

Using an atomz.com search engine

By Cal Henderson

If you have the kind of weblog where people might want to find previous information you posted, then being able to search your site is a great feature to offer. Unfortunately, setting up a search engine like [htdig](#) can be quite tricky, and require special features on your server. If you don't think you can manage to do something so fancy, then you're still left with a few options. You could use google, assuming it's indexed your site (see "Using google to allow searching of your archive"), but that's far from perfect. What you'd really like is a simple hosted service, where you can customise the look of the returned results to look like your own site.

As long as your site is less than 500 pages, such a service exists, and for free! (If it's over 500 pages, you can use the same service, but for a fee). Go to [this page](#) at atomz.com and sign up for an account. Once you've got an account, you're given a simple snippet of HTML to include on your pages:

```
<!-- Atomz Search HTML for Thinkblank -->
<form method="get" action="http://search.atomz.com/search/">
  <input size=15 name="sp-q"><br>
  <input type=submit value="Search">
  <input type=hidden name="sp-a" value="sp10028ald">
  <input type=hidden name="sp-p" value="all">
  <input type=hidden name="sp-f" value="ISO-8859-1">
</form>
```

When anyone fills out the form, they are sent to a page at search.atomz.com, which searches the pages on your site. So far so good, but the search results don't look anything like your site. That's easily fixed - log in to your account and choose "Templates" from the menu on the left. From the page that appears choose "TEMPLATE RECIPIE".

The page contains instructions for taking an existing page from your site and converting it into a search results template. It's quite straight forward and takes about 10 minutes - the results look great and will help your visitors get the most out of your site.

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