Using Delicious gadgets as a necessity for bookmarks in iGoogle

As a keen iGoogle personal portal page user I felt the need to write this to assist others who may be having issues with Google’s bookmark gadgets as well. It is a real mess at the moment and disappointing considering the importance to productivity of these bookmark scripts. It is a key function obviously of any portal page like this.

When using iGoogle you are always dependant on the reliability of the gadgets, most of which are created by 3rd party developers. Most of the main gadgets that appear on the first search page for “Bookmarks” are currently corrupt or have limited ability for multiple instances.

“Bookmarks” is the most attractive looking gadget but regularly fails and I have lost sets of links a number of times with this. In recent months I have been mainly utilising “Enhanced Bookmarks” but that ended yesterday with admission from the developer that changes made by Google to their APIs had rendered most instances of this script unusable. I lost three sets of core links! While trying to reinstate bookmarks yesterday I encountered further trouble by using Google’s own bookmark scripts. I already had one instance of “Bookmarks” running and when I created a second instance of it, Google duplicated all the links from the original. “Fair enough” I thought, I’ll remove the links from one instance and re-instate another set of links. Of course this then deleted my originals and another set of links was gone. It appears the other Google objects work like this and only a single instance of the script can work. Even worse, “Google Bookmarks”

Ian Quartermaine - 2009
is linked to the first Google bookmark and duplicates links as well. This one doesn’t work at all and nor do some of the other 3rd party ones.

I’m now running by necessity only one single instance of “Google Bookmarks” with no other scripts seemingly available ..........except for “Delicious bookmarks”

Like many, I have long been a user of Delicious for my central bookmark organisation. I heavily utilise their link roll scripts in our CMS pages. I.e. a script picks out all your current links with particular tags and renders them to the page: an excellent feature. Originally there was not a good Gadget to do links rolls in iGoogle so I implemented the gadgets described above. “Delicious bookmarks” shown above does allow links to be pulled in based on delicious tags from your delicious account. It works well rendering bookmarks in much the same way as Delicious’s own embed scripts work.

As a result of the Google mess described above I now will leverage Delicious even more fully with all bookmark instances in iGoogle except for one being delicious bookmarks. Out of adversity comes.....etc. I now have a better solution than before and I’m hoping this blog post might make it a bit less painful to achieve than it was for me.