

1. How to use the ORNG Sandbox

Uncomment out the ORNG.SandboxPassword and set it to something secret but not too secret. You can now go to [http://\[YOUR_PROFILES_RNS_URL\]/ORNG](http://[YOUR_PROFILES_RNS_URL]/ORNG) and see a form that allows you to log in as ANYONE in the system, with the password you set in ORNG.SandboxPassword. Developers can add the gadgets they are working on into the Gadgets text area by listing the URL. This works best for preconfigured gadgets, but will also work partially for brand new gadgets that we currently know nothing about. If you are serious about building a gadget, you need to preconfigure it first.

How to Pre-Configure gadgets for ORNG Sandbox

1. Pick a file name for the gadget such as MyNewGadget.xml
2. Add the needed configuration for MyNewGadget.xml into the [ORNG].[Apps] and [ORNG].[AppViews] tables. For the url in [ORNG].[Apps] use the existing server where you plan to host gadgets. For example, at UCSF we would use http://stage-profiles.ucsf.edu/apps_200/MyNewGadget.xml and we would make some first version of the gadget available.
3. If your developer has access to your web server, they can work on the MyNewGadget.xml file directly and use the Sandbox login to make sure cached version are not hindering the development process. But the sandbox also works for contractors who may be working on files in other locations.
4. If someone adds <http://somePlaceICanPublishContent/MyNewGadget.xml> into the Gadgets textbox while logging in, the sandbox will see that the file name matches the one in [ORNG].[Apps] and use its configuration. This is extremely helpful for contractors who may not have access to your web servers, but need to work on gadgets and have some place to publish them.

How to Control where and when Gadgets are seen

This is all handled in the [ORNG.AppViews] and [ORNG.AppRegistry] tables. First, it helps to understand the different “types” of Gadgets we typically build:

“Public Decorator Gadgets”

Most gadgets are of this form. They have an “edit” mode and a “view” mode that fits well within the Profiles RNS model. Anyone with a Profile can choose to add these to their page, and turn them off or on for viewing. (Note that the c# code and DB support setting different view security levels as well, but to keep things simple the UI only currently supports Public/Nobody as the two security settings. See [ORNG].[Visibility] in the DB to see what else is possible and if you want to expand this, let us know!). For these types of gadgets, follow the same setting you see for the YouTube gadget (appid = 114). From [ORNG].[AppView] note that the ‘edit/default.aspx’ page has visibility set to Public (since only logged in people can get to that page, you could also set it to Users and it would behave the same way). That means that anyone will see this on their edit page, and they can add it if they want to. For the ‘profile/display.aspx’ page the visibility is RegistryDefined. This means that the visibility is equal to what you lookup in the [ORNG].[AppRegistry] table for that user and app. When the user clicks the

Hide/Show link the code switches that value from Nobody to Public. If you change the javascript in ORNG.js you could also set it to other values such as Users.

“Limited Availability Decorator Gadgets”

Similar to the “Public Decorator Gadgets” but only available to certain users. The visibility in the [ORNG].[Visibility] tables is set to ‘IsRegistered’ for ‘edit/default.aspx’ and the user must have an entry in the [ORNG].[AppRegistry] table for the gadget to show up on their edit page. Like with the other decorator gadgets, the user can use Hide/Show to turn these on or off. We use these for gadgets where we only have data for select people, and we have an import process add the needed for to the ORNG.AppRegistry table.

“Personal Tool Gadgets”

The Profile List Tool is a good example of this. If you want everyone with a Profile to have it, set visibility to Users for all entries in the ORNG.Views table. If you only want some people to have it, set it to IsRegistered and manually add those with access to the ORNG.AppRegistry table.

With Gadgets, you can put them on almost any page and have them display differently based on the optional “view” parameter that is part of the OpenSocial specification. As such, they are very flexible. The “types” we outlined above are just what we have found ourselves building in practice, but you can really do whatever you want.