

What's New in WebUI Studio.NET 2008 R1

This white paper discusses breaking changes, enhancements and what's new in WebUI Studio.NET 2008 R1.

Visual Studio 2008 Support

WebUI Studio.NET 2008 R1 has now support Visual Studio 2008 in several aspects:

- **Installation Package.** The installer now checks for Visual Studio 2008 existence.
- **Toolbox.** The components are now properly installed to Visual Studio 2008 Toolbox, if Visual Studio 2008 existed.
- **Designer.** The components designer has been tested to work flawlessly in Visual Studio 2008 Design Time Environment.
- **Core Functions.** The core components functionalities and behaviors have been tested to run perfectly in Visual Studio 2008 and ASP.NET 3.5.
- **LINQ Support.** Databound components such as WebGrid, WebCombo and WebTreeView which have extensively support DataSource control architecture, automatically supports LINQ through the new LinqDataSource available in Visual Studio 2008.

WebUI.NET Framework® 2008

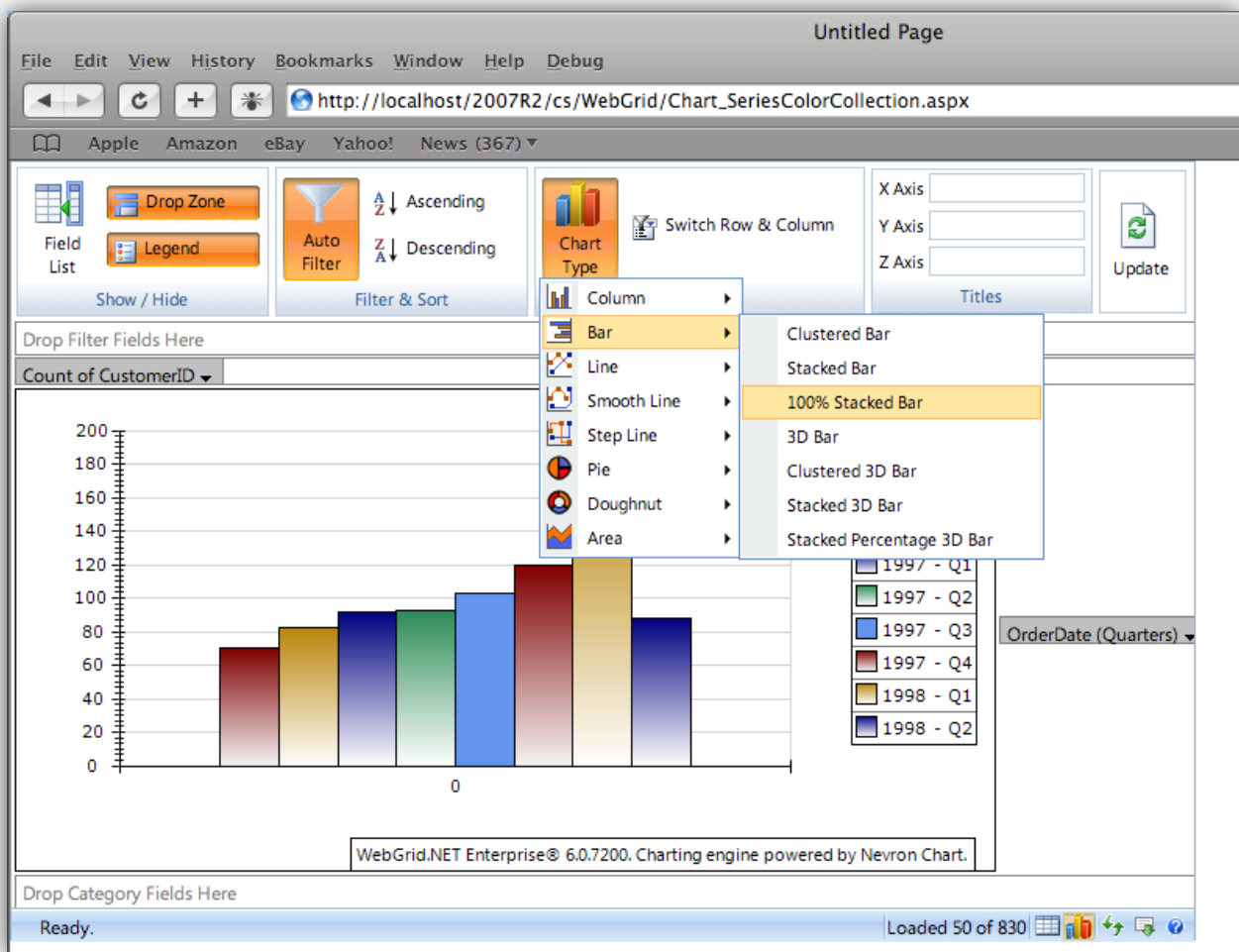
As the strong foundation of all Intersoft's products, WebUI.NET Framework is continuously shaped to produce better performance and stability as well as major new features. The 2008 version of WebUI.NET Framework is highly aimed to include extensive supports to new modern browsers such as Opera and Safari.

This browser support initiative is Intersoft's major move in delivering better cross-browser Web components. Through the advanced bridging technology, existing products and Web application can now be run automatically on Safari and Opera in all platforms they supported.

Safari Support

WebUI.NET Framework 2008 implements full support for Safari 3.0 for Mac and Windows. We have taken every detailed effort to ensure all functionalities, behaviors and layout in existing products to run properly in Safari. Intersoft's proprietary technologies such as FlyPostBack™ and Pixel-perfect™ rendering have also been enhanced to support Safari browser.

The following screenshot shows one of the most advanced features in our flagship product, which runs flawlessly in Safari 3.0 for Windows.



Known Issues

Safari 3.0 support is implemented with several known limitations and minor issues due to the bugs in the browser. The following is the list of the known limitations and issues:

WebGrid.NET Enterprise 6.0

- Tree lines display in Hierarchical Grid is not displayed properly (shrunk). However, other functions related to Hierarchical are working as expected.
- Group Row width is not appropriately extended to 100% in first load. However, when user expands a row for the first time, all group rows will show proper width.

WebCombo.NET 4.0

- None

WebInput.NET 3.0

- None

WebDesktop.NET 2.5

- **IFrameShowLoader** and **IFrameAllowTransparency** features are not supported in WebDesktopManager/WebTab/WebPaneManager.

- Some mnemonic keys and browser-level shortcut keys are not supported (can't be overridden) at the Javascript-level codes. Thus the keyboard shortcut feature in WebMenu and WebMenuBar might not functioning properly.

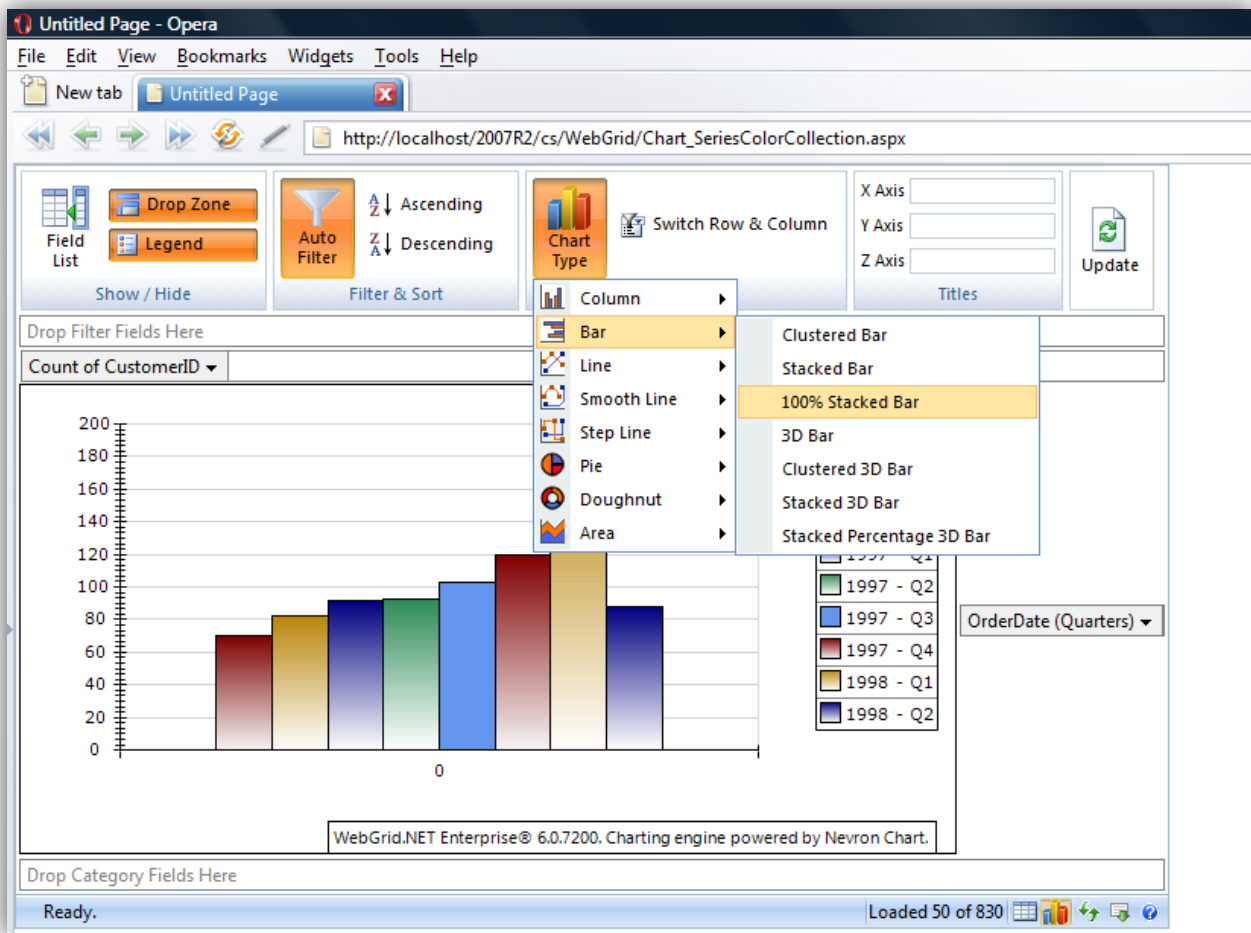
WebTreeView.NET 1.0

- None

Opera Support

WebUI.NET Framework 2008 implements full support for Opera 9.5 for Windows/Mac/Linux. With the full support for Opera browser, you can now enjoy our rich WebUI components in more platforms than ever before. Intersoft's advanced technologies such as FlyPostBack™ and Pixel-perfect™ rendering are fully supported in Opera.

The following screenshot shows the same screenshot as in above Safari. You can compare and notice the identical rendering even in every detailed pixel.



Known Issues

Opera 9.5 support is implemented with several known limitations and minor issues due to the bugs in the browser. The following is the list of the known limitations and issues:

WebGrid.NET Enterprise 6.0

- Selected row's border can't be applied due to Opera's severe performance issue when accessing element's style object.
- Opera doesn't allow context menu (during right click) to be overridden programmatically via codes. Therefore when you right click on column header, cell, or other elements – the Opera's built-in context menu will still appear. When you press Esc, the Grid's context menu will be

visible. Note that you still need to enable “Allow page to receive right click” in Opera 9.5 Preferences (Javascript Options).

Alternative Solution: WebGrid 6 includes special implementation for Opera as alternative right click solution. Instead of using right click, you can show context menu by pressing left mouse click on an element and hold for 3 seconds.

- By default, Opera will show context menu when double click event occurred on a valid element such as text. This “double click context menu” can’t be overridden in the currently released version of Opera. This causes WebGrid to fail when user attempted to activate edit mode by double clicking on a cell. To workaround on this issue, press Enter to activate edit mode instead of double click – or double click at the far edge of the cell.

Updates from Opera: Hotclick menu can only be disabled by the user in Opera preferences. When disabled, the double click event will function normally. This is bug 87804 which states that event.preventDefault() should be able to prevent it from appearing.

- The “column resize” mouse pointer can’t be applied to the cell element when the mouse pointer is near the edge of the column header. You still can drag the column header to move it – however the mouse pointer didn’t change it “column resize”.
- When navigating the textbox using TAB or SHIFT+TAB key in editing mode, Opera selects all text in the Grid before it activates the destination textbox. This results in screen flickering.

WebCombo.NET 4.0

- None

WebInput.NET 3.0

- None

WebDesktop.NET 2.5

- **IFrameShowLoader** and **IFrameAllowTransparency** features are not supported in WebDesktopManager/WebTab/WebPaneManager.
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WebTreeView.NET 1.0

- None

New Generic-based Collection, Interface and Object

WebUI.NET Framework 2008 takes its base architecture to the next level by implementing the new Generic feature introduced in .NET Framework 2.0.

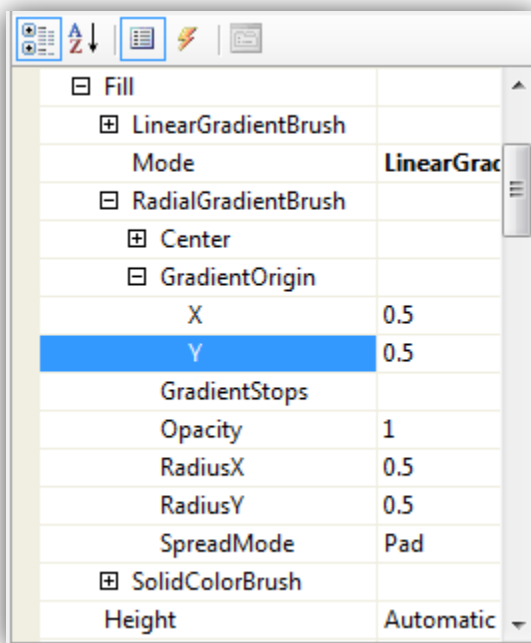
This new Generic architecture enables simplified object model and consistent interface and ease-of-use across all Intersoft's products. This new architecture is used in latest Intersoft's products such as in WebScheduler and WebAqua for Silverlight.

New Infrastructure for Silverlight-based Component Products

WebUI.NET Framework 2008 introduces a new framework assembly to support the infrastructure of forthcoming Silverlight-based components. The new assembly named **ISNet.WebUI.Silverlight** is designed to be part of WebUI.NET Framework which built upon the rock-solid architecture and foundation available in WebUI.NET Framework.

ISNet.WebUI.Silverlight is going to be the foundation and base libraries for all Silverlight-based products such as WebAqua. ISNet.WebUI.Silverlight contains high-level encapsulation and implementation of Silverlight's object model in the fashion of ASP.NET server control.

For instance, the WebUI.NET Framework for Silverlight includes detailed object model for customizing brushes, gradients, gradient stops, colors, and much more. See the following illustration to get a better picture.



New Component for Silverlight™ 1.0 Platform: WebAqua New Component: WebScheduler, WebCallout

Enhancements in existing products

WebGrid.NET Enterprise 6.0

The following are enhancements and new features in WebGrid.NET Enterprise introduced in 2008 R1:

Support for Opera 9.5 and Safari 3.0 browsers.

WebGrid now supports two more modern browsers: Opera 9.5 and Safari 3.0. In addition to the compatibility layer added through our advanced bridging technology, WebGrid has been specially tweaked and enhanced to support these new browsers. Most core functionalities – such as user interaction (drag drop, column resizing, column moving, etc), data management (grouping, sorting, filtering, etc), data editing, as well as the AJAX and rendering architecture – have been tested and worked flawlessly in these two browsers.

Support sorting in child rows when self reference is enabled.

WebGrid now introduces a new setting in **SelfReferenceSettings** object called **ApplyChildSorting**. This feature instructs WebGrid to perform sorting on the self referencing child when the column sorting action occurred.

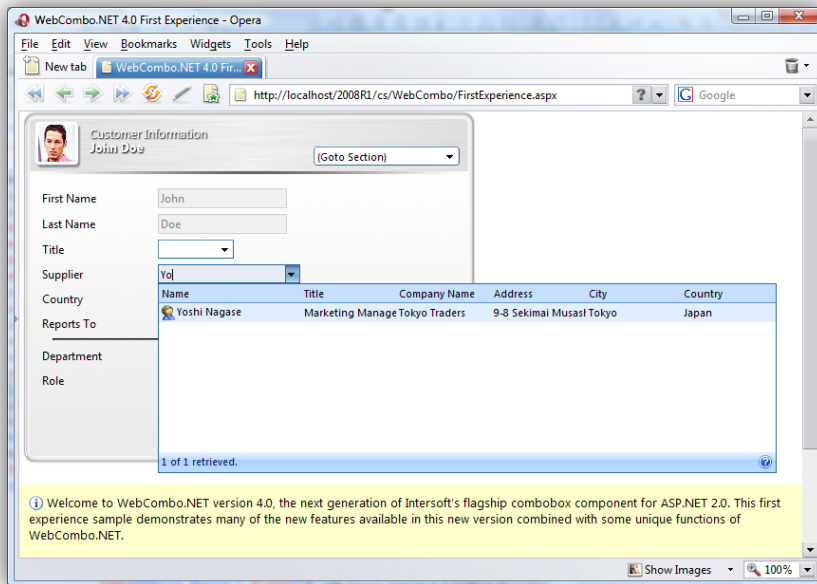
WebCombo.NET 4.0

The following are enhancements and new features in WebCombo.NET introduced in 2008 R1:

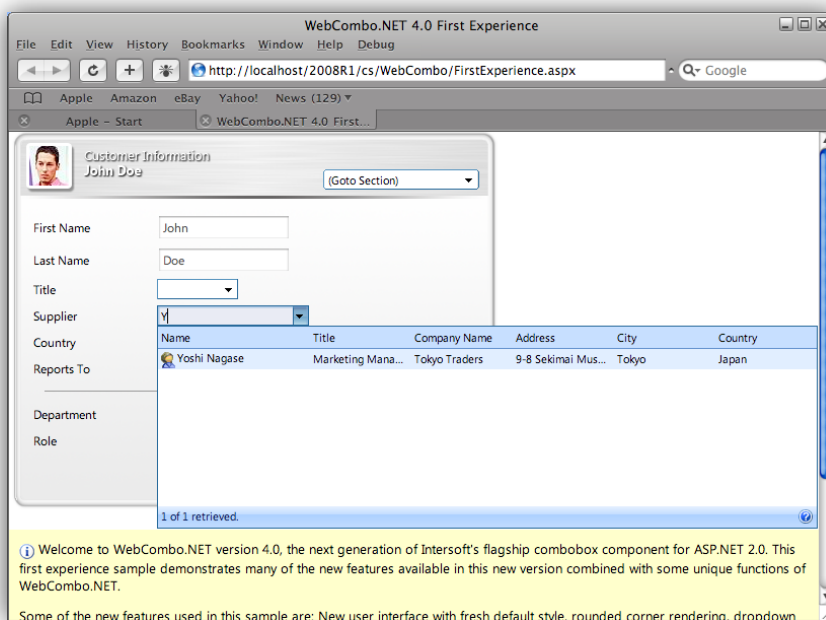
Support for Opera 9.5 and Safari 3.0 browsers.

WebCombo.NET now offers excellent support for Opera 9.5 and Safari 3.0 browsers. The rich and advanced functions – such as Outlook-style multiple selection, AJAX auto-complete, multiple columns, Vista-style animation, fluid round corner – are working flawlessly in both browsers.

The following screenshot demonstrates WebCombo.NET 4.0 in action using Opera 9.5 browser.



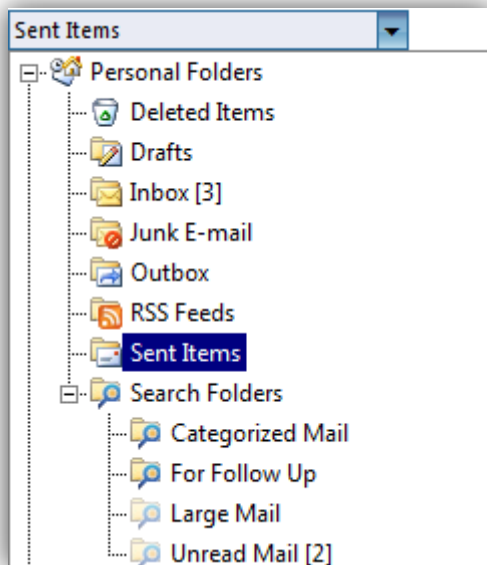
The following screenshot demonstrates WebCombo.NET 4.0 in action using Safari 3.0 for Windows.



Integration with WebTreeView

The tight integration between both Intersoft's flagship products (WebCombo.NET and WebTreeView.NET) means that you can now offer richer and more intuitive way for your end users to input from hierarchical/grouped data.

The following illustration shows the WebTreeView control being used as the dropdown container in a WebCombo instance.



When using this new integration feature, the default WebCombo's input and dropdown behaviors are no longer used. Instead, WebCombo will delegate the behaviors to the client interface which contains implementation of the required behaviors and methods.

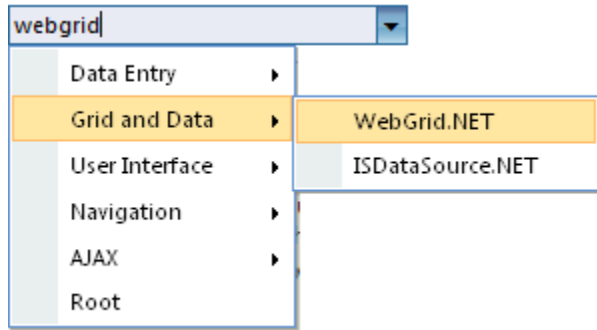
When WebTreeView is integrated into WebCombo, the WebTreeView will be automatically shown when the WebCombo's dropdown button is clicked. When a selection is made in the WebTreeView instance, the text will be sent back to the WebCombo text box. This feature enables out-of-the-box integration between Intersoft's controls which significantly reduces development time and efforts.

An interesting ability in this WebTreeView integration is the support for editable WebCombo. When you typed into the textbox, the first match menu item will be displayed recursively. When a valid tree node is selected, you can simply press Tab to select the item and WebCombo will automatically set the Text and Value. When the typed text is invalid, WebCombo will remove the Text and Value as well - all without additional user codes.

Integration with WebContextMenu

Tight integration with WebContextMenu enables you to easily input a data by selecting from a hierarchical Menu User Interface. For instance, instead of showing a long list of hundreds items during product entry, you can show a short list of logically-grouped items displayed in a Menu interface. The result is better data entry experience allowing end users to perform entry tasks in more intuitive and productive way.

The following illustration shows the WebContextMenu control being used as the dropdown container in a WebCombo instance.



When WebContextMenu is integrated into WebCombo, the WebContextMenu will be automatically shown when the WebCombo's dropdown button is clicked. When a selection is made in the WebContextMenu instance, the text will be sent back to the WebCombo text box. This feature enables out-of-the-box integration between Intersoft's controls which significantly reduces development time and efforts.

An interesting ability in this WebContextMenu integration is the support for editable WebCombo. When you typed into the textbox, WebCombo will attempt to find the matching menu item and loop into the sub menu hierarchically. The first match menu item will then be displayed and focused. When a valid menu item is highlighted, you can simply press Tab to select the item and WebCombo will automatically set the Text and Value. When the typed text is invalid, WebCombo will remove the Text and Value as well - all without additional user codes.

Stunning Sliding Animation

One of the Intersoft's focuses in the 2008 release is core animation feature. In this new release, you can add stunning quadratic sliding animation to WebCombo control. When this feature is applied, the sliding animation will be played when you clicked on the dropdown arrow. The animation will also be played every time the dropdown content needs to be displayed – such as when you type into the textbox.

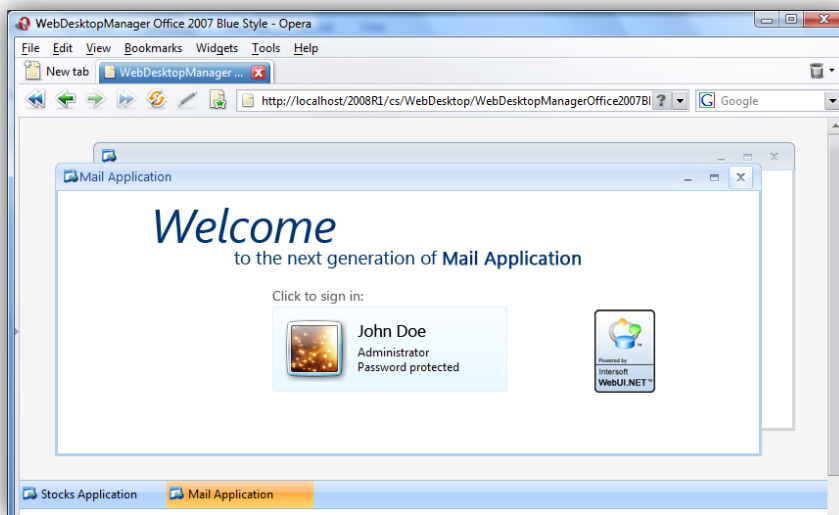
WebDesktop.NET 2.5

The following are enhancements and new features in WebDesktop.NET introduced in 2008 R1:

Support for Opera 9.5 and Safari 3.0 browsers.

The new WebDesktop takes desktop user experience to the next level by implementing extensive support for more widely used browsers such as Opera and Safari. The advanced technologies of WebDesktop such as PixelPerfect™ rendering, Hybrid Menu, XmlCompressor, CssOptimizer etc have been significantly enhanced to support these new browsers.

The following screenshot demonstrates *WebDesktopManager with Office2007 Blue Theme* in action using Opera 9.5 browser.



The following screenshot demonstrates *WebDesktopManager with Office2007 Blue Theme* in action using Safari 3.0 for Windows.

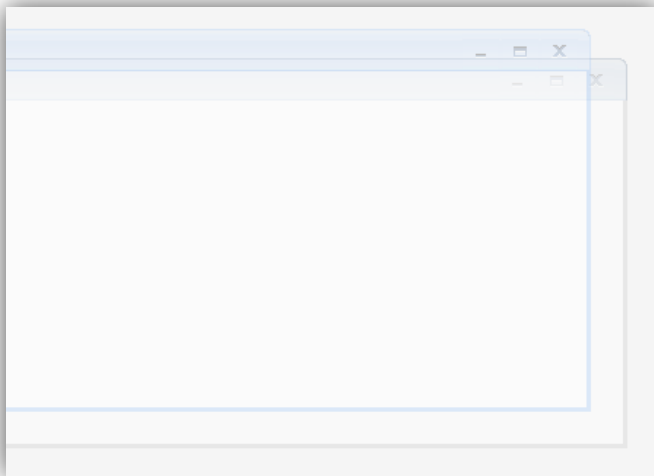


The support for Opera and Safari have been fully implemented and extensively tested to the following members of WebDesktop.NET 2.5:

- WebDesktopManager
- WebDialogBox
- WebPaneManager
- WebNotification
- WebFlyPostBackManager
- WebTab
- WebDragDropExtender
- WebExplorerPane
- WebNavPane
- WebContextMenu
- WebMenu
- WebToolBar
- WebMenuBar
- WebCallout

WebDesktopManager: Vista-style animation

The new WebDesktopManager now includes visually-compelling Vista-like animation when you open or close a WebDesktopWindow. When this feature is enabled, the window will be zoomed in when open (or being shown). Likewise, the window will be zoomed out of view when closed (or being hidden).



Note that this feature may require better hardware specification at the end user side as it used system resources heavily. However, this feature still has a constant and good performance when used in Internet Explorer, Opera and Safari. In Firefox, this feature will cause significant performance issue especially when there are a lot of objects in the background. Please

WebDialogBox: Modeless mode

The WebDialogBox has been further improved with enhancements such as Modeless mode. In this new release, you can set the WebDialogBox to use *Modeless* mode, instead of *Modal* mode which is set by default.

When the WebDialogBox is using *Modeless* mode, the background objects will no longer be blocked. This allows you to interact with the Webpage while the WebDialogBox is active. Several examples of common scenarios that used this mode are such as using WebDialogBox as a tool window or using WebDialogBox as floating navigation bar, or moveable side bar.

WebDialogBox: Vista-style animation

As in WebDesktopManager, the new WebDialogBox is also featuring Vista-style zoom animation when the WebDialogBox is showing and closing. This visually compelling animation allows end users to easily notice on the dialog box appearance, which dramatically enhances user experience.

Note that this feature may require better hardware specification at the end user side as it used system resources heavily. However, this feature still has a constant and good performance when used in Internet Explorer, Opera and Safari. In Firefox, this feature will cause significant performance issue especially when there are a lot of objects in the background. Please

WebMenu: Quadratic Sliding Animation

In the previous release, we introduced a nice Fading animation effect to WebMenu system component. As one of the initiative in 2008 release, we have added more animation effects and apply it consistently to applicable components and scenarios.

The improved WebMenu now features Quadratic sliding animation. This type of animation quickly adds elegant image to your Web application as the menu smoothly sliding from the left or bottom direction depend on the menu position. The sliding animation is using quadratic acceleration logic, which is an enhanced acceleration algorithm to achieve elegant and high-performance animation.