

Using Sandvox with a variety of website servers

• 1 Foreword

Sandvox™ is an application for the Macintosh from Karelia Software that allows one to easily build and publish websites on most servers on the Internet. I have used Sandvox to build and publish several websites, and it has become my favorite way of doing so. The link to the website from which Sandvox can be downloaded is:
<http://www.karelia.com/>

Washington Apple Pi recently increased the amount of on-line storage it makes available to each of its members to 25 megabytes. This was done without either increasing dues or requiring that a member become an Explorer subscriber. This should be welcome news if you have wanted to publish a website, but have never gotten around to it. Not only do you as a Pi member now have more storage capacity for hosting a website, but you also have access via the TCS message boards where experienced users can be found to answer questions you may have.

The website server that the Pi makes available to its members can be found at:
<http://members.wap.org>

The following explains a problem that must be resolved when a Pi member decides to ask Sandvox to upload website files to the Pi's website server. It then tells how to use a utility of your choice to solve it. The first utility described is simpler to use; the second utility adds one additional step that provides more options.

This problem does not present itself when using Sandvox to publish to most other website servers.

My thanks to

- Karelia Software for creating **Configure Sandvox for Pi**
- The Pi's Programming SIG for creating **Expandvox**

Dick Rucker
11 Sep 07

• 2 A file-naming problem to be solved

After you create a website in Sandvox, you will want to publish it on a server on the **Internet**. You can either

- (1) use a computer of your own to serve the site, or you can
- (2) upload your website's files to a server operated by someone else.

If you decide on (2) and choose the one made available to you as a member of the Pi, then the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) used to access your website might look like this:

<http://members.wap.org/jane.member/websiteName/default.html>

Using Sandvox with a variety of website servers

This locator gives an absolute path to the HTML file where your website begins, but publishing an absolute path for others to bookmark in their Internet browsers creates a trap that should be avoided .

Here's the trap: Suppose you decide to make some changes to your website and those changes cause the directory structure for your site to change. If the URL published for your website is one that is terminated in a specific HTML file at the end of the published path and that URL has been bookmarked by many users, then all of those bookmarks will no longer work once you make that change.

For this reason, it is better to publish the URL for your website in this form:

http://members.wap.org/jane.member/websiteName/

leaving the target HTML file unspecified. This allows you to add additional subdirectories as needed; e.g.,

http://members.wap.org/jane.member/websiteName/recentEvents/

http://members.wap.org/jane.member/websiteName/pastEvents/

Both of these subdirectories can in principle be reached via

http://members.wap.org/jane.member/websiteName/

since you haven't closed off the option for doing subdirectory branching.

If the server software can presume to know what the name of the target HTML file should be when an incoming URL for your site doesn't specify one, then that "default-named" HTML file can contain clickable links to your new subdirectories. For this reason, all web server software assumes a particular name as the "default" to be used when an incoming URL doesn't specify a target HTML file.

*For historical reasons, there are several such default names in common use. In particular, the Pi's webpage server assumes default.html as the name, while the site creation software **iWeb** and **Sandvox** assume that it should be index.html . Other server software may use some other name.*

Consequently, users of iWeb or Sandvox need to resolve this inconsistency before trying to publish their websites on the Pi's server. Either one of the following two utilities neatly solves this problem for the users of Sandvox. Both can be found on the Pi Fillings CD for September 2007.

Travis Good has already published a solution for the users of iWeb – see the Pi Fillings CD for July 2007.

● 3 How to use "Configure Sandvox for Pi"

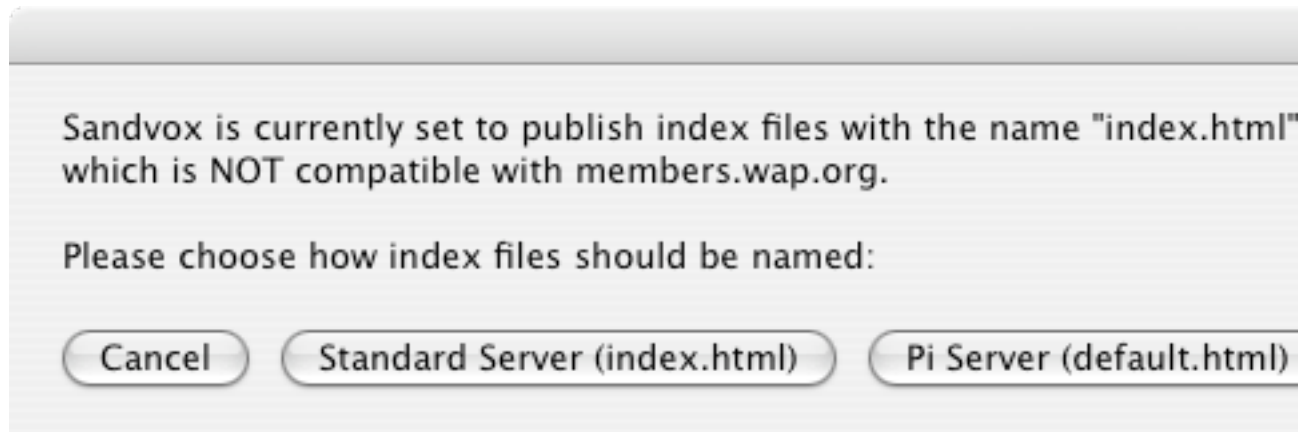
This is a utility written in AppleScript and can be used to set the default name used by Sandvox to default.html . This will allow your website to be published to your account at members.wap.org or to any other server that uses that default file name.

To use, you first launch the utility; i.e., double-click its icon, and you want to do this before you launch Sandvox. The reason is that when you launch Sandvox, one of the

Using Sandvox with a variety of website servers

first things it does is read the preference values to be used during this session of Sandvox.

This is the dialog you will see when you launch the utility:



Click one of the buttons. When the script is done, it will quit by itself and you are then free to launch Sandvox to do your thing.

Since these same preference values will be used the next time you launch Sandvox, if you are going to use a server that assumes the other default name, then you will need to run the script again and set Sandvox's preference value to the new name before launching Sandvox.

- **4 How to use "Expandvox"**

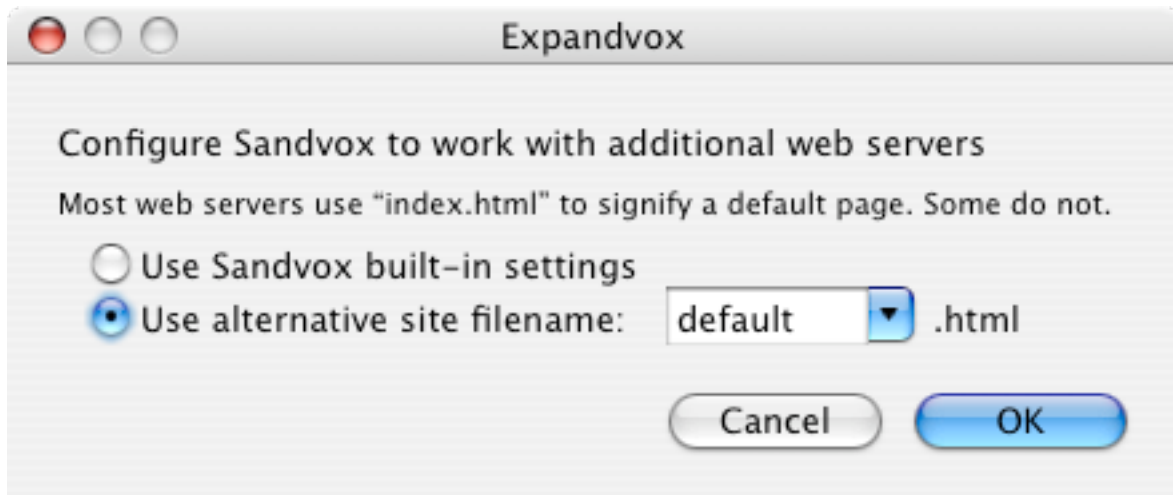
*This utility is written in AppleScript Studio and is similar to the one above, except that its dialog gives you more alternatives for beginning file names. These alternatives are:
default.html home.html start.html*

Note that the text in the window; e.g., "default," is highlighted, meaning that you can type in another name if none of the ones listed suit your particular situation.

These alternatives are addition to index.html the name built into Sandvox; i.e., the name that will be automatically restored should you delete its Preference file, and Sandvox is forced to create a new Preference file.

Here's the dialog box you will see upon launching Expandvox:

Using Sandvox with a variety of website servers



As before, you must run this utility first to set the desired name in preferences and then launch Sandvox. Click one of the two radio buttons. If you click on the second one, use the drop-down menu to pick the name you want to use, then click OK.

When the script is done, it will quit by itself. You are then free to launch Sandvox and do your thing.