

# What's a Widget?

You might never have heard the term "widget" in your life before. If so, it can be a bit of a shock when you sign up to create your first website, and suddenly realize that widgets are everywhere in the Yola Site Builder. If you find yourself asking any of these questions, you are in good company:



**"What is a widget?"**

**"What does a widget do?"**

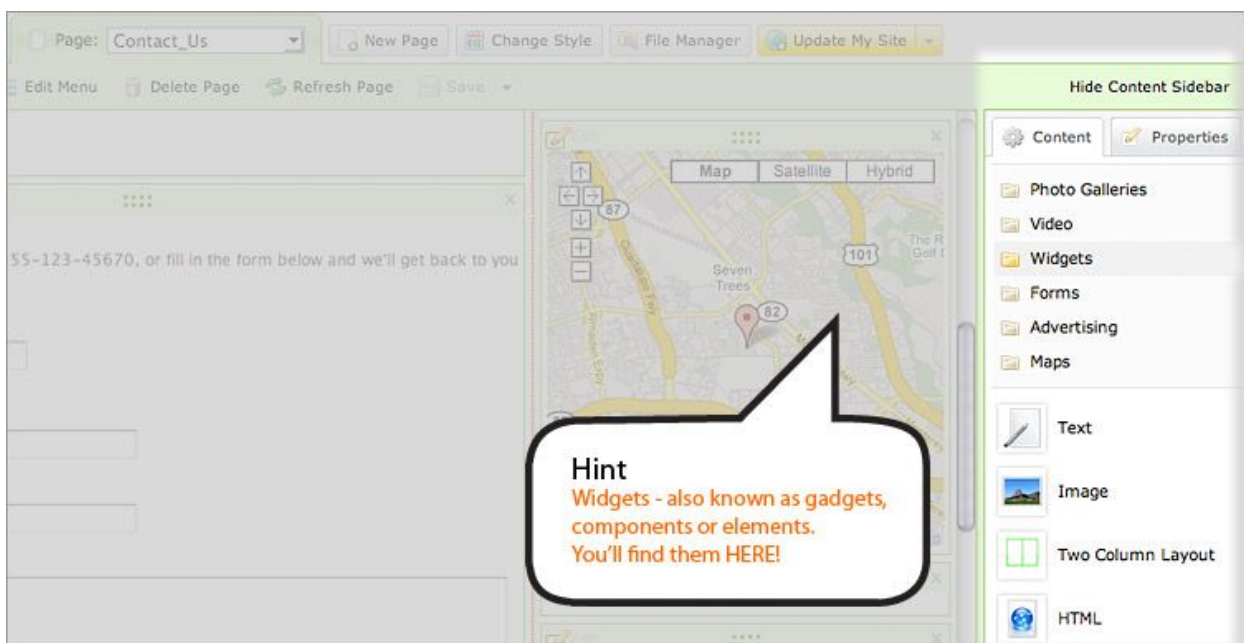
**"Why do I need a widget, anyway?"**

Many people have both asked and attempted to answer this question - although the term might be difficult to define, widgets are very useful! They are sometimes also called **components**, gadgets or elements. **I think of widgets as discreet chunks of code that allow me to add content to my site without having to write any code** myself. In Yola you **drag and drop** widgets onto your page. Some widgets you edit directly, like the Text widget. Others you configure using the **Properties sidebar**. We have also integrated with several widget galleries which allow you to easily add a **wide selection of exciting content to your site**.

In this lesson we will look at some of the widget options in Yola. Hopefully, this will give you a better idea of what is available so that you can create websites which are even more compelling and dynamic! Our previous lessons have introduced you to the most important widgets which allow you to **add text, images, Flickr photos, videos and slideshows**. (You can find more information on these links: [Creating Your Homepage](#), [Adding New Pages & Photos](#) & [Exploring Images](#)). But why stop there? Let's dig a little deeper and find some other widgets you might want or need for your site.

In this tutorial we will show you how to add other content using other widgets available on Yola:

1. Widgetbox Gallery
2. Google Gadgets (you can also use Widgetbox, Spring, YourMini's and much more)
3. Form widget
4. HTML widget



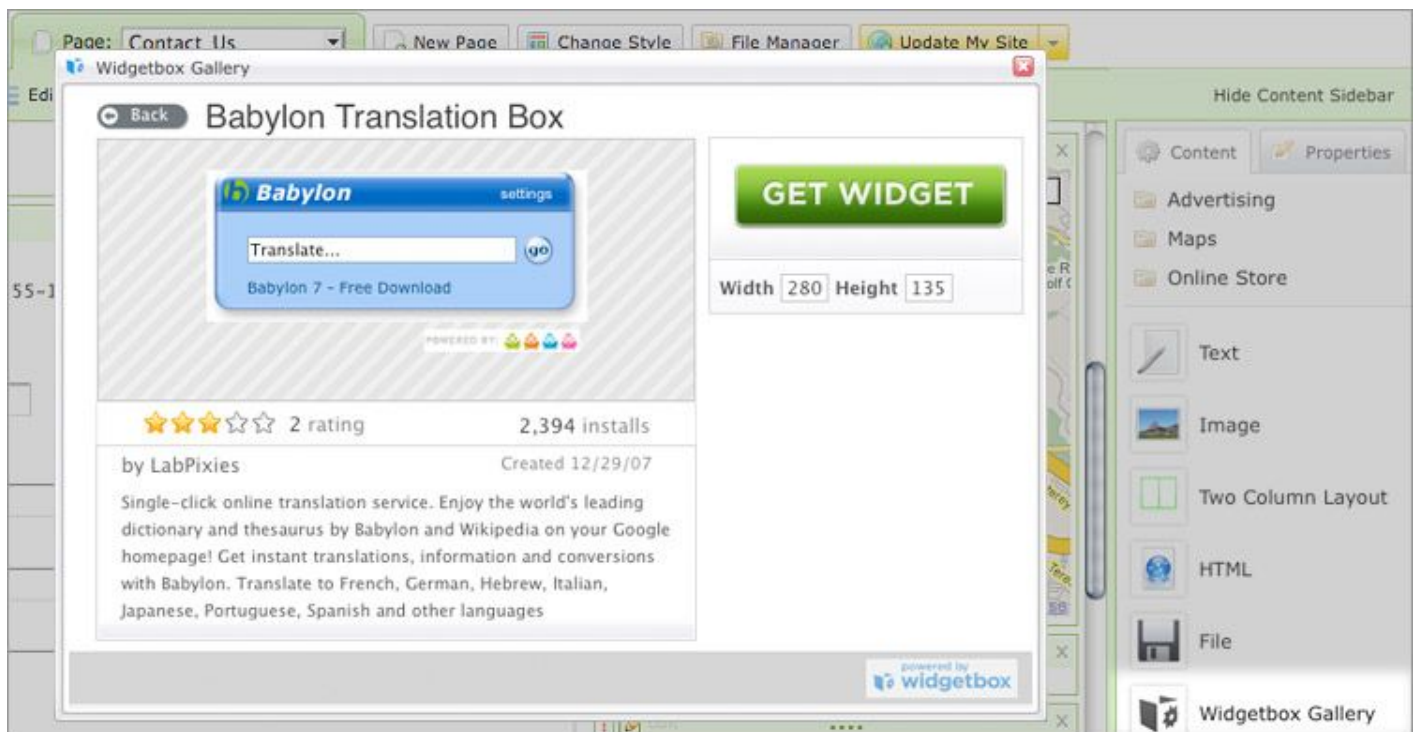
## Using Widgetbox Gallery widgets:

Widgetbox Gallery is a great place to find:

- games
- chatrooms
- media players
- guestbooks
- social networking buttons
- RSS feeds
- calendars
- clocks
- hit counters and more for your site...

What's more is that it is really easy, here's how:

1. Drag the Widgetbox Gallery icon onto your page and search for the Widget you want to use.



2. The widget will then be embedded in your site.

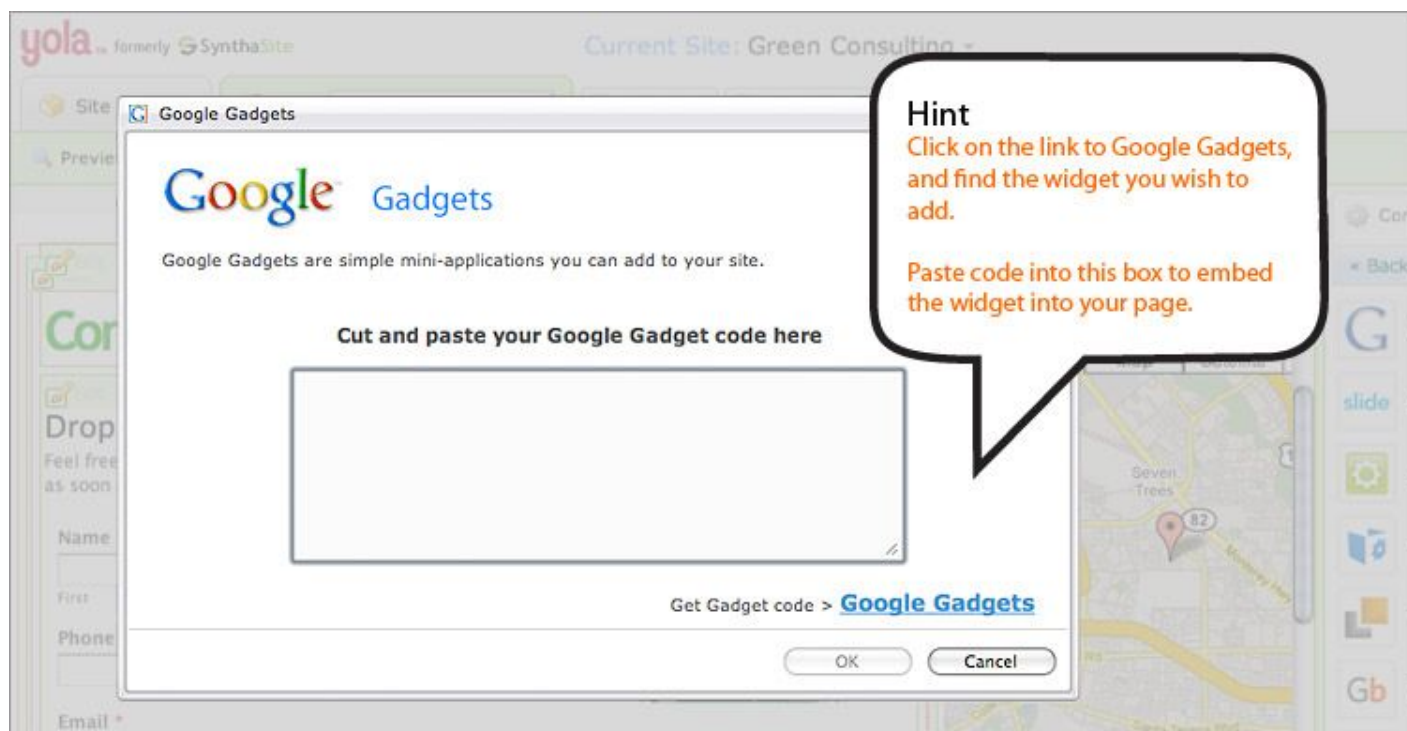
3. Search and select the widget you want, re-size it if you want or customize it (adding songs etc) and click on the green "Get Widget" button.

## Using a Google Gadget widget:

Here is a short list of just a few of the widgets you can get from Google Gadgets:

- Google search box
- Google calendar
- MP3/audio players
- News feeds
- Games
- Weather report widgets
- Clocks

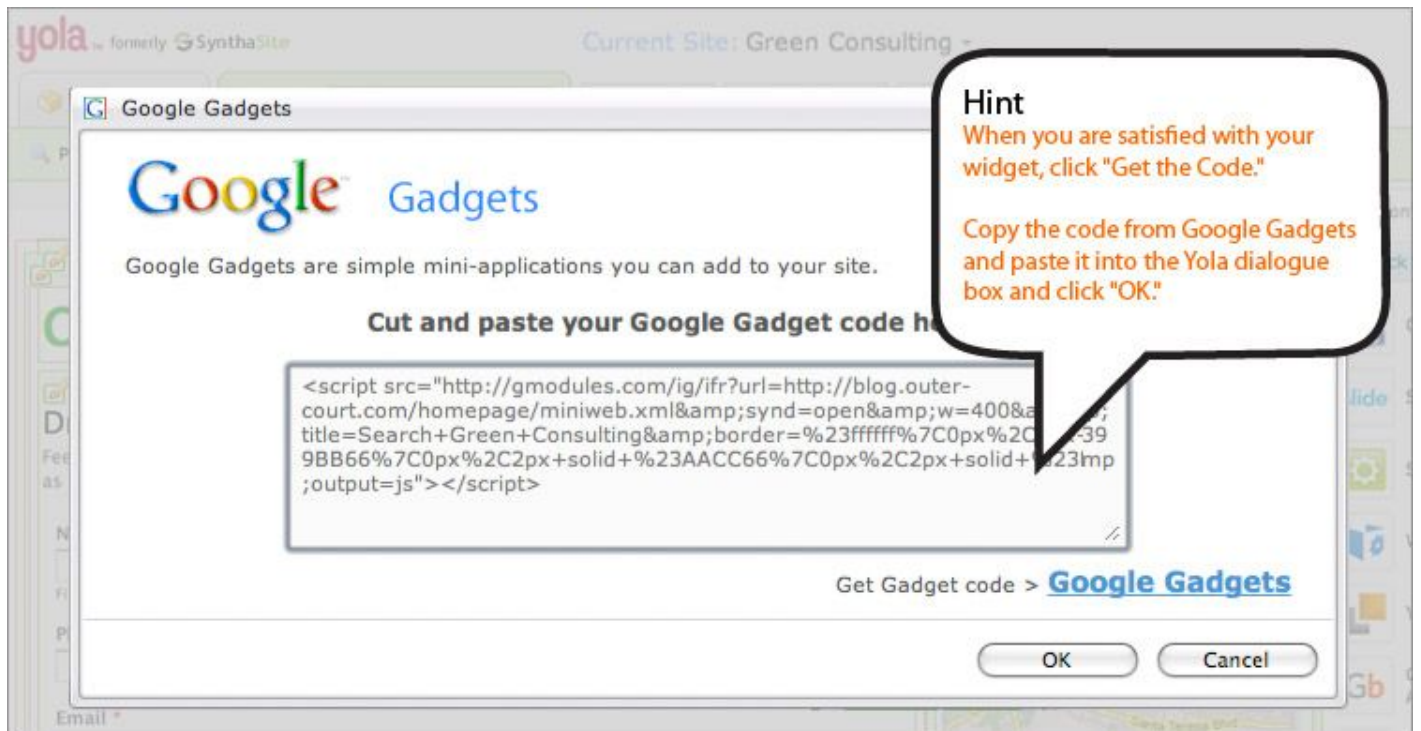
Drag the Google Gadgets icon onto your page. Whenever you drag one of the items from the "Widgets" folder onto your page you will see a dialogue box with a space to paste code and a link that takes you directly to the widget service's website. The dialogue box looks something like this:



Click on the link to Google Gadgets, and find the widget you wish to add. I shall add a Google Search box to my site:

1. Find the widget you want and click "Add to your webpage"
2. Configure your widget preferences.

3. When you are satisfied with your widget, click "Get the Code". Copy the code and go back to Yola. Paste the code into the Yola dialogue box and click "OK."

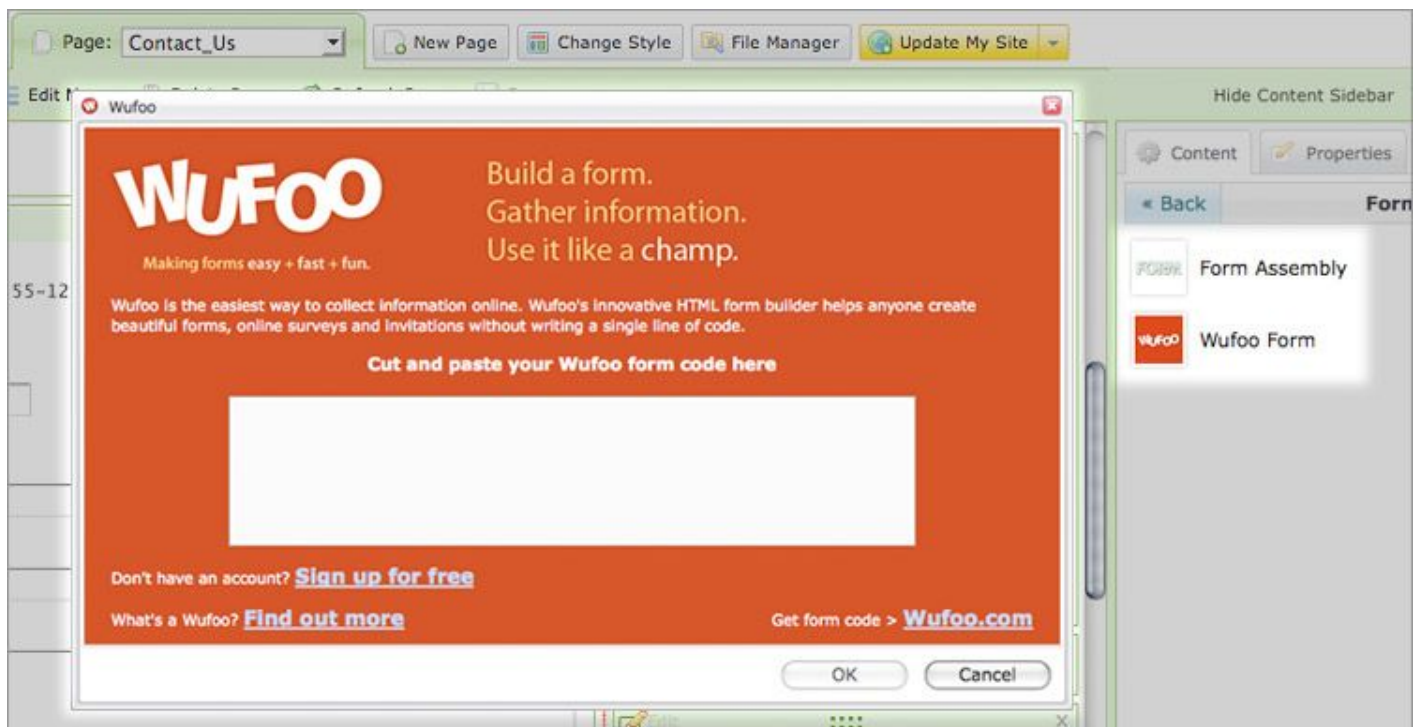


The widget will now be embedded in your page.

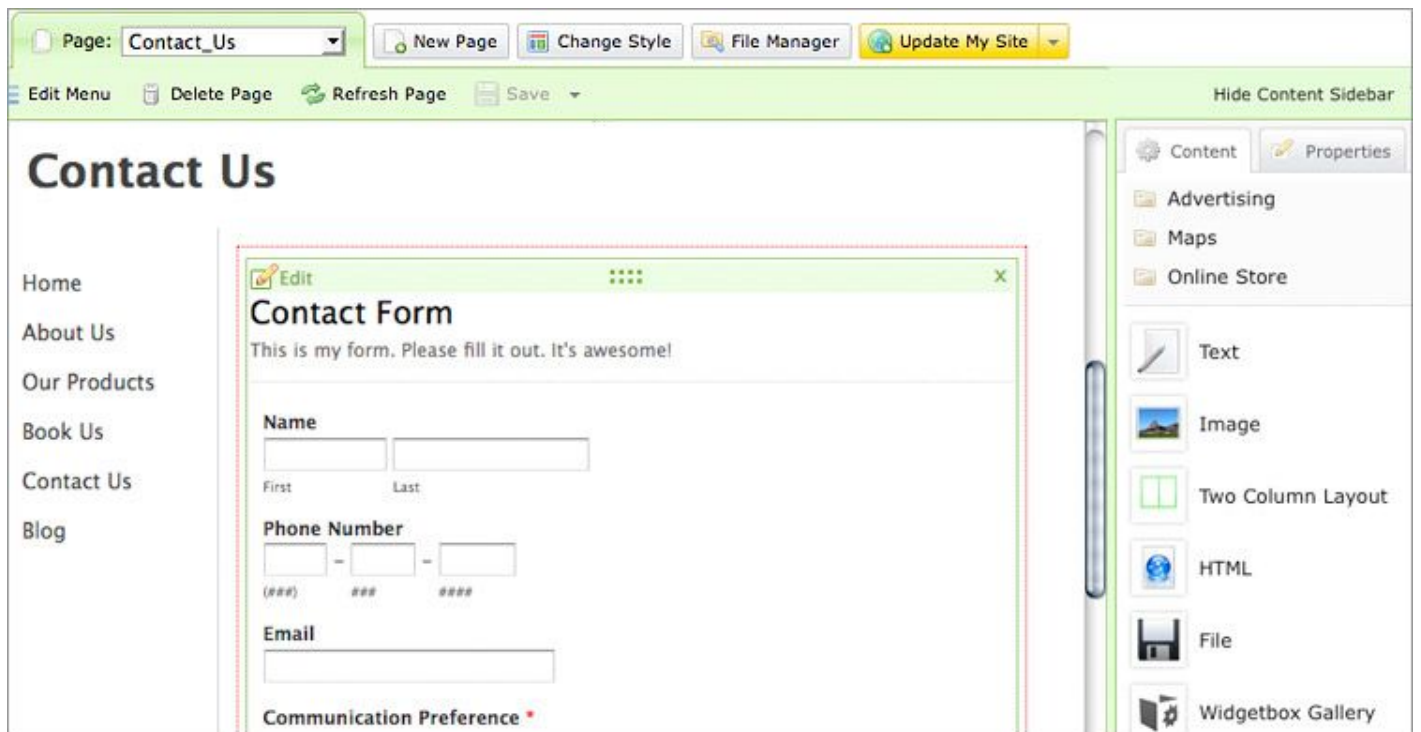
### **Using a Form widget:**

Yola has integrated with two form widget services - Wufoo and Form Assembly. Both have free and paid services available. We will now show you how to add a forms widget using Wufoo.

1. Click on the "Forms" folder in the column of your site builder
2. Drag and drop the Wufoo widget onto your page and click on "Get form code from Wufoo.com"



3. Click on the link to Sign up with Wufoo or if you already have an account click on the link after "Get form code". Wufoo's website will open in another window and you will be able to create your form. You can find more information on using Wufoo on this [link](#).
4. Copy the "Embed Form Code" and paste it into the Wufoo box on your website and click OK.

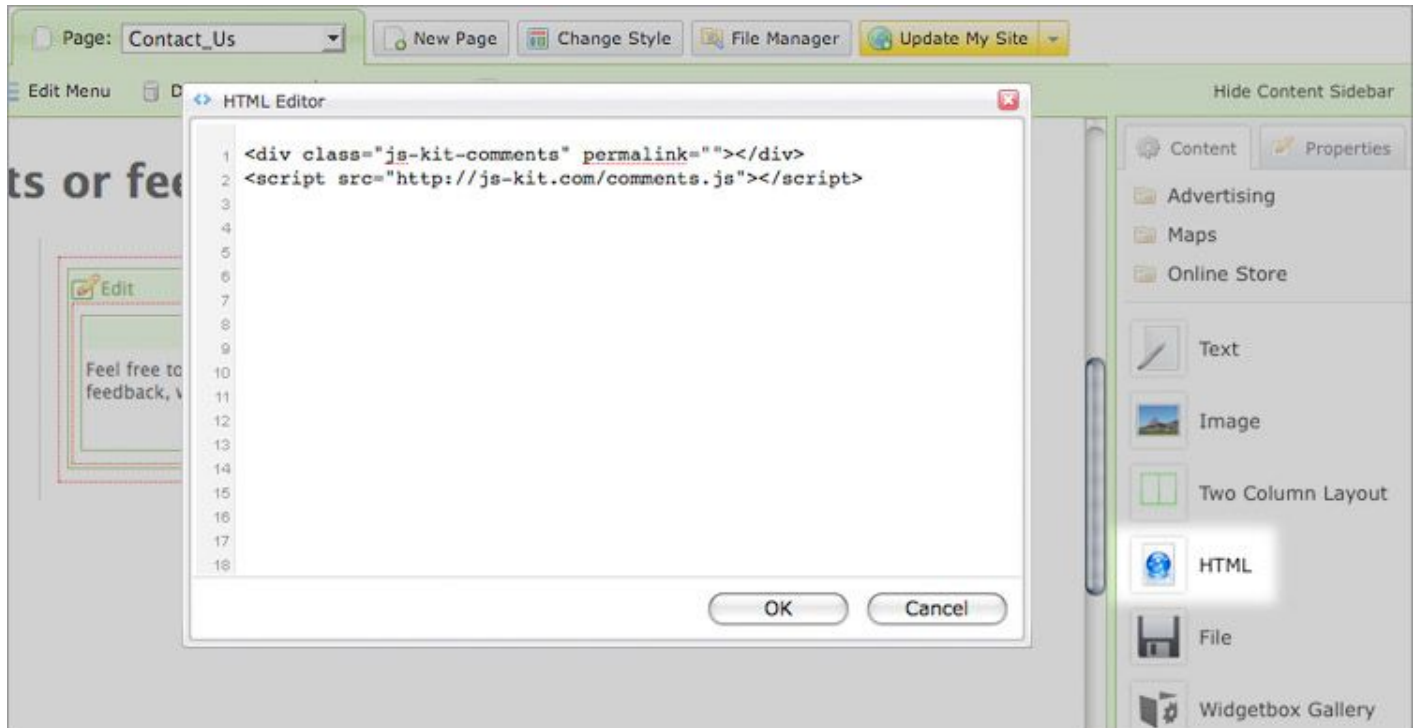


5. Save your page, click on "Update my Site" and you will be able to view your form on your website.

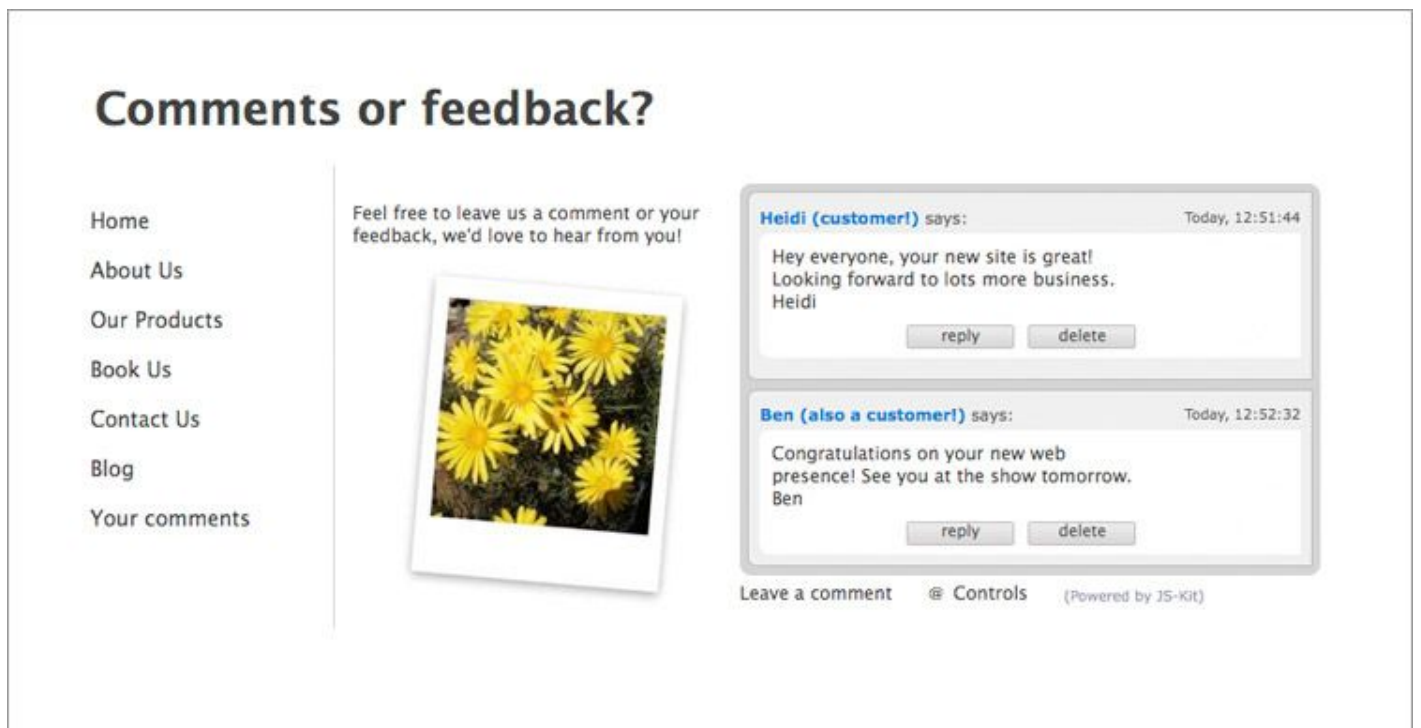
## Using the HTML widget:

Did you know that you can add any widget you can find on the internet to your site?

1. Here we will add a Comments widget using JS-Kit. You can visit their site and copy the two lines of code, here is the [link](#).
2. Copy the two lines of embed code. Back on your site, drag and drop an HTML widget onto your page. When you do this the HTML editor will open up and you can paste the embed code as shown below:



3. Republish your site by clicking on the yellow "Update my Site" button. Visitors to your site will easily be able to add comments to your site.



Here is a list of some of the widgets you can get from the other widget services with which we have integrated:

- Slide shows
- Guest books
- FunPix
- Picture puzzles
- Email and messaging widgets
- Entertainment
- Games
- Newsfeeds
- Chatrooms
- Message Boards
- Hit Counters
- Music
- RSS Readers
- Skype Me
- Countdown
- Radio and podcasts

I hope this tutorial has helped you understand a little bit more about widgets and how they can be used to add fun, exciting or useful content to your website.