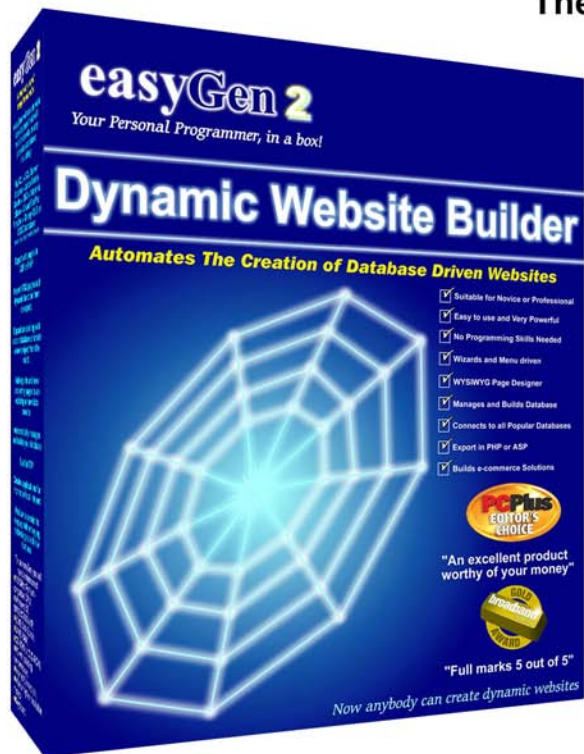


## The Multi Award Winning easyGen 2



It's easy enough for us to tell you how good easyGen is but it's better to read the opinions of others. So we have put together a few reviews which have been done by leading computer magazines.



The first review is from PC PLUS magazine, Published by Future it is the 3rd biggest UK computer magazine. This review was done when we first launched easyGen 2 in August 2004. With a 9/10 score it was also awarded the prestigious PC PLUS editors choice gold award.

The second Review is from Computer Shopper, published by Dennis this is the largest of the UK computer magazines. They reviewed the slightly modified version 2.1 and gave it a maximum 5/5 score

The third review is from Personal Computer World (PCW) magazine. Which is the second largest of the UK computer magazines. This review was for easyGen version 2.2, and after a full 5/5 score it was also awarded the PCW recommended award.

The last review was by Service Provider Weekly. This magazine is an industry specialist for ISPs and the like. So not like the other magazines above who cater for home and small business users. This magazine is for the heavy weight techies. We have included this review as it still outlines what easyGen is and does but may help you to realise Just how wonderful a program it is. They awarded it the editors choice award for best solution.



**INFORMATION**

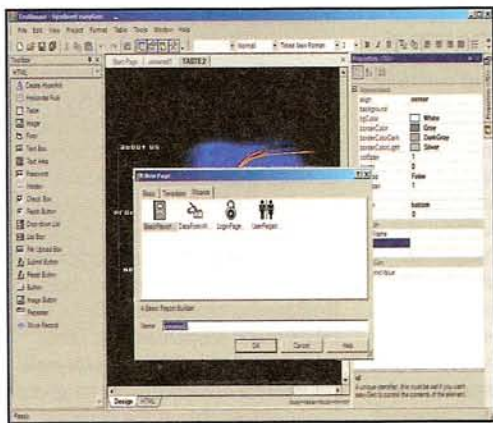
**PRICE** £80 (€68 ex VAT)  
**SUPPLIER** www.symbiant.co.uk  
 0113 237 3954  
**INFO** www.easygen.com

**REQUIREMENTS**

**CPU** 450MHz Pentium or equivalent  
**RAM** 128MB  
**OS** Windows 98 or later

**WEB DEVELOPMENT**

# easyGen 2



**EasyGen 2's wizards and menus make dynamic web creation child's play.**

designed to provide your website with the ability to read and write to databases. In fact, it's more than that. EasyGen empowers you to create databases without knowing anything about how they actually work.

**I**t was originally written as an in-house tool designed to speed up development projects. However, Leeds-based data management system creator Symbiant has turned easyGen into a commercial application that puts the individual back into the website building business.

This dynamic script creator enables anyone with a basic understanding of web design to build dynamic, database-driven sites in ASP or PHP with a system of menus and wizards. It isn't

SQLserver with ASP or MySQL with PHP, it's both powerful and remarkably easy to pick up. If you're used to a steep learning curve, such as with DreamWeaver, prepare to be amazed. As you would hope, if you're proficient with DreamWeaver or FrontPage, you can use these apps as external editors.

The main interface is split into a page editor window, a project explorer and a properties inspector and action builder. The latter powers easyGen; adding actions define the functionality

of the web application with a mouse click or two. Once listed (they're run from the top down), it's easy enough to order them in any way you like, or add conditional actions to act upon them. Assigning dynamic values to page elements is just as simple, as it's a matter of right-clicking and selecting the appropriate menu option. This mix of functionality and power is spread evenly throughout the software. Take the data source manager, which enables you to easily connect to and build data sources, making use of the generic ASP and PHP connectors supplied, and import the database schema to build the dynamic pages from its content. If you build a project in ASP and later need to have it on a UNIX platform, just change the settings and re-export it. This truly is an incredibly powerful piece of software.

Whether you're building a members-only site or an online shopping cart, you'll find that it's not only possible, but pleasurable using easyGen. Creating a professional front end to an existing database has never been easier; you don't have to write a single line of code.

**Davey Winder**

**PCPlus ratings**

**EASYGEN 2**



Computer Shopper issue 205 March 2005. easyGen 2 version 2.1



## WHAT'S NEW Software

**REVIEW WEBSITE CREATION SOFTWARE**

# SYMBIANT easyGen 2.1

**RATING** ★★★★★

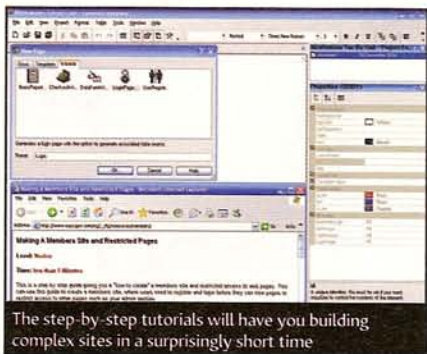
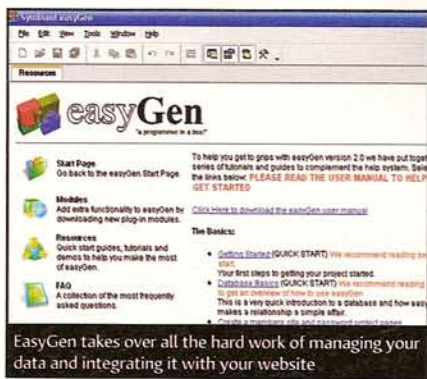
**PRICE** £80 inc VAT  
**DETAILS** www.easygen.com

If the prospect of learning PHP or ASP fills you with dread, yet you want to build a website that does more than just share your holiday photos, Symbiant's easyGen 2 could be just the software you're looking for.

Billed as "your personal programmer in a box", easyGen takes over all the hard work of managing your data and integrating it with your site via dynamic web pages. Using only wizards and menus, you can create anything from simple login pages to full-blown e-commerce sites and the databases that drive them, with no programming knowledge and without ever looking at a piece of code. But that's not to say easyGen isn't for professionals. It was originally designed as an in-house tool to help Symbiant's own developers build customers' websites more quickly.

One of the many tutorial examples included with the program details how to construct a members' site with restricted-access web pages in an estimated time of under five minutes. We found that estimate to be quite accurate.

You don't have to start from scratch, as you can also import your existing sites and databases and work on them with easyGen. By exporting in either ASP or PHP, your site can be compatible with both Windows and Linux-based hosting, with either MySQL or OLE databases such as Access or



between the two you can regenerate your site easily in the new language.

Although a full web page editor is included, easyGen's focus is on generating scripts and databases rather than on page design. Therefore designing is still best suited to products such as Macromedia's Dreamweaver or Microsoft's Frontpage. EasyGen will integrate with both of these products to allow you to make use of their advanced editing capabilities.

There's a wealth of documentation and help with topics such as database concepts introduced from beginner level. The step-by-step tutorials get you started immediately and will see you through to building complex sites in a surprisingly short time.

To start building a site, you just fill in a few details about your hosting arrangements and then start creating your pages using wizards, or import your own. When you have decided what data you want to gather – for example, usernames and passwords – easyGen will construct a database for you and link it to your pages using plain English.

If you're just looking to move your website beyond static pages or you want to build and manage a sophisticated corporate web presence then easyGen can help you do it without you having to learn programming or hire a developer. It could pay for itself in hours.

SQLserver as the back-end. All you need to know is which systems your hosting provider is using, although you don't actually need to understand how they work.

Because easyGen avoids dealing with programming code up until the project is exported, you don't have to commit to using ASP or PHP before you start. Then, once your site is up and running, if you change hosts and need to swap

- Enables you to start building dynamic, script-based websites with no prior programming experience
- Complex web pages still need programming experience

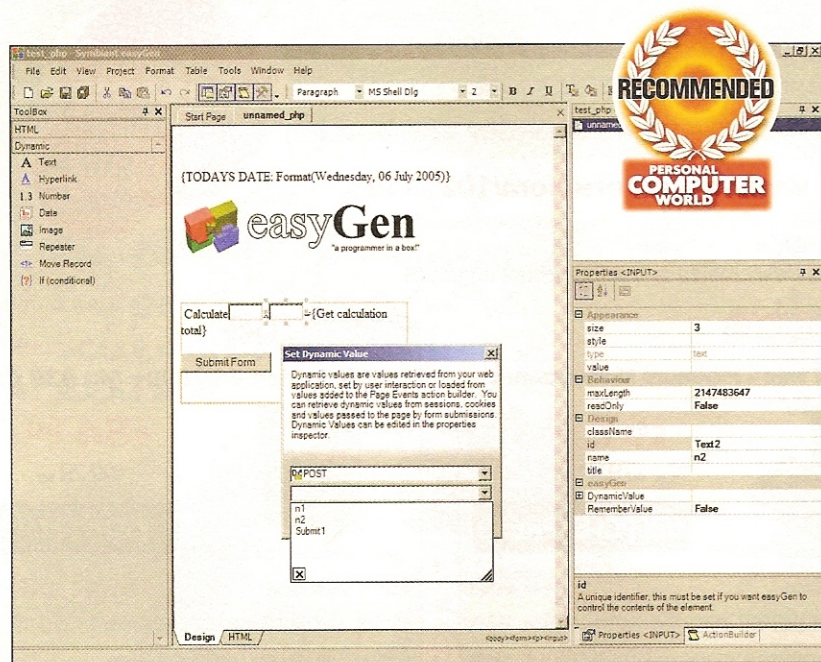
**REQUIREMENTS** Windows 98 or later, 90MHz Pentium processor, 64MB RAM, 32MB disk space. **Product code** 802534



## WEB DEVELOPMENT

## Symbiant EasyGen 2.2

Take the hassle out of creating a database-driven website



**B**uilding your own website is never an easy task and there could be a lot riding on the design and functionality, especially if it's a commercial venture. If you've also got to sort out how to link your site to a database, for example when setting up an online store, things can start to get particularly tricky.

Whether you build websites for a living or want to create a new site with extended functionality, Symbiant's EasyGen is sure to be of interest. In essence, it speeds up the process of developing a database-driven website by creating the links between your site and the database, and generating all the necessary code.

Typical uses include creating an online shop and setting up a members-only area on a commercial website. You don't need to know how to create the database, nor do you need to know how to write the code required to make it function with your site. EasyGen does all the hard work for you.

It takes a bit of practice to use EasyGen to its full potential, but Symbiant has gone to great lengths to ensure that the

learning experience is as easy and straightforward as possible. To help you get to grips with EasyGen, a selection of animated tutorials, ranging from initial setup through to creating a full ecommerce website, can be downloaded from EasyGen's website.

To get the most out of EasyGen's program you should have some idea of what creating a website involves. If terms such as PHP, ASP and MySQL are completely foreign to you, then it's a good idea to develop some degree of background knowledge.

The beauty of EasyGen is that, while it helps to know what these languages are, you won't need to know the details of how to program in them. Unlike products such as Microsoft Frontpage, EasyGen will generate all the code for you, leaving you to concentrate on the design and function of your pages. You can even swap between PHP and ASP after the site has been created, making it easy to migrate between Unix and Windows servers. The database can also be created as you go, requiring no programming skills whatsoever.

**EasyGen will not only create the database for you but it will also write the code needed to make it function**

EasyGen is ideally suited to anyone who already has a website consisting of static pages. It allows you to import your data and add dynamic content, without the need for any sort of programming.

Version 2.2, which is a free

upgrade to owners of all versions of EasyGen 2, adds many new features. The page editor has been improved to support a layout grid, while the toolbox has been enhanced, providing faster and easier access to the various tools.

One of the most important additions in this new version is the text builder, which can replace specific strings in static text. In other words, you can create customised web pages tailored to individual users or automatically generate personalised emails when creating a mailshot. These pages could contain user-specific data, such as a statement of account or notification of an online purchase. You create the standard text and EasyGen fills in the rest automatically.

Another new feature is the Online Calculations tool. With this you can create a form which takes values from the user, or from your database, and then performs calculations on them. An example of this could be to calculate VAT prices or shipping costs on the fly.

Version 2.1's Report Wizard could perform similar functions, but now calculated fields can

be added anywhere in a user-designed page without having to generate a pre-designed report containing the data.

As a prerequisite you'll need a web server to use EasyGen. This server could be local, provided by your ISP or, as in most cases, rented through a web-hosting company. If you don't currently have access to a web server, Symbiant provides web hosting services – visit [www.symbiant.co.uk](http://www.symbiant.co.uk) for pricing and more information.

With many other minor enhancements and improved compatibility with Mozilla Firefox, EasyGen 2.2 is a significant upgrade to an already powerful utility. Its price is deceptively low, and plug-in modules are similarly inexpensive – the Shopping Suite is £49.99 and others start from just £14.99.

With a single copy of EasyGen there are no licensing restrictions on size or on the number of sites you create.

If you want to design a feature-rich site without having to get bogged down with the likes of SQL and PHP, EasyGen 2.2 is well worth the money.

**Paul Monckton**

## DETAILS

RRP £79.99 (€68.08 ex VAT)

**BEST PRICE**

[www.pcw.co.uk/bestprices](http://www.pcw.co.uk/bestprices)

**PRODUCT INFORMATION**

Symbiant 0113 237 3954

[www.easygen.com](http://www.easygen.com)

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

133MHz Pentium or equivalent

• Windows 98 (XP preferred)

• 64MB Ram • Internet connection

**PROS** Simple to use;

relatively cheap

**CONS** Won't replace your

web-editing package

**VERDICT**

**An easy way for beginners and advanced users to add dynamic content to their sites**

**FEATURES** ★★★★★

**EASE OF USE** ★★★★★

**VALUE FOR MONEY** ★★★★★

**OVERALL** ★★★★★



**THE WORLDWIDE NEWSWEEKLY FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS**

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**WEEKLY**

[www.spweekly.com](http://www.spweekly.com)

Volume 6 #49  
December 6th, 2004

Published by:  Possibility  
MEDIA

# special

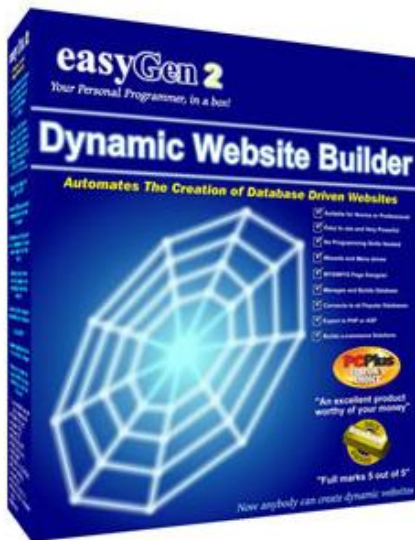
## Dynamic Websites Are Only A Minute Away With easyGen

By: Habib Saah, Online Editor

**Creating dynamic pages for your website has never been easier. easyGen enables you to create a fully fledged dynamic website on the fly. No programming skills are necessary to use this robust software. Advanced programmers will find it as a useful tool to save time and effort without compromising functionality.**

As a small user or an enterprise level programmer, you will find easyGen doing more of the chores you always dreaded. easyGen offers you an extended choice of design, deployment and time-saving for your customers and business.

easyGen is a tailored out-of-the box product to help you create dynamic websites, especially database driven websites. You do not need extensive programming skills. If you can use a mouse, you can launch a full-scale database driven website equal in quality to that of a 10-year-experienced asp programmer. In minutes, easyGen can mount a fully functional database website which would have otherwise taken months to build. A big plus for easyGen is the lack of errors in the code it generates. As every programmer will tell you, debugging a program is a nightmare taking you tens of hours, if not days. If you don't want to miss your crucial project deadlines, go for easyGen.



easyGen offers you two principal advantages: It builds the web pages and then creates the database as well. It again does all the programming and database management. You can spare yourself a lot of commands and long lines of code with easyGen. The interface is windows-style and it has well laid out wizards to guide you through the creation of every application. This way, you can easily generate complex

and versatile database utilities like connecting to a database, querying a database, saving and retrieving information from a database, and performing arithmetic on data.

Most importantly for large membership websites, you do not have to readjust your tables each time you make additions or deletions. easyGen does all the automation using simple parameters you suggest to it. What this means is: you can also add new actions to easyGen at anytime; intensifying its power and seamlessly providing new functionality that you can customize for your web applications. For programmers who work on data intensive tools like shopping carts, online payment systems, membership sites and data warehousing, managing your web applications is only a few mouse clicks away.

Whatever stage you have got to in your current application, easyGen can take over from there. easyGen does not deal with fresh data only. If you have an existing application, web design or database, you can export it to easyGen and take advantage of its advanced capabilities to enhance your existing application. Be it web pages or tables, you can conveniently use the WYSIWYG feature in easyGen to incorporate the much sought after flexibility and features of easyGen into your application. The result is a blending of your creativity and the complements of easyGen into a powerful database driven web application.

easyGen can also create an add-on for your existing database and help you present it to your viewers in a professional manner. If you have tables and would like to display them in a more professional format or functionality, easyGen can manage that. You do not need any knowledge of database connectivity scripts and codes to manage your pages - easyGen internally generates all the code for you. All you have to do is to input what you want in lay terms.

easyGen is fully loaded. Featuring a comprehensive toolbox, there is no way you will need third-party software to do common-place dynamic web applications. You can create reports, add existing pages to existing applications, create a new database or



continued...

# special

continued...

modify an existing one. You can even import your raw or wysiwyg html pages and convert them to dynamic ones. You don't have to forgo your existing editor to make full use of easyGen. easyGen is fully compatible with your external editors for greater flexibility. You can achieve a high vertical integration with the leading database languages such as MySQL, SQL and Access. There is also a Built-in FTP and Database manager for hassle-free uploads.

It is generally agreed that static websites are a thing of the past. Unless you are running a one page college fan website, you will appreciate that to make content more meaningful to your web users, you need a dynamic website. You need a website that automatically generates pages without repetitive updates from the programmer. If you are going to reap the benefits of today's Internet, you will have to go dynamic and there has never been any easier way to do that than easyGen.

The applications of easyGen are pretty unlimited but the following areas are obvious areas where you will need easyGen to

- \* Online Accounts System
- \* Web catalogs
- \* Membership websites
- \* Online shopping system
- \* Subscription websites
- \* Live content websites

Once you perceive the need to manage ever-changing content, you must go for easyGen.

easyGen is easy to install. You do not need extensive hardware and software upgrades to use this high-utility software. For such a robust program, you will marvel that you only need 64 megabytes (MB) of RAM and 32MB of hard disk space to unleash the power of the latest tool in the world of dynamic websites.

easyGen was created for you. As a novice or advanced programmer, you will find this tool an indispensable part of your web programming collection. You'll save time, you'll save effort and most importantly, errors. If program failure is something you dislike, then easyGen is the solution. This tool has endless applications - from online database to ecommerce inventory to organizational data warehouse. The software was created with your creativity in mind. Aside the manufacturer's specified uses, you can generate thousands of other functions as your ingenuity can carry you. easyGen is the proverbial potter's clay - the possibilities are endless, limited only by your imagination.

This program was so easy and intuitive and really did what the company said it did, we have to easyGen an Editor's Choice for Best Solution.

help you achieve the professional leverage you most wanted in web programming:

