

WEB-O-RAMA

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AUTHOR'S NOTES

Last Free Version?

As an experiment in *donationware*, *Web-O-Rama* has been a failure. Despite nearly 130,000 visitors to my Web site over the past three years, I have been averaging less than one donation *per month*. This hasn't even paid for Microsoft's yearly upgrades to *Visual Basic*, the programming language I use for *Web-O-Rama*. This may be the last free version. Without modest donations from frequent users, I can't continue to give *Web-O-Rama* away. This doesn't mean, however, that I'm discontinuing support for

Web-O-Rama. I will continue to post updates to fix bugs and to improve performance, but I will most likely *not* be adding new features to the “Standard” (donationware) version.

An increase in the number of donations will encourage me to keep offering updated *Standard* versions of *Web-O-Rama* on my Web site. See *Help Keep Web-O-Rama Free*, below.

General Notes

Check my site, <http://www.kevingunn.com>, for updates. Please download the latest version or check the FAQ page before submitting a bug report. If for some reason you're unable to access my site, you can e-mail me (kgunn@cjnetworks.com) or send a hard-copy letter to my post-office box.

Please read all documentation *before* e-mailing me about bugs, installation problems, etc. Known or suspected problems are listed at the end of this file.

If you need to report a problem, particularly if you have purchased *Web-O-Rama* on CD, please e-mail me (kgunn@cjnetworks.com) rather than sending a hard-copy letter to my post-office box. I only check my post-office box every couple of weeks, so you may end up stewing about the fact I'm ignoring you, when in reality I just haven't received your message. I usually respond to e-mail queries within 24 hours.

Suggestions, as long as they aren't *too* flaky, are always welcome. Suggestions from people who have sent donations are given priority.

Windows 2000

I have received e-mails indicating that *Web-O-Rama* runs successfully on *Windows 2000*. However, because the installation updates certain system files, the person installing *Web-O-Rama* must be logged in as a “power user” (I think that's the correct terminology).

Web-O-Rama Professional Available on CD

Web-O-Rama Professional features a WYSIWYG tab that allows you to switch instantly between your HTML code and a *Web View* WYSIWYG window. Extremely cool! Send \$25.00 to Kevin Gunn, P.O. Box 442155, Lawrence KS 66044-8933, for *Web-O-Rama Professional* on CD. The CD contains the full version of *Web-O-Rama Professional* and *Internet Explorer 5* (included with permission of Microsoft per *ISV* license agreement). Please send me an e-mail telling me you've mailed a request. For \$20.00, I will e-mail you the zipped *weborama.exe* file (requires installation of the latest full version of *Web-O-Rama* and *Windows 98* or *Internet Explorer 5* to function). Money refunded if you experience any problems with the *Web View* tab.

Help Keep Web-O-Rama Free

If users in a financial position to do so would consider making *modest* donations to help with programming costs, I can continue to offer *Web-O-Rama* as *donationware* rather than traditional shareware (timed or limited to a certain number of uses without a registration key). Unfortunately, donations have been so sparse that it's doubtful I can keep offering *Web-O-Rama* on the honor system. Programming takes both time and money, neither of which I seem to have enough of these days. If you find the program useful, please consider making a small donation. I would be grateful. My mailing address is Kevin Gunn, P.O. Box 442155, Lawrence KS 66044-8933. Even \$1 would help. International money orders are more than welcome from overseas users. If you mail a donation, you might want to send me an e-mail at kgunn@cjnetworks.com letting me know. I don't check my post-office box very often due to the small number of donations.

Web-O-Rama Now Available on Floppy Disks or CD

For those of you who would like a “hard copy” version of *Web-O-Rama*, the latest version is now available on floppy disks or CD for a small charge (currently \$9.00 for floppies or \$15.00 for CD,

including the cost of materials, postage, and handling). People making donations of \$15.00 or more can, if they request it, receive a “free” copy on floppy disks or CD, but they will have to *specifically* ask for it (otherwise I’ll assume they *don’t* want or need a copy). E-mail me (kgunn@cjnetworks.com) for additional details, or send a donation *and* a request to Kevin Gunn, P.O. Box 442155, Lawrence KS 66044-8933. E-mail queries are normally answered within 24 hours; requests sent to my post-office box may take longer (you can always e-mail me if it’s taking *too* long). International money orders accepted.

STANDARD DISCLAIMERS AND DISAVOWALS

Visual Basic is a pretty benign programming language. Any time you install *any* program, however, you are taking a certain amount of risk. It is always a good idea to back up critical data before installing new software or hardware. If you have any installation concerns, check my Web site at <http://www.kevingunn.com> for the latest information before installing *Web-O-Rama*.

IMPORTANT INSTALLATION NOTES

Please read *install.doc* for important installation information!

Anyone who has *any* installation problems should download and install *vbrun60sp3.exe*, available from Microsoft’s FTP site, <ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/Softlib/MSLFILES/vbrun60sp3.exe>. *vbrun60sp3.exe* is a self-installing program. Put it in an empty folder and double-click on it to install. This updates several critical system files. You should also make sure you delete everything in the *Windows \ Temp* folder before installing *any* program.

PROGRAM NOTES

Web-O-Rama is an HTML editor written in Microsoft’s *Visual Basic* programming language. I would appreciate suggestions and bug reports from users. Check the FAQ page on my Web site first, <http://www.kevingunn.com>, for a description of known bugs and workarounds. I would advise downloading and installing the latest full version *before* e-mailing me about bugs, however. Exact wording of error messages (i.e., “Object variable or With block not set”) is extremely helpful.

If you have questions that are specific to *Web-O-Rama*, you’re welcome to e-mail me, particularly if you have made a donation. However, if you’re unfamiliar with HTML and need basic coding questions answered, try checking my Links page (<http://www.kevingunn.com/links.htm>) or performing an Internet search for “HTML.” There are *many* sites on the Web with in-depth information about HTML coding. In particular, I don’t have the time or knowledge to answer detailed questions about forms, frames, or tables—all rather difficult at first. Although I have tried to make *Web-O-Rama* simple to use, a basic understanding of HTML is needed to use some of the more advanced features of *Web-O-Rama*.

BETA VERSIONS

Beta versions are pre-release versions and are provided “as are”; some have new features that haven’t been thoroughly tested. Always rename your previous version of *weborama.exe* before using a beta version. If you’re really paranoid, experiment on some backup .htm files first.

NEWEST FEATURES

Please see *history.doc* for full documentation.

IMPORTANT STUFF

NT Compatibility

Version 4.0 added full NT compatibility (NT 4.0 only). Versions prior to 4.0 *will not work* with NT. NT displays some of the dialog buttons a little differently than *Windows 95/98*. Slight alignment problems do not affect functionality.

Warning about Quarterdeck's CleanSweep

For reasons known only to Quarterdeck's programmers, some versions of *CleanSweep* may replace newer .dll and .ocx files with older versions. This may render certain programs (such as *Web-O-Rama*) inoperable. Any program that doesn't work after installation of *CleanSweep* will need to be reinstalled with *CleanSweep* turned off. *CleanSweep* is not affected by reinstalling *Web-O-Rama*.

Warning about Iomega's Find It

Iomega's catalog program, *Find It*, replaces newer .dll and .ocx files with older versions. If you install it after installing *Web-O-Rama*, *Web-O-Rama* will crash when you try and open it (it also causes serious problems with *Visual Basic* and *Visual C++*). You will have to reinstall *Web-O-Rama* if you install *Find It*. Reinstalling *Web-O-Rama* will not affect *Find It*. The most recent version of Iomega's tools does not seem to cause problems.

For Visual Basic Programmers Only

Programmers using *Visual Basic* should be aware that I'm using *Visual Basic 6* with *Service Pack 4* installed. The setup program for *Web-O-Rama* will update some of the .ocx and .dll files on your system. If you're using an earlier version of *Visual Basic* and don't intend to upgrade in the near future, you may not want to install *Web-O-Rama*. It certainly won't harm your system, but you will be unable to make .exe-only files available and rely on users to download the standard runtime files elsewhere. This has ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT on anyone except *Visual Basic* programmers.

Web-O-Rama is the product of thousands of hours of development, much of it through laborious trial and error. I will be happy to share some of the routines with other *VB* programmers (who have done the same for me), but I have put too much effort into the program to give away the source code in its entirety. I welcome, however, any kind of correspondence from programmers.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Web View

Select up to six browsers to display the HTML files you are working on the *Preferences* dialog (the first item under the "View" menu). Selecting "Default Browser" means that the browser you choose will start when you push the "Web View" toolbar button. The program will expect you to navigate to "netscape.exe" or "iexplore.exe" and then click on the .exe file, so it helps to know in advance where these files are located on your system. Netscape is normally in "Program Files \ Netscape \ Program." Early versions of Internet Explorer may be located in "Program Files \ Plus!" Later versions should be in "Program Files \ Internet Explorer." Note that the drop-down menu at the bottom of the navigation box allows you to select "netscape.exe," "iexplore.exe," or "All Files" to display in the window.

If you select "Autosave Files on Viewing," the file you are working on will (obviously) be saved before the browser loads. If you don't, *Web-O-Rama* creates a temporary file (TMP0000.htm) for you to view. You will still be reminded to save your edited file before closing it.

If you already have a browser open and minimized, selecting "View in . . . Browser" will start another instance of the browser. This is currently unavoidable as long as the browsers themselves are user-

defined. Instead, save the file (there's a "Save" icon up by the "Print" icon on the toolbar), then maximize and refresh the browser. I always close the browser when I'm finished viewing a file, which also prevents the problem. If you have NOT selected "Autosave on Viewing," you will have to close and restart your browser to see the changes (creates a new temporary file).

Displaying Graphics in Web Browser

If you have your images in a subfolder of the folder where your HTML files are located, you can specify, on several of the forms, a *Root Folder*. Choose the folder you are working in from the drop-down list and the path information to the images in the subfolders will be added. If you don't use the path information, graphics may not display correctly when viewed in a Web browser.

Using "Web-safe" Colors

You can choose to use non-dithered colors from the "Options" menu. This allows you to select colors using a limited set of hex values (216 total colors). These colors will display correctly in all Web browsers on systems capable of 256 colors or more. The Hex Value dialog now displays the RGB (red / green / blue) values for selected colors. You can use these values when creating graphics with other programs.

RESOURCES

The HTML *Help* files, *wilbur.hlp*, *index.hlp*, and *css.hlp*, are *open source*. Permission for me to use them unmodified in *Web-O-Rama* was confirmed 19 August 1999 by Liam Quinn of the Web Design Group.

I signed an *ISV* (Independent Software Vendor) license with Microsoft on 18 August 1999, allowing me to distribute *Internet Explorer 5* or components of *Internet Explorer 5* on CD with *Web-O-Rama Professional*.

Alan Simpson's *HTML Publishing Bible* (IDG Books, 1996; now out of print, unfortunately) was my first book about HTML and was an invaluable resource. Although nothing in *Web-O-Rama* was directly influenced by his book, I thank Alan for getting me started. Frank Boumphrey's *Style Sheets for HTML and XML* (WROX, 1998) was helpful in giving me a basic understanding of style sheets before I embarked on creating the *Style Sheet* dialog. The *Wrox Ultimate HTML Reference Database*, located at [webdev.wrox.co.uk / reference / html4db](http://webdev.wrox.co.uk/reference/html4db), really *is* the final authority on HTML 4 specifications. I cross-checked all the compatibility information on the *Tag List* dialog for accuracy against their incredibly detailed database. Any errors, however, are mine. The *Tag List* itself was cobbled together from many different Web resources as well as my own trial-and-error experimentation; I did my best to avoid stepping on anyone's copyrighted toes. If I've inadvertently infringed, don't sue! Contact me and the problem will be taken care of promptly.

A year or so ago, a *Visual Basic* programmer, Geoff Hudik, e-mailed me and asked for some assistance in creating his own HTML editing program (I don't recall being of much help, but he claims that I was). Geoff asked permission to borrow a few ideas from *Web-O-Rama*, and I saw no reason not to let him ... other *Visual Basic* programmers have done the same for me (programmers tend to fall into two categories: the paranoid and protective, and the relaxed and helpful). He recently sent me the results, *Web Mechanic*, which has turned out to be a quality product with many great features. Geoff has made interesting use of *Visual Basic*'s *Tree View* control, showing an HTML tag list on the left side of the screen. Although I didn't want to use his ideas byte for byte, I asked Geoff if he'd mind if I implemented something similar to his Tag List in *Web-O-Rama* (I'd been tinkering along the same lines for a while, but had never thought of a good way to accomplish what I wanted). So, some of *Web-O-Rama*'s new features owe credit to Geoff and *Web Mechanic*. Thanks, Geoff!

Web-O-Rama is an on-going team effort. I thank all of my patient on-line friends who have cheerfully looked over new versions and have offered suggestions and pointed out bugs. Thanks, as well, to users who have written with suggestions and been dragged into the project as beta testers. Special thanks to Paul Smith, Richard Allen Parks, and Karl Berger, who helped debug v. 6.71. D. Wall was extremely

helpful with v. 7.02, and also discovered the incompatibility (fixed) between *Web-O-Rama Professional* and *Internet Explorer 5.5*. S. Ausland helped debug v. 7.08 and confirmed the problem with *IE5.5*.

Extra special thanks to my wife, Karen, who continues to put up patiently with being a “computer widow.”

KNOWN, REPORTED, OR POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- The first non-beta release of *Netscape 6* will not open and display Web pages from within *Web-O-Rama*. I searched on-line newsgroups and discovered that this version of *Netscape* appears to be lacking DDE (dynamic document exchange) and does not respond to *shell* commands. Previous beta versions of *Netscape 6* seem to have worked with *Web-O-Rama*. At present, there is no workaround. This is a known “bug” in *Netscape 6*. I am hoping that later versions of *Netscape* will once again work with *Web-O-Rama*.
- If you are trying to save a file to a LAN server (I:\, for example), you may get an “Error saving file ...” message. The file will save successfully; the error message can be ignored.
- I installed *Web-O-Rama* on my *NT* machine, which had an inexpensive graphics card, and *Web-O-Rama* locked up when I tried to run it. I changed the number of displayed colors (Control Panel > Display > Settings) from “True Color” to “High Color.” *Web-O-Rama* ran fine after that. The problem turned out to be with the splash screen. If you set the number of displayed colors lower and disable the splash screen using *Web-O-Rama*’s *Preferences* dialog, you can then set the number of displayed colors back to the original setting. This appears to be a problem with certain older graphics cards.

A small program (15 KB), *Web-O-Splash*, is available on my Web site (<http://www.kevingunn.com>) that will allow you to disable the splash screen from outside *Web-O-Rama*.

- Animated .gif images will not appear animated when opened in the *Image* dialog. This is currently a limitation of *Visual Basic* and not a “bug” per se.
- One user reported getting a *General Protection Fault* when trying to view images using the *Image* dialog. Installing *vbrun60sp3.exe* (see above) fixed the problem. Please make sure you install this Microsoft update *before* sending me bug reports! You also might try changing the number of screen colors your computer displays (Control Panel > Display > Settings). Problems with programs can often be traced to problems with graphics drivers. Make sure you have the latest for your card.
- Scrolling *very quickly* through a list of image files on the “Quick View” tab of the *Image* dialog may cause the program to crash. As with nearly any program, it’s possible to crash *Web-O-Rama* by exceeding software and hardware limitations.
- Several (very few!) users have reported problems installing *Web-O-Rama* from the CD. Usually, these problems take the form of odd error messages, such as files not being found. Please read *install.doc* thoroughly before installing *Web-O-Rama* to avoid potential installation issues. *If you have purchased Web-O-Rama on CD, you are entitled to a full refund if you can’t install the program. Please contact me (kgunn@cjnetworks.com, or post office box address, below) for details.* Some *very old* CD players may have trouble reading “home-made” CDs. If you have difficulties, try opening and closing the CD player repeatedly with the *Web-O-Rama* disk in it. This usually works on my older computer.
- One user has reported getting an error message about *Explorer* (the file-manager interface, not *Internet Explorer*) crashing *kernel32.dll* when trying to view a Web page by pushing the *Default Browser* button when the default browser was set up in *Web-O-Rama* to be *Internet Explorer 4*. I have not been able to duplicate the error. If you have installed other programs since the installation of *Web-O-Rama*, you might try reinstalling *Web-O-Rama*. Make sure you have a recent copy of *Internet Explorer* on your system (at minimum, v. 4.01 SP1; v. 5 if possible).

- Trying to print from *Web-O-Rama* if no printer has been installed on your system (*Windows 95/98/NT*) may cause the program to crash. This shouldn't happen with recent versions of *Web-O-Rama*.
- [Note: *The ability to use Microsoft Word as a built-in spell checker was removed from Web-O-Rama, v. 6.89, for the following reasons.*] Using *Word* as a spell checker doesn't work, for some reason, on files larger than about 32 kb. This appears to be some sort of problem with *Visual Basic*. I have built in a message box that pops up if you attempt to spell check larger files. At some point in the future, I'm going to add a built-in spell checker (there will be a small registration charge for the version with built-in spell checking). Spell-checked material sometimes becomes double-spaced, too, particularly if you put hard returns at the ends of your lines (as I do) when writing HTML code. I don't think this can be fixed.
- I performed a long search and replace for odd word-processing codes (in a text file that had been created in Wordstar) and *Web-O-Rama* locked up. I had previously replaced two spaces with one space and the program reported 642 replacements, so the number of items doesn't seem to cause the problem. I would suggest saving files before doing an extensive search and replace (always a good idea, anyway).
- If, for some reason, *Web-O-Rama* starts displaying error messages when you attempt to open it, try reinstalling *Web-O-Rama*. As noted above, installing certain programs *after* installing *Web-O-Rama* may make *Web-O-Rama* inoperable. Problems with *Web-O-Rama* can almost always be traced to a system problem rather than a problem with the program itself. You can also use *regedit.exe* (the Registry editor) to search for "weborama" and delete the entire "weborama" directory key (but be careful when editing the Registry!). It's possible that if you have set up *Web-O-Rama* to start in a specific folder and then deleted or renamed the folder, you'll have problems (although the built-in error handling should take care of this under normal circumstances). The only thing deleting the Registry key will do is erase the configuration options you've chosen in *Web-O-Rama*.
- The Color Tags option will NOT work on any file containing unpaired "<" and ">" (such as JavaScript using ">="). The program won't crash, but it won't color all the tags. If you're NOT using JavaScript and still can't get the tags to color correctly in a particular file, you probably have errors in your HTML code.

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