

George Vanous Microsoft Alumni

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Overview

I am a web developer with 13 years experience.

Microsoft At Microsoft, I built the Hotmail.com header that ran on 400 million desktop from Sep 2007 to Sep 2008 and met federal accessibility requirements.



Intel For Intel, I managed and developed the Intel 40th Anniversary intranet that celebrated 40 years of innovation and allowed all of Intel's employees worldwide to upload photos, share their stories and play a Jeopardy-like game to test their knowledge.



Cisco For Cisco, I managed the development of the Digital Media Designer front-end, implemented in Java Swing.

Ask At Ask.com, I built the Ask header, Ask image library and organized weekly Engineering Excellence seminars to train Ask's other web developers.



Technical Expertise

My strongest technical expertise is in the following

HTML, CSS and Javascript

Writing accessible, standards-compliant code strongly optimized for SEO and fast page load times, designed for mass-market websites and CDNs (content delivery networks) and tested to work equally well in IE, Firefox, Safari, Chrome and Opera.

Accessibility

Complying with government accessibility guidelines and designing for screen readers, high-contrast mode and keyboard users.

Localization

Delivering products in over 50 markets, such as Chinese and right-to-left Hebrew, with support for co-branding and locale-specific variations. For example, Japanese cannot have **bold** or *italics* and you cannot predict the weather in China, a country where it is illegal for anyone except the government to forecast the weather.

Timeline

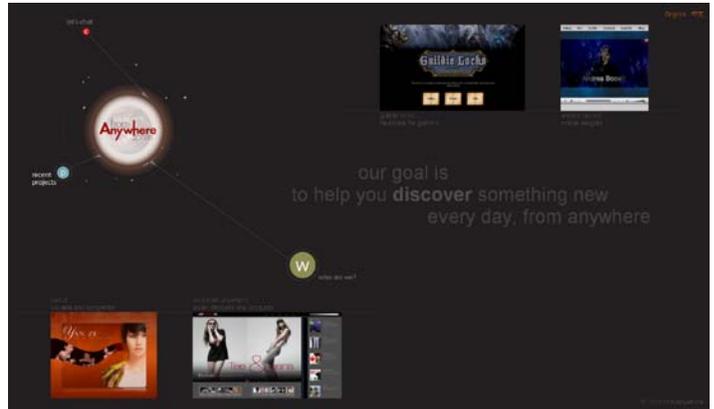
Time Period Description

Present to 2008 Feb

fromAnywhere.com
Principal

Responsibilities

- Establish a new start-up
- Recruit the team
- Write the business plan
- Pitch to investors



2008 Feb to 2007 Apr

yanzilive.com
Director of Web Development

Responsibilities

- Manage five designers
- Conceive ten Sun Yan Zi themes
- Promote the site in Chinese and English



2008 Jan to 2007 Oct

Ask.com
Senior Software Development Engineer for Web Apps

Responsibilities

- Prototyping
- Engineering Excellence talks
- Ask image library
- Ask global header

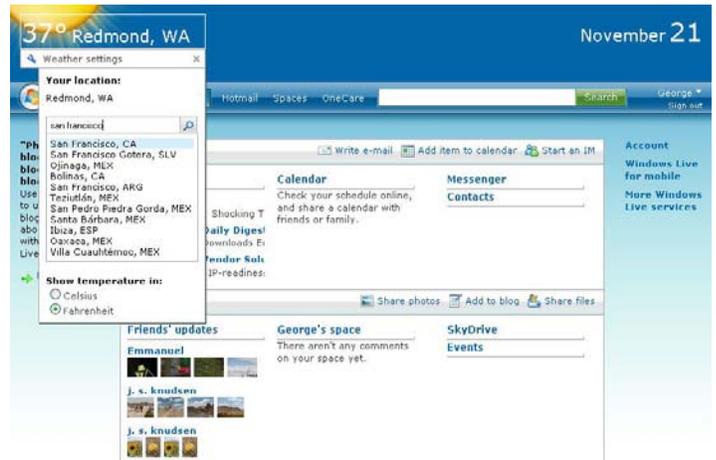


2007 Oct
to
2006 Jul

Microsoft
Software Development Engineer
Windows Live Shared Controls Team

Responsibilities

- Front-end web developer
- Javascript platform architect
- Accessibility engineer



2006 Jul
to
1998 May

Reality Designs Inc.
Self-Employed

Designed, developed and shipped

- evergallery.com
- p3tools.com
- osless.com
- evergamer.com



1998 May
to
1993 Sep

Simon Fraser University
Full-time studies

Two independent majors

- Mathematics
- Computer Science

Awards

- Maple scholarship
- Excellence in Mathematics Award

SS2.6 BERNOULLI AND RICATTI EQUATIONS

Bernoulli Equation

Solve the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{-n} \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y^{1-n} = Q(x)$$

$$\text{1 let } w = y^{1-n} \Rightarrow \frac{dw}{dx} = (1-n)y^{-n} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{1-n} \frac{dw}{dx} + P(x)w = Q(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dw}{dx} + (1-n)P(x)w = (1-n)Q(x)$$

$$u(x) = e^{\int (1-n)P(x)dx} = e^{(1-n)\int P(x)dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow w = \frac{1}{u} \int u(1-n)Q(x)dx + \frac{c}{u} = (1-n)e^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx} \int Q(x)e^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx} dx + ce^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{1-n} = (1-n)e^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx} \int Q(x)e^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx} dx + ce^{(n-1)\int P(x)dx}$$

Details

yanzilive.com

Director of Web Development

I initiated the yanzilive.com project when I returned from Taiwan in March 2007 (think Windows Live, but Yan Zi Live).



孫燕姿Sun Yan Zi (Stefanie Sun) is a popular Singaporean singer/songwriter under the Capitol Records Asia label who, at the time, had this official website: <http://www.yanzi.com.tw/>

My goal was to produce a new Official Sun Yan Zi website for an international audience and present it to Yan Zi and her management company. I feel Yan Zi is a rare talent in today's music industry, someone virtually unknown to the English-speaking world. A new English and Chinese-focused website would improve her fan base and increase her record sales.

I recruited and hired five designers to create these themes:

http://images.yanzilive.com/yanzi/website_designs/index/

From these designs, I built this website prototype:

<http://www.yanzilive.com/>

Also with a Chinese domain name:

<http://燕姿在线.com>

Translated, this means "Yan Zi Online".

I contacted EMI Music London, EMI Music New York and Capitol Records California, and was put in touch with the office of Sam Chen, the executive music producer for EMI Taiwan who collaborated with Yan Zi on 8 of her 9 albums.

In March 2008, I came to Asia where I met in-person with EMI in Taiwan and, in April 2008, with Sun Yan Zi's Manager, Marcia Tan, in Singapore. I also traveled to Hong Kong for one week to meet with Pandaa Design, a graphic and photography studio.

All three meetings were fruitful, but the timing was not right. We will revisit the project in 2009.

Details

Ask.com

Senior Software Development Engineer - Web Apps

At Ask.com, I was responsible for:

- Prototyping
- Engineering Excellence Talks
- Ask Image Library
- Ask Global Header

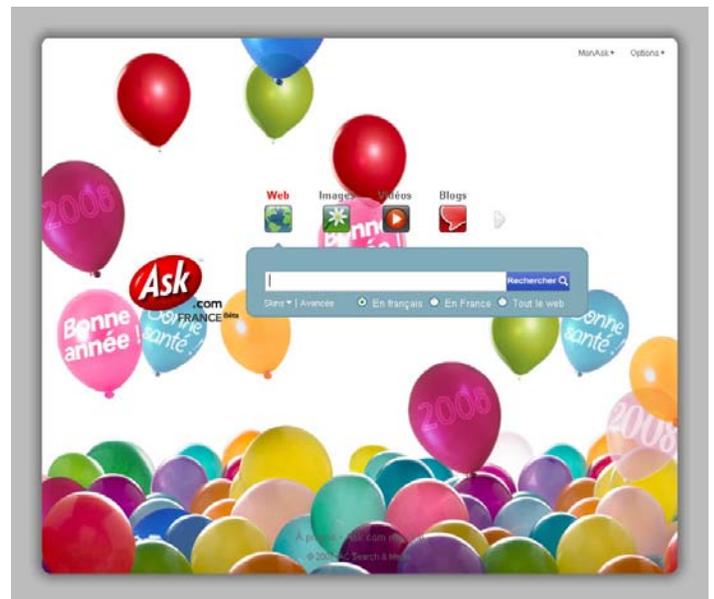
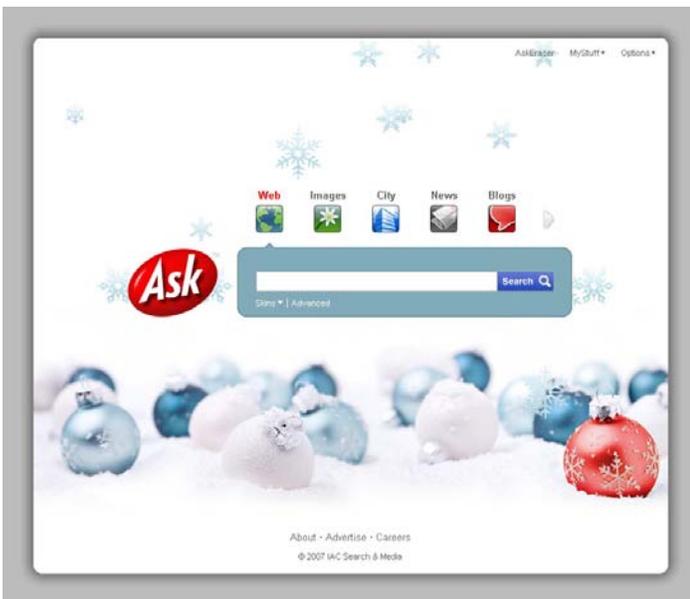
Prototyping

Working directly with designers, I engineered prototypes to test the feasibility of new products and features.

For example, we shipped the Christmas and New Year's themes for Ask's US, UK and France home pages:

<http://www.ask.com/?date=2007/12/25>

<http://fr.ask.com/?date=2008/01/01>



Engineering Excellence Talks

I was responsible for building Ask's web knowledge base and I initiated weekly Engineering Excellence talks as part of a new web developer training program.

Every week, I organized and presented best practices for building better Web 2.0 sites.

Topics included:

- Accessibility
- Image Optimization
- PNG-8 vs. PNG-24 vs. GIF
- Techniques for Debugging Sites in Production
- Prototyping
- Code Generators and When to Use Them
- Javascript Best Practices (like the triple-equals: `x === 1`)
- CSS Best Practices
- IE6/IE7 Memory Leaks and How to Fix Them
- Future technologies: Javascript 2.0 and XHTML 2

Ask Image Library

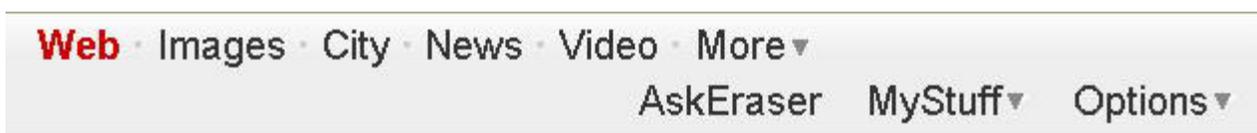
I designed an internal web-based image library for tracking and sharing all of Ask's image assets. The design team now maintains all of their imagery using this tool.

Ask Global Header

I built the new global header seen today along the top of every Ask.com channel.



To avoid a horizontal scrollbar in 800x600 desktops and high text-zoom, the two ends stack naturally:



Details

Microsoft

Software Development Engineer - Windows Live Shared Controls Team

I joined Microsoft during the initial wave of development of Windows Live where I built and supported shared controls.

Between Sep 2007 and Sep 2008, my code was running on 400 million desktops on large sites like hotmail.com and spaces.live.com.

I published Engineering Excellence articles on web development strategies on a Microsoft-wide distribution list. I also organized a three-hour seminar to summarize the important topics, a talk that attracted over 100 employees.

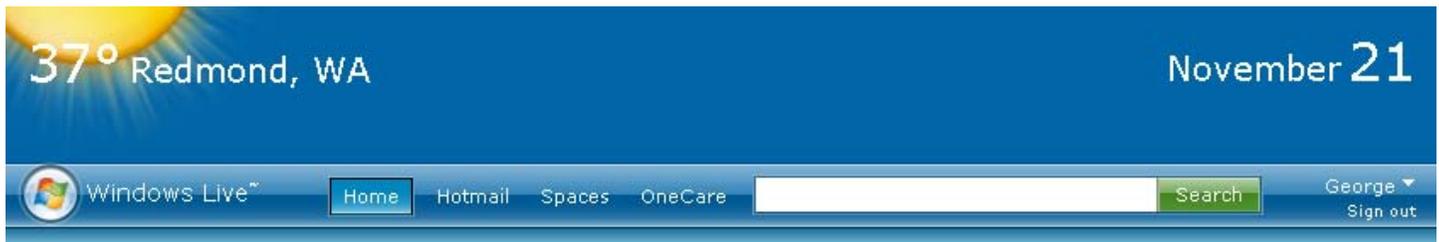
At Microsoft, I gained expertise in three roles:

- Front-end Web UI Developer
- Javascript Platform Architect
- Accessibility Engineer

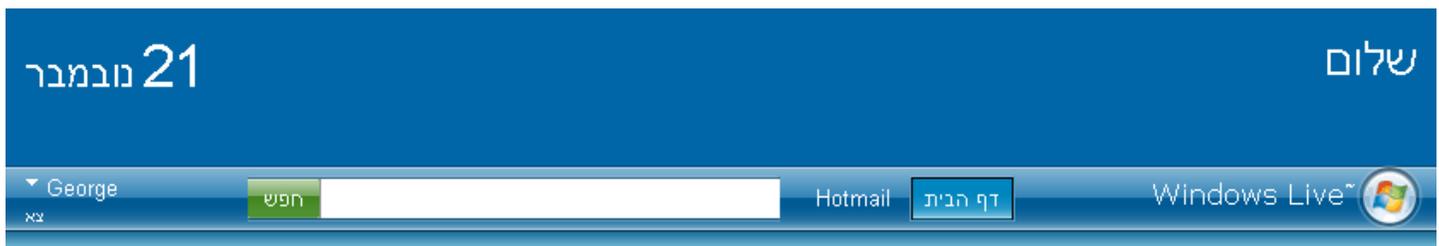
Front-end Web UI Developer

Working directly with designers and program managers, I implemented optimal and accessible HTML, CSS and Javascript web UIs.

For example, I built and shipped the weather picker and header that was on <http://home.live.com> up till Sep 2008
In English:



In Arabic:

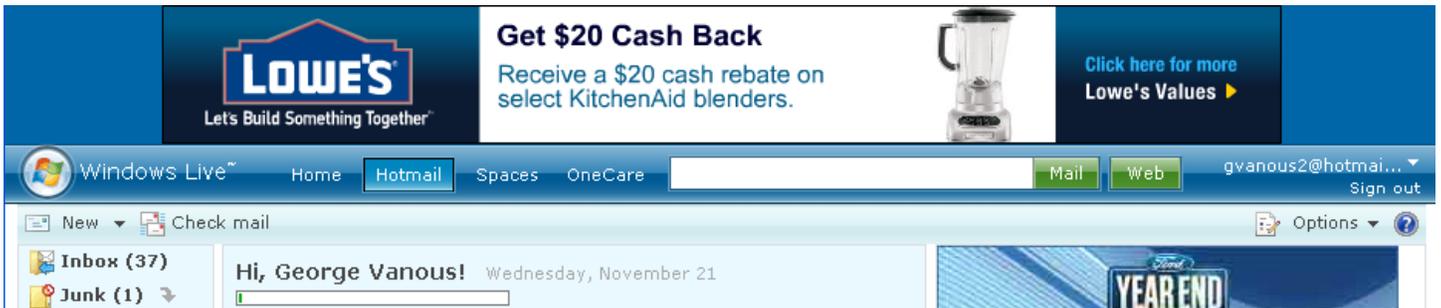


Javascript Platform Architect

I helped build LiveFramework, the component-based Javascript platform used by other Windows Live teams.

Using LiveFramework, I wrote and supported several shared controls used across Windows Live.

For example, here was the header on hotmail.com up till Sep 2008



Accessibility Engineer

All of my features had to meet strict accessibility requirements:

- Usable by screen-readers
- Completely keyboard-accessible
- Work in High Contrast Mode (Control Panel | Accessibility Options | Display | Use High Contrast)

Globalization

Microsoft supports over 50 markets, some with very specific requirements.

For example:

- Hebrew is right-to-left
- Japanese cannot use italics or bold

I helped build code-generators that abstracted away market-specific requirements to simplify cross-culture web development. This also allowed us to quickly build and maintain hundreds of themes used on <http://spaces.live.com>.

Performance

Page size, load time and end-user performance were P0 (the highest priority).

Because of this, I became an expert in optimizing images, HTML, CSS and Javascript for performance.

Details

Reality Designs Inc.

Self-employed

Since graduating from university, I have been developing mass-market free-service websites, such as:



EverGallery.com

A click-less gallery written in PHP and AJAX.



P3Tools.com

A Javascript framework for building web applications, written in PHP, AJAX and MySQL.



EverGamer.com

Classic single- and multi-player games written in AJAX, without Flash or Java.



OSLess.com

The Windows 2000 GUI pixel-perfect in a web browser.

EverGallery.com

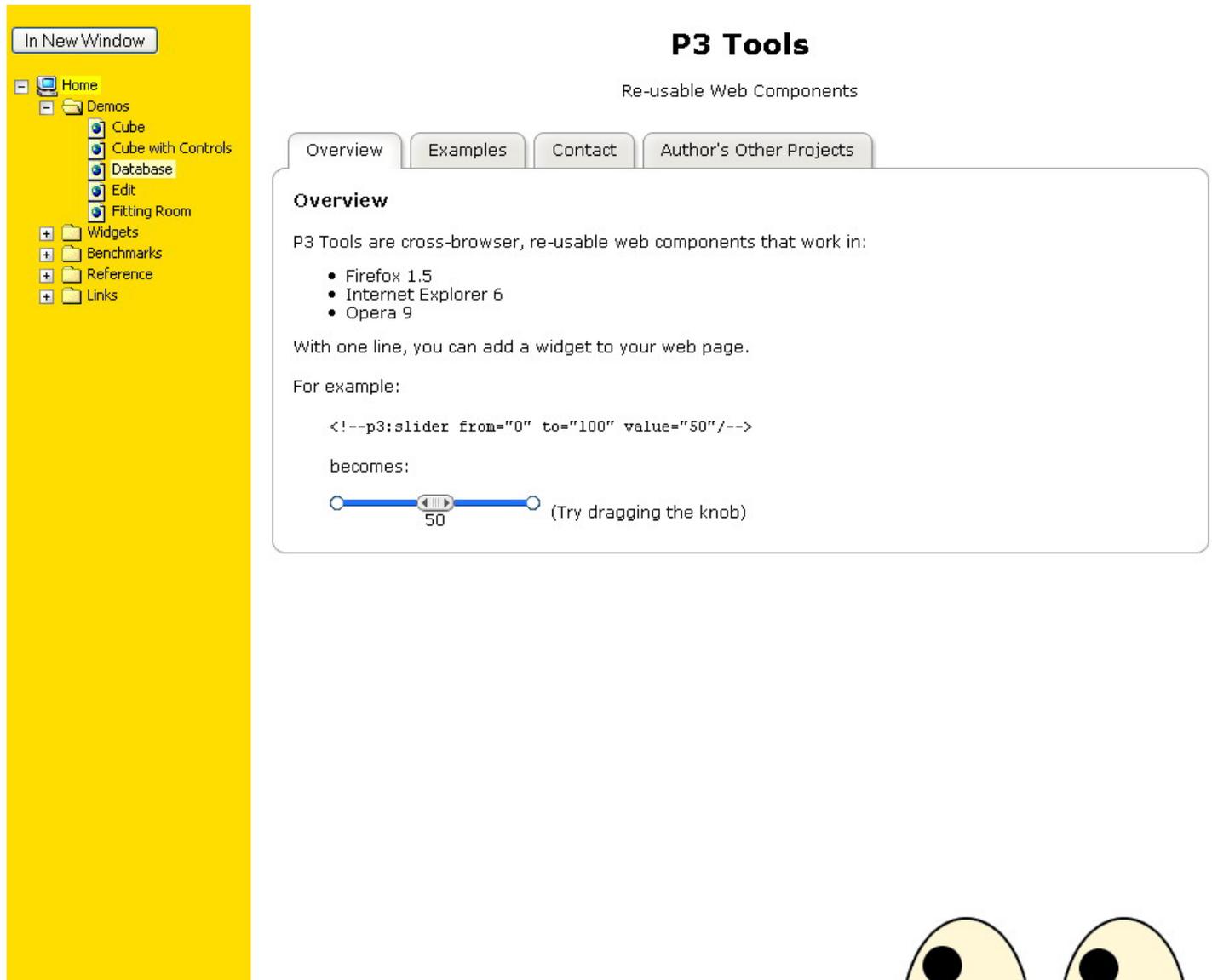
I designed, tested and shipped www.evergallery.com, a click-less gallery written in PHP and AJAX (no Flash or Java).

Try:

- Spin the mousewheel to zoom in
- Press Q repeatedly
- Right-click anywhere



www.p3tools.com is a Javascript platform and a widget-based declarative syntax for building AJAX web applications.



The screenshot shows the P3 Tools website. On the left is a yellow sidebar with a navigation menu. At the top of the sidebar is a button labeled "In New Window". Below it is a tree view starting with "Home", which is expanded to show "Demos". Under "Demos" are links for "Cube", "Cube with Controls", "Database", "Edit", and "Fitting Room". Below "Demos" are folders for "Widgets", "Benchmarks", "Reference", and "Links", each with a plus sign. The main content area has a title "P3 Tools" and a subtitle "Re-usable Web Components". Below the title are four tabs: "Overview" (selected), "Examples", "Contact", and "Author's Other Projects". The "Overview" tab contains the following text:

Overview

P3 Tools are cross-browser, re-usable web components that work in:

- Firefox 1.5
- Internet Explorer 6
- Opera 9

With one line, you can add a widget to your web page.

For example:

```
<!--p3:slider from="0" to="100" value="50"/-->
```

becomes:



(Try dragging the knob)

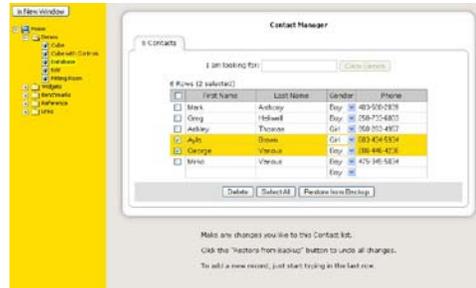


Some highlights:

Database

<http://www.p3tools.com/?2>

Edit a database table in-place (no Save button) with a realtime search (no Search button)

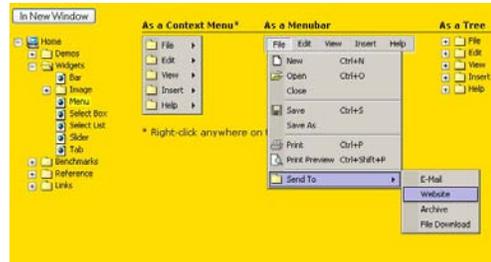


Menus

<http://www.p3tools.com/?3>

Three views of the same hierarchical data source:

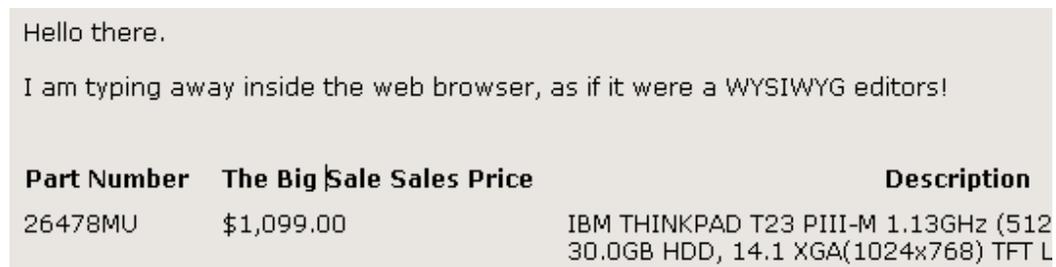
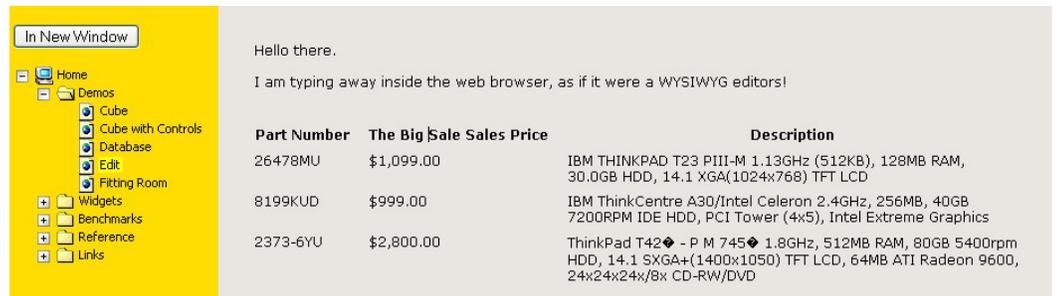
- Right-click context menu
- Pull-down menu
- Tree control



In-place Editing

<http://www.p3tools.com/?8>

Just start typing!



Fractal Zoom

<http://www.p3tools.com/?9>

Fractal zoom using just Javascript (no Flash or Java)

