Blueball Design Dynamic Text 2 Stack Readme Manual v1.0

A unique responsive stack that dynamically populates and updates a content area within the stack using a warehoused external XML flat text file.

The **Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack** allows anyone to update the content within it dynamically without having to open and edit the actual Rapidweaver site file.

The Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack offers a powerful dynamic basic CMS functionality that's very easy to setup and use.

With the Dynamic Content stacks, we wanted to make it so any Rapidweaver user could create an area on a Stacks 2 page in a Rapidweaver site whose content is dynamically created and placed each time the page is loaded into a browser window. This content is loaded from an easy-to-edit XML text file that is on your hosting site's server directory.

There's no need for extra CMS solutions to be used, and the Dynamic Text 2 stack's XML text file is very simple to set up, edit and upload into place! TO update your Dynamic Text 2 stack's content, all you have to do is edit the XML text file. This allows for any specified individual to update the content area by editing the XML text file from both Macs and PCs using a simple text editor.

The benefits of using the Dynamic Text 2 stack on your site:.

- You can publish your Stacks page from within Rapidweaver without having to worry about overwriting any CMS files!

- Anyone can update the Dynamic Text 2 stack's content from any location. Perfect for clients who want to update the one page on a regular basis.

- Does not require you to republish your site file to update the Dynamic Text 2 stack area.

- The Dynamic Text 2 stack is responsive by default so your content will display great on smart phone and tablet devices with smaller screen sizes.

What can you use the Dynamic Text 2 stack for?.

- Product specials

- Product listings

- Weekly or daily specials

- Upcoming events

- Real estate listings

- School events

- Classroom assignments

- And much more!

What's Included In Your Blueball Dynamic Text 2 Stack Download.

After downloading your file, double click on it to unzip your Blueball Dynamic Contents 2 stacks folder.

Inside your Blueball_DynamicContent2_v1.0 folder you will find the Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack and the Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stack, 2 user manual readme files (1 for each stack), 2 XML text files to get you started, and dcs_images folder with 3 placeholder images in it to use with the Dynamic Content 2 stack.

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How to install your Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stacks into Rapidweaver.

Installing your Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stack and Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stacks into Rapidweaver just requires a quick double click on each stack. That's it.

If you are using the current versions of Rapidweaver 5+ and the Stacks 2 page plugin, all you need to do is double click on each of the 2 Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stack files. They will then be automatically installed for you into Rapidweaver's Application Support folder into the Stacks folder within it. Then restart Rapidweaver and your stacks will be available to use on your Stacks pages.

After installing your 2 Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stacks and restarting Rapidweaver 5+, you'll see the 2 stacks listed together in the Stacks 2 Elements library window under a group called "Blueball Design", making it easier to locate and select the Blueball Dynamic Content 2 and Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stacks to use and drag onto your Stacks 2 page as you build your Rapidweaver site pages.

The Blueball Dynamic Content stacks require the following Rapidweaver and Stacks plugin versions

The Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stacks will only work with Stacks plugin version 2.0 and above.

Recommend using **Stacks version 2.1.13 and above for maximum compatibility.** Note that the Blueball Dynamic Content 2 stacks will not work with Stacks v1.4.4.

Rapidweaver version that works with Stacks version 2.0+.

Recommend using **Rapidweaver v5.3.1 and above** for best results.

The Blueball Dynamic Content stacks work with the following browsers:

Firefox

Safari

Chrome

Internet Explorer 8

Internet Explorer 9

Internet Explorer 10

Opera

Safari iOS

Android OS

Using the Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack

1) Select the Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack in the Stacks 2 elements library window in the Blueball Design group, and drag it into position on your Stacks site page. Note that if you want the stack's content to display responsively you must use the stack with a responsive theme layout like the FreeStack Responsive theme for example.

2) Upload your edited XML text file to your server directory using the FTP software of your choice.

3) Set up your hud control settings for the stack and your XML file url.

4) That's it. The next time you preview your Stacks site page in Rapidweaver, your XML file's text content will display dynamically (must be connected to the Internet for preview mode display to work).

Editing your Dynamic Text stack's XML text file.

The default dts_default.xml text file that comes with your Dynamic Text stack is where you add in text for your various items. The default layout includes placeholder text for 3 separate items.

Open up the file using a text editor of your choice. Some basic ones you can use are TextEdit on your Mac (note you must use it in "Plain Text" mode) and Notepad for PC users (DO NOT use MS Word!).

Once you open the XML file up you will see 3 items to add your content into:

Title - This is where you add in each individual item's headline. Type in your headline replacing where it says "Add Title Copy Here" replacing this text with your own headline copy for each of the 3 items leaving in the quote marks. This will appear slightly smaller than the main headline for the overall area you will add in through the user interface options when it is displayed.

Description - This is where you add in each individual item's description content. Basically one paragraph of text that will appear under your item's title. **Type in your text replacing the default "Lorem ipsum" placeholder description text with your own description copy for each of the 3 items.**

Note that you can add in html styling code like bold <b>, italic <i>, or <h1>, etc. into the description text area and it will display correctly on your site page showing the html

formatting you have specified. You must use valid html code or your text may not display correctly as expected.

Once you finishing adding in your copy (and html formatting) to the file, save it to your hard drive giving it a unique name. Be sure you do not have any spaces in the file name.

Uploading your Dynamic Text 2 stack's XML text file to your server directory.

Once you have your XML text file edited and saved using a unique name, it's time to upload the file to your server directory.

If your Dynamic Text 2 stack's XML text file is uploaded to the main root level of your site's server directory, then the link for it might look something like this example:

http://yourdomainname.com/dts_default.xml

If your Dynamic Text 2 stack's XML text file is uploaded into a page's sub folder on your site's server directory, then the link for it might look something like this:

http://yourdomainname.com/productspecials/dts_default.xml

This reflects the XML text file being placed into a folder named productspecials in your server directory's root level.

To keep things simple, we recommend uploading your XML text file into the root level on your server directory, i.e. where your index.html home page file is located in.

Once you decide on the location to place your XML text file into, use a FTP program like Cyberduck (free download), Transmit, YummyFTP, Fetch, etc. to log into your server and upload it into position.

You can set this up for your client to use so that it points to the location where the file is to be uploaded. Then all they have to do is log in, and drag and drop the updated XML text file into position on the server directory replacing the one currently there.

Using the Dynamic Text 2 stack's built-in HUD controls.

URL XML File: This is where you put the full absolute web address url to your XML text file you uploaded to your site's server directory. You must use the complete url or your Dynamic Text will not appear in your Stack area! Replace the default placeholder url currently there with your own. See url examples in item 5 above to use. DO NOT add in the "www" prefix!

Div Name: This is the name that will be created for the div in your Dynamic Text stack where your actual content will be placed into. Some examples of div names are shown below:

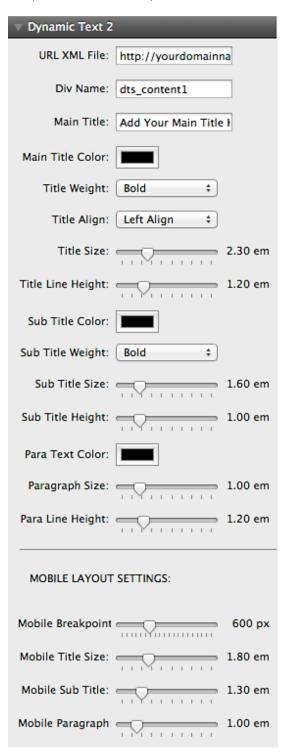winterspecials01, productsale1, homelisting01, homeworkweek2, dcs_contentv1, etc.

*Note that the div names cannot have a space in them or use special characters or glyphs.

Main Title: This is the main title line of text that will appear at the very top of your Dynamic Text stack area. Add in whatever you want the title to be, something as simple as "This Week's Specials On Our All Natural Products!" or "Upcoming Meetings" or "Tonight's Homework", "New Home Listings", etc.

How you type it is how it will appear in your Dynamic Content stack div area. Spaces and special characters are ok to use here.

Main Title Color: Set the color of your Main Title line of text. The default color is set to Black 000000.

Title Weight: Pop up menu control lets you choose between normal and bold font weights for your Main Title text. Default font weight is bold.

Title Align: Pop up menu control lets you choose between left, right, and center alignment for your Main Title text. Default is Left Align.

Title Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the default Main Title font size. Default is 2.3em. Font sizes are 0em to 8em.

Title Line Height: Slider control allows you to set the Main Title line height from 0em to 5em. Default Main Title line height is 1.2em.

Sub Title Color: Set the color of your Sub Title(s) text. The default color is set to Black 000000.

Sub Title Weight: Pop up menu control lets you choose between normal and bold font weights for your Sub Title text. Default font weight is bold.

Sub Title Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the default Main Title font size. Default is 2.3em. Font sizes are 0em to 8em.

Sub Title Height: Slider control allows you to set the Sub Title line height from 0em to 5em. Default Sub Title line height is 1em.

Paragraph Text Color: Set the color of your paragraph text. The default color is set to Black 000000.

Paragraph Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the default Paragraph font size. Default is 1em. Font sizes are 0em to 5em.

Paragraph Line Height: Slider control allows you to set the Paragraph text line height from 0em to 5em. Default Paragraph text line height is 1.2em.

Mobile Layout Settings.

Mobile Breakpoint: Slider control allows you to set the breakpoint width your Dynamic Text 2 stack' content's responsive mobile layout will display at on a tablet or smartphone. Default is set to 600px.

Mobile Title Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the mobile layout default Main Title font size when displayed on a smart phone screen. Default is 1.8em.

Mobile Sub Title Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the mobile layout default Sub Title font size when displayed on a smart phone screen. Default is 1.3em.

Mobile Paragraph Size: Use the slider control to enlarge or reduce the mobile layout default Paragraph font size when displayed on a smart phone screen. Default is 1em.

Previewing your Dynamic Text 2 stack page in Rapidweaver.

To preview your page within the Rapidweaver work window, you must do the following first:

- Upload your XML text file to your server directory.

- In the Dynamic Text 2 Stacks page inspector window make sure you have the "Render HTML in Edit mode" box checked.

- Make sure you enter all your information correctly into the user interface options, especially the url to the XML text file.

- The Mac you are working on with Rapidweaver must be connected to the Internet.

That's it. Now your Dynamic Text 2 stack will preview in Rapidweaver for you like any other stack on a Rapidweaver Stacks page showing your dynamically generated content live.

Publishing your Dynamic Text 2 site page.

The great thing about the Dynamic Text 2 stack is that you can publish your entire Rapidweaver site again and again, including your Dynamic Text 2 site page, without having to worry about overwriting any files. Since your Dynamic Text 2 stack is using external file sources outside your Rapidweaver site files to generate it's content with dynamically, there is nothing for Rapidweaver to overwrite when it publishes your site files to your server.

Since your XML text file is edited and uploaded separately, there's no possibility of it being overwritten by Rapidweaver. **This is the perfect solution for any Rapidweaver users and /or their clients who don't want to have to go through the hassle of republishing their site from within Rapidweaver when they update just one or two site pages.** Now you can do it by editing a simple XML text file and uploading just that updated XML text file to the server directory from any Mac or PC.

Blueball Dynamic Text 2 stack FAQs and answers.

FAQ: What browsers does the Dynamic Text 2 stack support?

Answer: All modern browsers! The great thing about this stack is that it worked perfectly with every modern browser we tested it with.

This includes Safari, Firefox, Chrome, Opera, IE7, IE8, IE9, IE10, and iOS and Android browsers.

FAQ: Can I have more than 1 Dynamic Text 2 stack page in my site?

Answer: Yes! You can have as many Dynamic Text 2 stacks or Dynamic Content 2 Stacks site pages as you want in your Rapidweaver site, but each page's Dynamic Text 2 stack's div name and XML text file name must be unique! As long as the file names are not the same, your individual Dynamic Text 2 stacks and Dynamic Content 2 Stacks site pages will display correctly.

FAQ: Will my Dynamic Test 2 files be overwritten when I republish my Rapidweaver site files?

Answer: NO! That's the beauty of this stack. Since the Dynamic Text 2 stack uses an external XML text file to dynamically populate the div with its content in the Dynamic Text 2 custom named div area, nothing can be overwritten when any Rapidweaver site files are republished.

FAQ: My XML text file copy content is not appearing in my Dynamic Text 2 Stack on my Stacks site page?

Answer: This could be caused by several things and is easy to fix. First, make sure you have your XML text file uploaded to your server directory. Second, make sure your XML File URL is listed correctly in the Dynamic Text 2 stack's hud control field and is using the full absolute url path (see top of page 9 for more details) to the XML text file on your server. An example of a full absolute url would be this: **http://yourdomainname.com/dts-default.xml**

*Note that some servers configuration may require you to add in the www. prefix too and use http://www.yourdomainname.com/dts-default.xml instead, but the majority will not.

Blueball Dynamic Text 2 Stack License and Usage details.

Attention Designers:

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**NOTE: If you are a website designer you only have to purchase the Blueball Dynamic Content 2 and Dynamic Text 2 stacks once and you can use it as often as you like, but if you have clients that want to use the Blueball Dynamic Content 2 and Dynamic Text 2 stacks to maintain and update their web site after you release it to them, then you will need to purchase an additional copy for them too.

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