



Mobilize

User's Manual

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About Mobilize

Your site. Mobile ready.

Mobilize is a unique RapidWeaver plugin that easily turns your website into a mobile-friendly destination.

With the introduction of iPhone and other capable smart-phones, browsing the web from a mobile device has now become commonplace. Even so, most websites are not designed to be displayed on such small screens. With the number of people using mobile phones to browse the web increasing drastically on a daily basis, more and more people realize the need to create mobile-friendly websites.

The best approach to improving the browsing experience for your mobile visitors is to create a separate website just for them to use. Even if you use an iPhone-enabled theme (like our Phelix, Mirage, Glide, and Unity themes) you will always create a better browsing experience by having separate desktop and mobile versions of your website.

This is where most people run into a big problem. Once you have created a mobile version of your website, you then need to find some way to redirect your mobile visitors to the shiny new version you built for them.

This is where Mobilize comes in.

Mobilize uses a PHP script that will check when someone visits your site to see if they are using a cell phone or other mobile device. If they are, you can choose to send them to a different site you've created.

For example, let's say your website is located at <http://www.example.com> and you've created a special mobile version at <http://www.example.com/mobile> - you can use Mobilize to send all the visitors using mobile phones to that special site.

You can also target specific devices, like just iPhone users or those with Blackberry phones, as well as choose to ignore all mobile devices. For a list of supported devices, visit the "Supported Devices" section.

How It Works

Based upon the choices and settings you make in the “Mobile (Small Screen) Settings” and “Desktop (Large Screen) Settings” tabs, Mobilize generates a bunch of fancy PHP code and inserts it at the top of the Mobilize page when RapidWeaver publishes or exports your site.

This code will only work on the page where it is located, so if you want all the pages of your website to recognize iPhones, cell phones, etc, then you’ll need to add Mobilize code to each page in your site.

To make this easier, Mobilize includes a “Generate Mobilize Code” button under the “Mobile Detection Sitewide” tab. There are also step-by-step directions in that tab on how to add Mobilize code to the other pages in your site.



If your site has a large number of pages then a good option is to make Mobilize your home page, since that’s where most visitors enter your site. You can also add Mobilize to a few of the most popular pages in your site - that way you’ll reach most of your visitors with minimum effort.

System Requirements

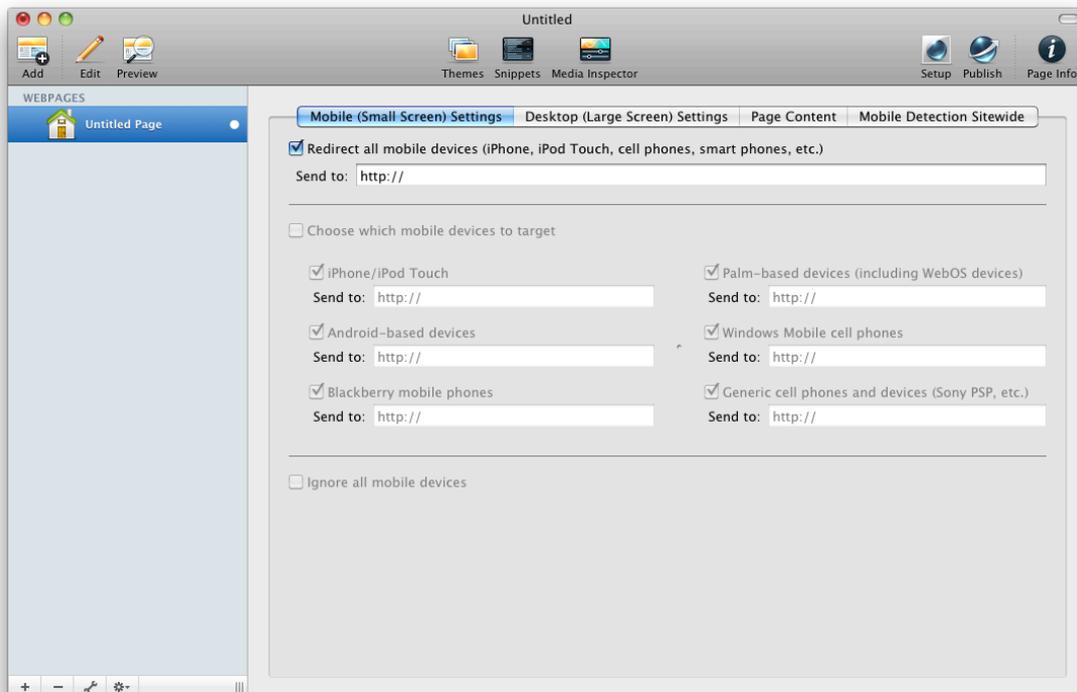
- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard or above
- RapidWeaver 4.1 or above
- A web hosting account with PHP support (Mobilize works with versions PHP 4 and above)

Using Mobilize

Mobile (Small Screen) Settings

To add mobile device detection to your RapidWeaver website you need to add a Mobilize page to your project. To add a new page choose “New Page” from RapidWeaver’s File menu, or click on the plus button (+) in the bottom left of the RapidWeaver window. In the dialog window that appears, select the Mobilize page type and then click the Select button (or press the Enter key).

Once you’ve added a Mobilize page to your site, you’ll see a number of options listed for you, as shown in the screenshot below.



By default Mobilize is set to redirect all mobile devices (iPhones, cell phones, smart phones, etc.) to a single location. If you’d like to change this so you can target specific devices, uncheck the box next to “Redirect all mobile devices” and check the option “Choose which mobile devices to target”. Once you’ve done that, you can check which devices you’d like to target and enter the URL of the website you’d like to send them to.



Be sure to enter the full destination URL even if you're just redirecting to a different folder on your website.

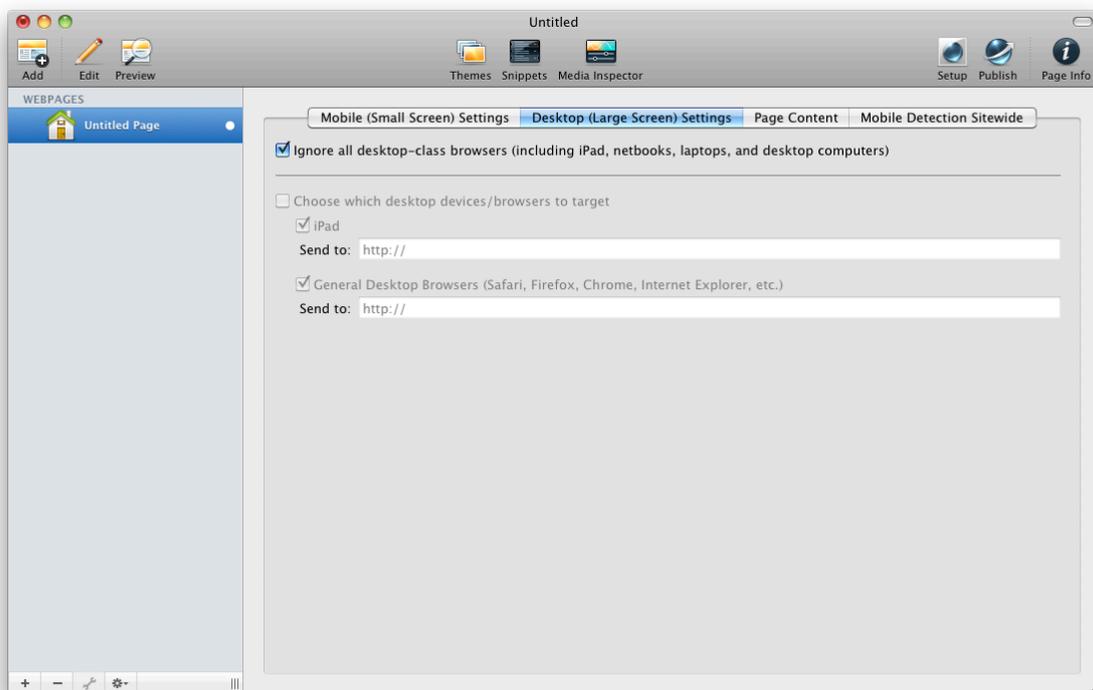
You can also choose to ignore mobile devices - a good example of this is if you want to use Mobilize on your mobile website so you can redirect desktop users to the full version of your site. To target iPad users, or general desktop-class browsers (such as the standard Safari, Firefox, Chrome, and Internet Explorer browsers used on desktop computers) then you'll find the options to do so in the "Desktop (Large Screen) Settings" tab.

It's important to keep in mind that there are thousands of different cell phones and mobile devices being used by people all over the world. As such, there's a slight chance that some might not be recognized as a "mobile device". If that happens be sure to let us know - correcting such an error is usually fairly easy to do, and it will help make Mobilize an even better RapidWeaver plugin.

Desktop (Large Screen) Settings

In the “Desktop (Large Screen) Settings” tab you can choose whether to target desktop-class browsers and redirect them to a different website. This is perfect for use with the mobile version of your site, as you can then make sure visitors using iPad and general desktop computers will see the full-scale, standard version.

As you can see in the screenshot below, the default setting in Mobilize is to ignore all desktop-class browsers, including iPad. If you need to change any desktop-related settings, here is where you can do so.



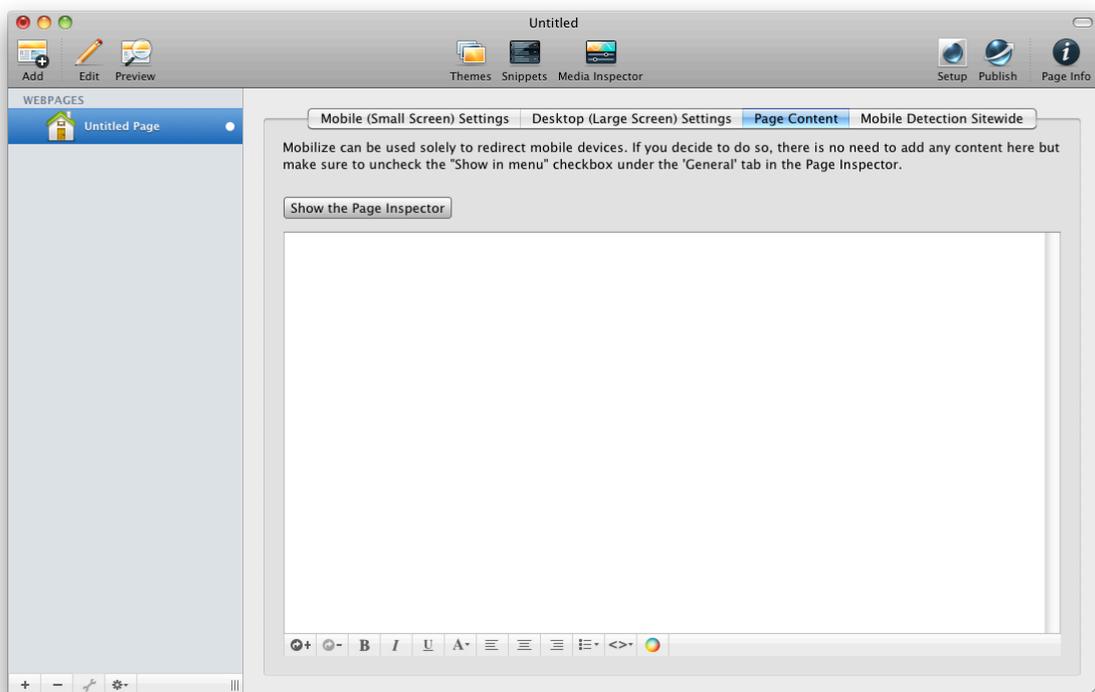
The desktop versions of Safari, Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, and other browsers are detected via a process of elimination. Mobilize actually runs a test to check whether these browsers are mobile devices, and since they fail such a test Mobilize assumes they are desktop browsers.

There is a (very) small chance some browsers may be miscategorized, but this is usually fairly easy to correct, so let us know if that happens and we should be able to include a fix in the next update to Mobilize.

Page Content

Mobilize includes a full-featured content editor just like RapidWeaver's built-in Styled Text Page type. Anything you can do with a Styled Text Page, Mobilize can do as well.

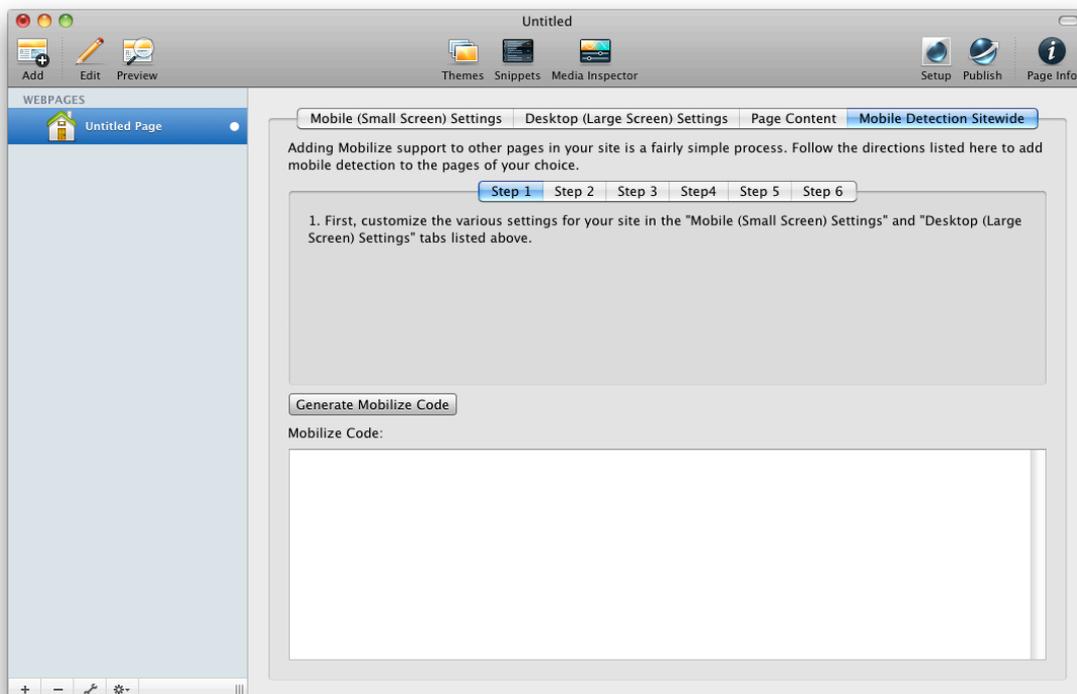
In addition, Mobilize can work solely in a "functional" mode - that is, you don't need to add any content to a Mobilize page unless you want to. If you decide go this route, just be sure to uncheck the "Show in menu" checkbox under the "General" tab in the Page Inspector. Then you can use the code generated in the "Mobile Detection Sitewide" tab to add Mobilize's functionality to other pages in your site.



Mobile Detection Sitewide

If you'd like other pages in your site to be able to detect when someone is using an iPhone, cell phone, or other mobile device, then you'll need to add some special PHP code to that page. In the "Mobile Detection Sitewide" tab there is a "Generate Mobilize Code" button that will create the code you need to add to other pages. The code generated is based upon the settings you make in the "Mobile (Small Screen) Settings" and "Desktop (Large Screen) Settings" tabs.

The process of adding this code to other pages is simple, and Mobilize includes a step-by-step explanation for how to do so. If you decide to take advantage of this feature, you may need to customize the generated code so that it works with your website's structure. There's a video tutorial on the NimbleHost website that explains how to do this.



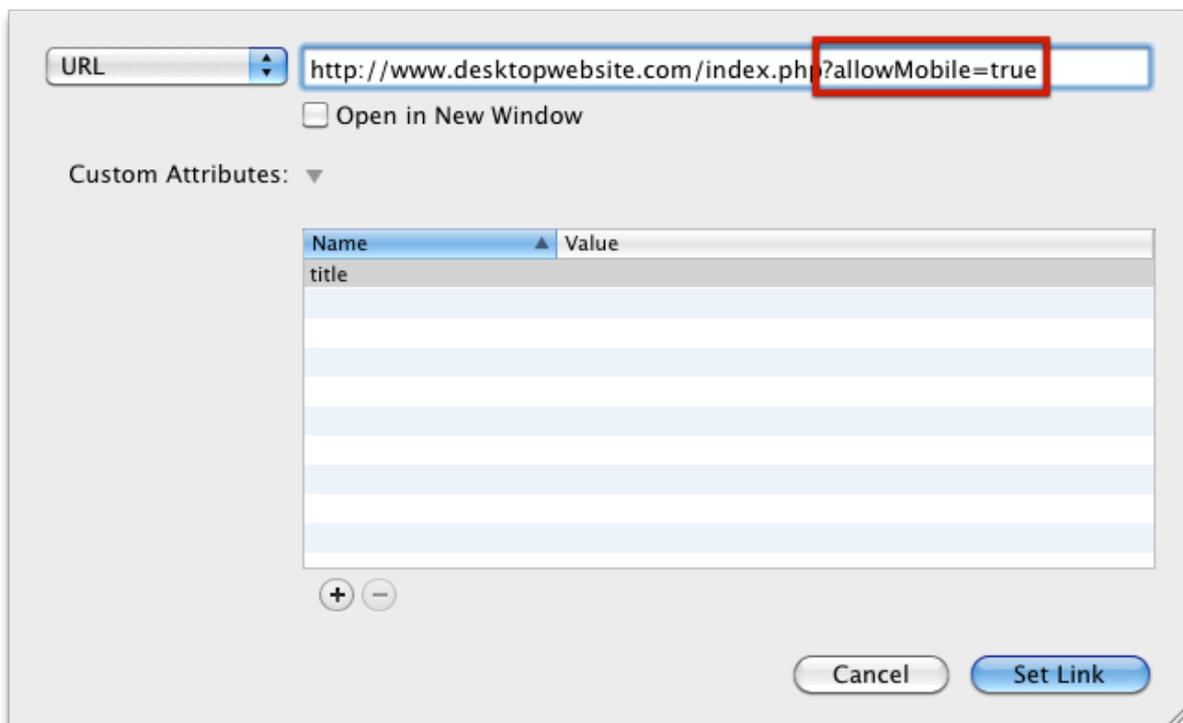
Advanced Techniques

Some times, when a visitor to your site is redirected to the mobile version automatically, they may actually want to view the full desktop version of your website. These visitors usually have an advanced smartphone like the iPhone or a webOS or android-based device, which can properly display many desktop websites.

Beginning with Mobilize v1.1.0, you now have the ability to allow mobile visitors to see the full desktop version of your website, even if you are using Mobilize to redirect cellphone users to the mobile version.

This is done by creating a link from your mobile website to your desktop website, just like you normally create links in RapidWeaver, and then adding a short snippet to the end of that link. The exact snippet to use is illustrated in the link below, and in the screenshot of RapidWeaver's Link Panel.

<http://www.desktopwebsite.com/index.php?allowMobile=true>



Supported Devices

Cell Phones and other Mobile Devices

- iPhone (All versions)
- iPod Touch (All versions)
- Android-based devices
- Blackberry phones
- Palm devices (including WebOS devices like the Pre and Pixi)
- Windows Mobile cell phones
- Generic Mobile Phones - These are standard cell phones (not smart-phones) with extremely limited browsing capabilities.

Desktop-class Browsers and Devices

- iPad
- Desktop versions of Safari, Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, and other browsers. These are detected via a process of elimination. Mobilize actually runs a test to check whether these browsers are mobile devices, and since they fail such a test Mobilize assumes they are desktop browsers.