in the ICE guide.
- Get real designers (not me!) to make some default CSS.
- (Later) Support incremental display and outlines.

## Next Slidy steps for me

- Make my presentation for [Ausweb '06](#) using ICE+ Slidy.
- Write a document/presentation about ICE to give to Sun , you know, the computer company.

## Summary

- This post is courtesy of [ICE](#).
- Built- in [HTML Slidy](#) slides formatted as dead- simple tables.
- ICE created:
  1. [The full- text for the blog](#)
  2. [A PDF](#)
  3. [The presentation](#)
- See the source document:
  1. [OpenDocument](#)
  2. [Microsoft Word](#)