

# How to Implement: SharePoint 2010 FooBar Alerts

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## Overview

This is a set of scripts that can be dropped into a SharePoint 2010 deployment to allow for a flexible, customizable, top of screen alert bar that can appear and be dismissed by users. The contents of the alert bar (and if it even appears at all) are controlled by a custom SharePoint list and allows for multiple active alerts at any given time. The solution uses a jQuery based tool that is available for \$6 on Codecanyon.net (I have no affiliation with that site or the control's author)

## The FooBar Control

This is available for \$6 from CodeCanyon.net at this location:

<http://codecanyon.net/item/foobar-a-jquery-notification-bar/241318>

The latest version is 2.1 and the supporting code and documentation has been configured to work with that version of the FooBar control.

There are a number of features that it has that we will not address in connecting it to a SharePoint list but the accompanying documentation can walk you through additional customizations as you desire. You'll need to purchase the control for use in the 'Publication of Scripts and Files' step below.

## Create a list

For this you want a custom list that all users can read from, to which you will add the following columns:

1. Title: this will actually be added by default though what is in the field will not display. You can make it not-required if you want.
2. Message [Multiple lines of text]: This will contain your popup message text
3. IsActive [Yes/No]: This will let you turn notifications off and on

It should look like this:

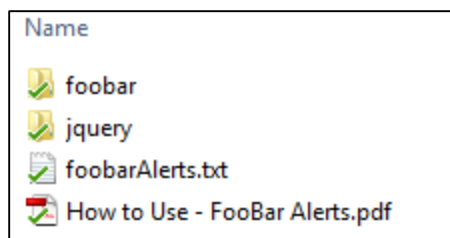
Columns		
A column stores information about each item in the list. The following columns are currently available in this list:		
Column (click to edit)	Type	Required
Title	Single line of text	
Message	Multiple lines of text	
IsActive	Yes/No	
Created By	Person or Group	
Modified By	Person or Group	

## Publication of Scripts and Files

The accompanying zip file has all of the free resources that you will need and is ready to go if you drop in a few files from the purchased control. This will make it much easier to update and maintain. The following simple approach works just fine.

1. On a site with universal access (all users have access to the site), create a document library that all users can read from. I call this 'Utilities' and place this on my site collection's root. This can really go anywhere as long as all users can reach it.

Within that library, unzip the contents of the file package, this will create a 'foobarAlerts' folder with the following folders and files inside for you to reference:



Within the zip file you will download from CodeCanyon after purchasing the FooBar control, take the contents of the 'foobar' folder within that zip and copy those contents into the 'foobar' folder that you have just created.

Now you are ready to configure the foobar control to pull items from your list.

## Configuring for your list

You can create foobar controls in different places on your intranet pointed at the same alert list or, if you want one that points to another alert list, you'll need to copy the 'foobarAlerts.txt' file and configure it with a few settings to point at the specific alerts list you want.

For now you'll want to edit foobarAlerts.txt file to make the following alterations:

In lines 1-3 and 6-7 we have to change the URL to reflect where you published the contents of the ZIP file. This will most likely mean you just need to change what is highlighted below and all of those will get the same change.

```
1 <script src="http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/Utilities/FoobarAlerts/jquery/jquery-1.8.0.min.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
2 <script src="http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/Utilities/FoobarAlerts/jquery/jquery.SPServices-0.7.2.min.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
3 <script src="http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/Utilities/FoobarAlerts/jquery/jquery.foobar_SharePoint-2.0.js" type="text/javascript"></script>
4
5 <!-- These are the 2 actual Foobar control files from CodeCanyon - 2 files needed -->
6 <script src="http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/Utilities/FoobarAlerts/foobar/jquery.foobar.2.1.min.js" type="text/javascript" ></script>
7 <link href="http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/Utilities/FoobarAlerts/foobar/jquery.foobar.2.1.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" />
```

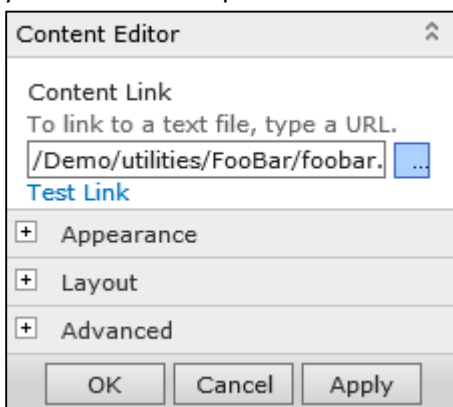
Once these are set you'll be able to duplicate this file if needed and not need to make those changes again. Next we pass the script a few parameters telling it first what site your alert list live in and then which list on that site to pull your active alerts from. You'll see this on line 19 along with an example explaining what put there. Make your changes and save the text file back into your FoobarAlerts folder in SharePoint.

```
17 // Change the items below with the first item being your site, the second being the alert's list name
18 // EXAMPLE :: LoadFooBar("https://SITENAME/Demo", "Alerts List");
19 LoadFooBar("http://YOUR-SITE-PATH/SOME_SITE", "My Alerts List");
```

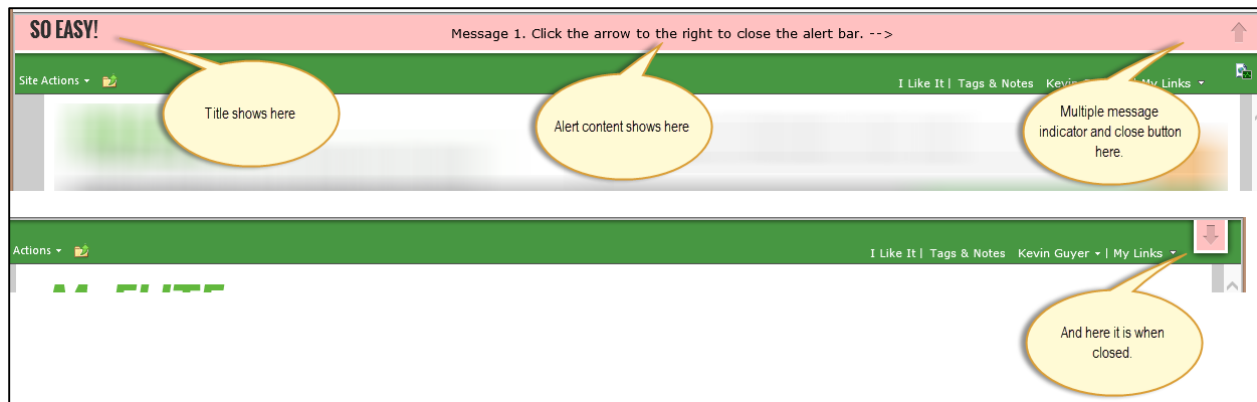
## Dropping into your page

Now we'll just be adding a content query web part to the page that is to show the foobar alert and set it to host the contents of the text file you just edited.

1. First get the URL/path to the foobar\_alerts.txt file you just edited and copy that path
2. Edit your target page and add a Content Query Web Part to the page, choose 'Edit Web Part' to modify the part's properties.
3. In the 'Content Link' portion of the web part properties, paste in the URL/path to your 'foobar\_alerts.txt' text file. Now SharePoint will drop that script right into your page wherever you have the web part.



4. Set the appearance on the web part to Chrome Type = none since it will not show as a web part. Save the web part and save your page.
5. Edit your alerts list and add an item, you can add hyperlinks in the alert if needed and use the isActive flag to turn them off and on.
6. You are done!



## Using Elsewhere

You can add a CEWP pointer to your `foobar_alerts.txt` file to any page now and give it the alert functionality.

## Customization

There is a lot more you can do with the FooBar control, editing the file `'jquery.foobar_SharePoint-2.0.js'` that I have provided will let you see options you can set and experiment.