



Whose Turn is it Anyway?

Whose Turn is it Anyway? is a small name picking widget that runs in a browser window. It randomly selects a name from your list of students and then removes that name from the list. Each student on the list will get one turn and then the list needs to be reset. Upon resetting the name list is randomized again.

To run this widget you will need to have at least Flash Player 7.0 installed. If you do not have it, you can download it from Adobe.com.

http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=shockwaveFlash

Set Up

In the folder are several files:

- this READ_ME doc
- myTurn.swf (this one needs to be in the same folder as myStudents.xml and double_click_me.html)
- myStudents.xml (this file contains the editable list of your students and needs to be in the same folder as myTurn.swf and double_click_me.html)
- double_click_me.html (double click it to run the widget. It needs to be in the same folder as myTurn.swf and myStudents.xml—do you notice a trend yet?)

Edit the XML

Before you can use Whose Turn is it Anyway? you need to edit the XML in the myStudents.xml file. Don't fret—it's so easy to do. What is XML? XML stands for EXtensible Markup Language and it is a markup language much like HTML. XML was designed to describe data using user defined tags. I'm not really going to talk much about the XML other than tell you

what need to do to edit it, but if you really want to know more (and I know you do!) go to:

- <http://www.w3.org/XML/>
- <http://www.w3schools.com/xml/>

You do not need a computer science degree (it would help, though) or any fancy-schmancy software to edit XML. All you need is Notepad (SimpleText for you MAC nerds) or a text editor and a familiarity with a keyboard. I know you have that stuff, so you are good to go! We're PC at school, so the directions are written for PC.

Right click the myStudents.xml file and choose **Open with--->Notepad**.

The contents of the file look like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes"?>
<myClass>
  <student>Davey Pliska</student>
  <student>Sarah L. </student>
  <student>Madeline Pliska</student>
  <student>Alexander Pliska</student>
  <student>Su Michael </student>
  <student>Homer J. Simpson</student>
  <student>Huey Freeman</student>
  <student>Kim Possible</student>
  <student>SpongeBob SquarePants</student>
  <student>Dr. John J. D. Dorian</student>
</myClass>
```

Let's break it down:

```
* <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes"?>
```

This line is the XML declaration. It tells the flash file that the rest of the file is XML version 1.0 and how the characters are encoded—in this case "utf-8"—the UCS Transformation Format for 8 bit platforms (I know—too much information) **Leave this line alone.**

```
* <myClass> </myClass>
```

These are the tags that define the element: myClass. **Leave these tags alone.**

```
*<student>Alexander Pliska</student>
```

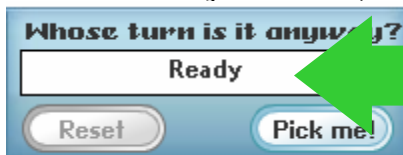
These lines define a student element of the myClass element. All of the *students* are contained in *myClass*—makes sense right? Here is where you will edit the names contained in the tags, so remove Alexander and put in the name of one of your students. Be sure to leave the beginning and closing tags for the student elements (i.e. `<student>YOUR NEW NAME</student>`). If you need more student elements, copy and paste more of the student element into the myClass element. Make sure you have the complete element tags and that the student is contained in the myClass element.

Save the file. Make sure that you retain the .xml as the document type. If you change it, the flash file will not be able to load the list of students. That's it. Easy-peasey Lemon-squeezy!

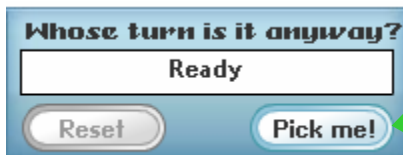
How to Use Whose Turn is it Anyway?

After you have edited the XML the widget is ready to run. Double click `double_click_me.html` to open the widget and reduce the size of the window so that it is about the size of the widget—you don't want it to take up too much real estate.

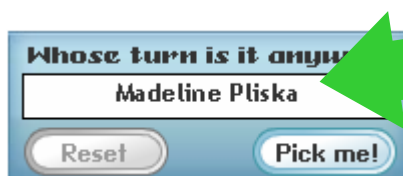
If the XML has loaded the widget will say **"Ready"** in the name display box and it is ready to use. (If the widget says **"?"**, see below)



Click the **Pick me!** button to select a student.



A student's name will appear. Call on that student it's their turn, the Lucky Duck!



Click **"Pick me!"** to select another student. You can keep going until the widget says **'Done.'** This means that you have gone through the list of students. Click **"Reset"** to scramble the list and start again.



Troubleshooting Whose Turn is it Anyway?

Flash Player Installed?

To run this widget you will need to have at least Flash Player 7.0 installed. If not, download the latest version from Adobe.com

http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash

XML Issues

If the widget says **"?"**, the XML has not loaded and the widget is not ready to use. This could happen for a number of reasons:

- The XML file was moved out of the folder that contained the flash file.
- The XML file was renamed something else. The name needs to stay **myStudents.xml**.
- The XML file lost the .xml extension.
- There are tags missing in the XML list.



If you have any trouble, please let me know and I will do my best to help you solve the problem. madzander@gmail.com

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