

tickerPRO

Version 1.0



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P R E F A C E

In the short time I've been developing with Java, one of the most rewarding experiences has been receiving comments and feedback from people using the applets I've chosen to share with the web community.

One of those applets, tinyScroller, has become an extremely popular applet with both professional web developers and hobbyists. Feedback from the users of tinyScroller has driven its evolution. Hundreds of web sites now utilize tinyScroller or one of the other applets in the tinyApplet series.

Because of the success of tinyScroller, I created scrollerPRO and now tickerPRO. TickerPRO is the second in a new series of applets aimed at the professional web community. What you now have is a professional quality applet with professional quality features and documentation.

Enjoy using tickerPRO. I've had a lot of fun developing it.

C H A P T E R . 1

Introduction

Your newest applet, tickerPRO, is feature rich, simple to use and compact. TickerPRO includes the following features:

- TickerPRO is an efficient, smooth, feature-rich horizontal scroller.
- TickerPRO can scroll content in either direction, left-to-right or right-to-left.
- The content displayed in TickerPRO can be a collection of up to 100 messages, not just one long one. You may choose to associate an URL with each message so that if the applet is clicked on, the URL associated with the current message will appear in this browser (frame).
- Font, font size, and style are all customizable. You may also use a different font, font size and style for messages associated with URLs. If the font you select is not available on the client's computer, the system font will be used.
- The foreground (font), link and background colors are adjustable by passing red, green and blue components (in base-10, decimal).
- Each message may be set up to scroll at a different speed.
- You may pass a background graphic that will scroll with the content.
- And finally, you get REAL documentation (in PDF format).

C H A P T E R . 2

Parameters

If you're not sure how to pass your applet parameters or are not comfortable working with HTML, see the FAQ at the end of this documentation. There is also plenty of good HTML documentation available on the web.

MESSAGE1 - MESSAGE100 (Some Required) - MESSAGE1 through MESSAGE100 makes up the content to be displayed. You do not need to pass your ticker-message as one long string. Each message will be displayed, in order, one after the other then the messages will cycle again.

If you're not using all 100 messages you don't have to define them all but the applet will stop reading messages at the first NULL message it encounters.

If you want to jump right in and begin using tickerPRO, add the MESSAGE_x parameter(s) to your applet tags. This is the only required parameter for tickerPRO.

Example:

```
<HTML>
...
<BODY ... >
<APPLET CODE="ticker.class" HEIGHT=75 WIDTH=200>
<PARAM NAME="MESSAGE1" VALUE="Welcome to my web page.">

Content placed here will appear in browsers
without a Java Virtual Machine

</APPLET>
...
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

LINK1 - LINK100 (Optional) - For each message being displayed, you may pass an optional LINKx value. The LINKx value is a web address (URL). When the user clicks on the applet, if the current message is associated with a LINK the browser will jump to that location.

You may use the LNRED, LNGREEN, LNBLUE and/or the LFONTNAME, LFONTSIZE, LFONTITALIC, LFONTBOLD parameters to identify, or make more visible, messages associated with a LINK.

Example:

```
<PARAM NAME="MESSAGE1" VALUE="Check out the Microsoft page.">
<PARAM NAME="LINK1" VALUE="http://www.microsoft.com">
<PARAM NAME="LNRED" ....
```

BGRED, BGGREEN, BGBLUE (Optional) - You may set the background color of the applet by passing the one byte (0-255) RGB (Red, Green and Blue) component values. The background color defaults to white.

Example (results in a black background):

```
<PARAM NAME="BGRED" VALUE="0">
<PARAM NAME="BGGREEN" VALUE="0">
<PARAM NAME="BGBLUE" VALUE="0">
```

For more information about mixing red, green and blue to set the foreground color, see the color table (in the FAQ) or refer to your favorite graphics program.

FGRED, FGGREEN, FGBLUE (Optional) - You may set the foreground (font) color for the applet by passing the one byte (0-255) RGB (Red, Green and Blue) component values. The foreground color defaults to white.

Example (results in a red foreground/font):

```
<PARAM NAME="FGRED" VALUE="255">
<PARAM NAME="FGGREEN" VALUE="0">
<PARAM NAME="FGBLUE" VALUE="0">
```

For more information about mixing red, green and blue to set the foreground color, see the color table (in the FAQ) or refer to your favorite graphics program.

LNRED, LNGREEN, LNBLUE (Optional) - You may set the foreground (font) color for messages associated with a LINKx (URL) by passing the one byte (0-255) RGB (Red, Green and Blue) component values. The link color defaults to white.

Example (results in a blue link message):

```
<PARAM NAME="FGRED" VALUE="0">  
<PARAM NAME="FGGREEN" VALUE="0">  
<PARAM NAME="FGBLUE" VALUE="255">
```

For more information about mixing red, green and blue to set the link color, see the color table (in the FAQ) or refer to your favorite graphics program.

FONTNAME, FONTSIZE, FONTITALIC and FONTBOLD (Optional) - You may force the default font type, size and style by passing these values. If you pass FONTNAME, you'll need to also pass FONTSIZE. FONTITALIC and FONTBOLD are optional parameters if you're forcing the default font.

Example:

```
<param name="FONTNAME" value="Arial">  
<param name="FONTSIZE" value="24">  
<param name="FONTBOLD" value="1">  
<param name="FONTITALIC" value="1">
```

This will force the default font for all messages to be a 24 point, Arial, Bold and Italic type. Messages associated with a LINKx value will appear the same unless the LFONTNAME, LFONTSIZE, LFONTBOLD and LFONTITALIC parameters are set.

FONTNAME and FONTSIZE may be anything. If the FONTNAME you select does not exist on the client PC, the system font will display. Valid values for FONTBOLD and FONTITALIC are 1 (on) or 0 (off).

LFONTNAME, LFONTSIZE, LFONTITALIC, LFONTBOLD (Optional) - By setting these values, you can override the default font for a message associated with a LINK. These values work like the settings for the default font. You'll need to define LFONTSIZE if you define LFONTNAME, but LFONTBOLD and LFONTITALIC are optional values.

DELAY1 - DELAY100 (Optional) - DELAY x controls the time interval between changes in the position of the specific message. Delay defaults to 50 milliseconds. The value you are passing is in milliseconds.

A lower DELAY x value translates into a faster scroll. However, when setting the DELAY x value to an extremely low value (fast scroll), the quality of the scroll (smoothness) becomes dependent upon the load of the client system. Generally 10-100 is a good range.

YPOS (Optional) - YPOS stands for Y position, this controls the vertical position of the messages in the applet. YPOS defaults to *roughly* the center of the applet.

DIRECTION (Optional) - DIRECTION allows you to specify whether you want the applet to scroll right-to-left (DIRECTION=0) or to scroll left-to-right (DIRECTION=1). DIRECTION defaults to zero.

BACKGROUND (Optional) - If you wish to use a graphic for the background of the applet, pass the filename here.

Example:

```
<param name="BACKGROUND" value="bg.gif">
```

NOTE: Because the the background graphic is not tiled in this version of tickerPRO, you'll need to use a graphic large enough to "appear" continuous.

Frequently Asked Questions

This is a copy of the FAQ I keep and maintain on my web site in an effort to answer questions that arise as users try to incorporate the One Wolf WebArt applets into their page.

How do I add an applet to my web page?

There are plenty of ways I could answer this question. The easiest way, I feel, to learn how to incorporate Java applets into your web page is to look at someone else's HTML. You're certainly welcome to view mine.

At a minimum, the following lines need to be added to your HTML:

```
<applet code="class_file_name_here.class"
        height="pixel_heigh" width="pixel_width">
```

Your parameters go here

```
</applet>
```

This assumes that your applet (filename.class) exists in the same directory as your HTML. If your applet is saved somewhere else, you'll need to include the directory (or web address) with your code string. Alternatively, you could include the codebase attribute in your applet tag.

Any HTML that appears between the applet tags would appear in the space of an applet on browsers that don't support Java. The parameters for an applet are documented and come with the ZIP archive in a text file with the same name as the applet.

A parameter tag looks something like this:

```
<param name="parameter_name" value="parameter_value">
```

When I, or another developer, make reference to the parameter (passed to the applet), I'm referring to what you put in the name string. The actual value for the parameter goes in the value string.

I still don't get it....

Okay. Copy and paste my HTML into your web page. In Netscape, click on the View menu, then Page Source. In Internet Explorer, click on the View menu, then Source. Both browsers now support the right (mouse) click in Windows 9x so you could also use the right-click menu to view a page's HTML source.

Once you've pasted the HTML into your source. Change the parameter values. Refer to an applet's documentation for more information about the parameters.

But you're not using the applet the way I want to.

These applets are now being used by hundreds of web developers all over the world. To get an idea for how they may be used, try searching for the applet on Altavista (altavista.digital.com).

Altavista is unique among search engines because it indexes the HTML source. All you need to do is key the applet name in the search string text box; Altavista will return a list of the pages it knows are using the applet.

What is a Magic Number error?

When using FTP to upload an applet to your web server, make sure your FTP application is using the **binary** mode when transferring the applet. If it's not, figure out how to force it. The Magic Number error is usually caused by a corrupted class file. Most of the time, this corruption is caused by the FTP send method.

I'm getting an Applet not Found error but I know that it's there.

Make sure you spelled the applet (class file) name correctly in your HTML. Also, double check how you capitalized the filename in your HTML and how the class file is capitalized in the source directory.

How do I specify a particular color?

Here are some common (browser-safe) colors:

BGRED	BGGREEN	BGBLUE	COLOR
51	51	102	Dark Blue
0	0	153	Blue
53	204	255	Light Blue
0	102	51	Dark Green
0	153	51	Green
204	255	204	Light Green
153	0	51	Dark Red
204	0	51	Red
255	0	102	Light Red (pink)
255	255	255	White
0	0	0	Black