

6. Blocks

6.5. External content

With the help of the external content blocks, you can include RSS feeds, external media or GoogleApps documents etc. into a page.

6.5.1. External feed



Embed an external RSS or ATOM feed, e.g. to display an external blog.

External feed: Configure11✕

Block title
Set a block title 1
If you leave this blank, the title of the feed will be used.

Feed location *
 2
URL of a valid RSS or ATOM feed

Insecure SSL mode
☐ 3
Disable SSL certificate verification. This is not recommended but might be necessary if the feed is served using an invalid or untrusted certificate.

HTTP username
 4
Username (HTTP basic authentication) needed to access this feed (if required)

HTTP password
 5
Password (HTTP basic authentication) needed to access this feed (if required)

Items to show
 6
Between 1 and 20

Show feed items in full
☐ 7
Whether to show a summary of the feed items or show the full text for each one.

Retractable
☐ 8
Select to allow this block to be retracted when the header is clicked.

Automatically retract
☐ 9
Select to automatically retract this block.




Save **Remove** 10

Configure the external feed block

1. **Block title:** If you leave the title blank, the title of the feed will be used.
2. **Feed location:** Put the entire feed URL from a valid RSS or ATOM feed in here. If the feed is not displayed, try to view it in a regular feed reader to make sure that the URL is correct. You must provide a feed URL here.

*Unfortunately, Firefox and Chrome do not display the RSS feed icon for a page immediately near the address bar anymore. In Firefox you will have to go to **View > Toolbars > Customize** and then drag the RSS icon to your toolbar. It lights up orange / white when a feed is available.*

If you use Chrome, you will have to install the [RSS Subscription Extension](#).

3. **Insecure SSL mode:** Place a check mark in this box if you wish to enable the insecure SSL mode. This mode allows you to override certificate errors generated by a feed.
4. **HTTP username:** Provide a username if you wish to access a feed that requires authentication. This is the username to access the feed and not your portfolio system.
5. **HTTP password:** Provide a password to access a feed that requires authentication. This is the password to access the feed and not your portfolio system.
6. **Items to show:** Decide how many of the latest items in the feed you wish to display. You can choose up to 20.
7. **Show feed items in full:** If you do not select this option, only a heading will be shown for each feed item, e.g. the blog heading of a post. If you select this option, the entire content of the feed item will be shown, e.g. the entire blog post or in case of a flickr RSS feed, the photo and its description.
8. **Retractable:** Tick this checkbox if you want to allow users to reduce the block to its heading on a page. The user can click the **Retractable** icon  to just show the heading.
9. **Automatically retract:** Tick this checkbox if you want to show only the block's heading when a user views the page. The user can click the **Retracted** icon  to view the entire block.
10. Click the **Save** button to accept your changes, or click the **Cancel** button to leave the block's content as it is. The **Remove** button is shown only when you place the block into the page for the first time.
11. You can also click the **Close** button  in the top right-hand corner to either remove a newly created block before it is being saved or to cancel any changes and leave the block's content as it is.

6.5.2. External media



With this block you can embed content from a wide variety of third-party sites. The sites that are allowed are listed below the text area in the pop-up. You see only their favicons, but when you hover over an icon with your mouse, you see the site's name as well.

External media: Configure10

Block title

External media1

URL or embed code *

2

Paste the embed code or the URL of the page where the content is located.
Embed code containing <iframe> tags is allowed from the following sites:

bGgVgVvWEy3

3

URLs from the following sites are allowed:

GgVvVWEy4

4

Width

05

Height

06

Width and height fields are only used for URLs. If you have entered embed or iframe code above, you need to update the width and height within the code itself.

Retractable

☐7

Select to allow this block to be retracted when the header is clicked.

Automatically retract

☐8

Select to automatically retract this block.

Save




Remove9

Configure the external media block

1. **Block title:** Choose a title for your embedded content.
2. **URL or embed code:** Paste the URL or the embed code of a page where the content is located.
3. **Embed code:** Content from the sites listed in this section can be embedded using the <iframe> embed code. Any new site that the site administrator allows will be added in alphabetical order. The default sites are:
 - Glogster
 - SlideShare
 - Vimeo
 - Voki
 - WikiEducator
 - YouTube

4. **URLs:** Content from the sites listed in this section can be embedded by simply grabbing the page URLs where the content can be found. The default sites are:
- Google Videos
 - Prezi
 - Scivee.tv
 - SlideShare
 - TeacherTube
 - Vimeo
 - VoiceThread
 - Voki
 - WikiEducator
 - YouTube
5. **Width:** Choose the width (in pixels) that the content should take up on the page. This only goes for the content for which you provided the URL.
6. **Height:** Choose the height (in pixels) that the content should take up on the page. This only goes for the content for which you provided the URL.

If you use the embed code, you need to provide the correct width and height directly in the embed code and can ignore this setting here.

7. **Retractable:** Tick this checkbox if you want to allow users to reduce the block to its heading on a page. The user can click the **Retractable** icon  to just show the heading.
8. **Automatically retract:** Tick this checkbox if you want to show only the block's heading when a user views the page. The user can click the **Retracted** icon  to view the entire block.
9. Click the **Save** button to accept your changes, or click the **Cancel** button to leave the block's content as it is. The **Remove** button is shown only when you place the block into the page for the first time.
10. You can also click the **Close** button  in the top right-hand corner to either remove a newly created block before it is being saved or to cancel any changes and leave the block's content as it is.

You can use the same iframe embed code around Mahara in text boxes and journal entries as well.

6.5.3. Google Apps







Embed any of the following content available via Google (Apps):

- books
- calendars
- documents, spreadsheets, presentations
- maps

You can only display the content, but not immediately edit documents, spreadsheets or presentations. You will have to be logged in to your Google (Apps) account to do so.

If certain documents are restricted to a Google Apps domain or to specific people, a login screen is displayed.

Configure the Google Apps block

1. **Block title:** Choose a title for your embedded content.
2. **Embed code or URL:** Depending on what kind of content you wish to display, you either provide the embed code or the URL. Click the **Help** button  for more information on how to embed each Google component.
3. **Height:** Choose the height for the embedded content. The width is adjusted to the column width of the block automatically.
4. **Retractable:** Tick this checkbox if you want to allow users to reduce the block to its heading on a page. The user can click the **Retractable** icon  to just show the heading.
5. **Automatically retract:** Tick this checkbox if you want to show only the block's heading when a user views the page. The user can click the **Retracted** icon  to view the entire block.
6. Click the **Save** button to accept your changes, or click the **Cancel** button to leave the block's content as it is. The **Remove** button is shown only when you place the block into the page for the first time.
7. You can also click the **Close** button  in the top right-hand corner to either remove a newly created block before it is being saved or to cancel any changes and leave the block's content as it is.

Google document

1. Open the document.
2. Click **File** in the menu bar and then **Publish to the Web**.
3. Click the **Start publishing** button.
4. Copy the document link or embed code.
5. Paste the link or embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google spreadsheet

1. Open the spreadsheet.
2. Click **File** in the menu bar and then **Publish to the Web**.
3. Click the **Start publishing** button.
4. Read through the other options and decide on them.
5. Copy the link for the option **Web page** or the embed code for the option **HTML to embed in a page**.
6. Paste the link or embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google presentation

1. Open the presentation.
2. Click **File** in the menu bar and then **Publish to the Web**.
3. Click the **Start publishing** button.
4. Copy the link or embed code.
5. Paste the link or embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google collections

1. Click on the arrow to the right of the collection name and then on **Share** and **Share** again.
2. Change the permissions to **Public on the web** and save your changes.
3. Copy the link.
4. Paste the link into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google Calendar

1. Open Google Calendar.
2. Click on the little triangle next to the calendar that you wish to embed.
3. Click on **Calendar settings**.
4. On the **Calendar details** tab scroll down to **Embed This Calendar**.
5. Customize the calendar appearance and then copy the embed code.
6. Paste the embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google Maps

1. Open Google Maps.
2. Click the **My Places** button.
3. Click on the name of the map that you wish to embed.
4. Click on the **Link** icon to the left of the map.
5. Customize the appearance of the map and copy the embed code.
6. Paste the embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.

Google Books

1. Open Google Books.
2. Find the book that you wish to embed.
3. Click on the book title.
4. Click on the **Link** icon above the book.
5. Copy the embed code of the book.
6. Paste the embed code into the **Embed code or URL** box in the Google Apps block.