



Maqetta: Visual Authoring of HTML5 User Interfaces

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Maqetta to RAD 8.5 Workflow, Part II: Mobile Browser Simulator

tonyerwin | July 22 2012 | Visits (1916)

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In a previous post (see [Maqetta to RAD 8.5 Workflow](#)), I showed how to take an Eclipse-enabled project from [Maqetta](#) and import it into [IBM Rational Application Developer 8.5](#) so that a developer could complete development of the final, product-ready application. In this article, I will show you some tricks in RAD 8.5 (in particular how to use RAD's Mobile Browser Simulator) to facilitate development of mobile applications that were initially designed in Maqetta.

NOTE: This rest of this article assumes you've already created an Eclipse-based project in Maqetta, downloaded the Maqetta workspace, and imported the zip file into RAD as described in [Part I](#).

Mobile Sample in Maqetta Workspace

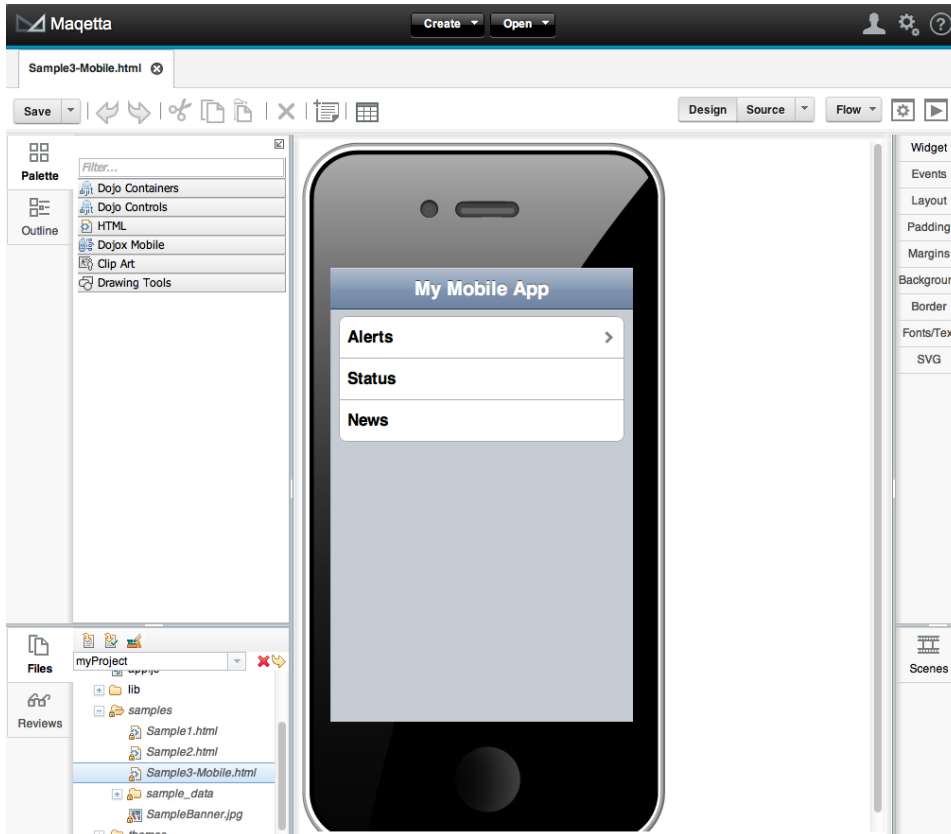
First, let's look at the `Sample3-Mobile.html` file in your Maqetta project. It provides a sample mobile application and can be found in the `WebContent/samples` folder. If you open the file in Maqetta, you'll see a mobile UI rendered in an iPhone silhouette in the page editor. We won't edit this file for this article. But, just like any other HTML file in Maqetta, you could drag and drop widgets from the widget palette onto the page, change properties of widgets, etc. If you were to start adding widgets, make special note of the `Dojo Mobile` section in the widget palette.

1

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Using Maqetta's Mobile Preview

Once you've opened the file in Maqetta, if you hit the `Preview` button in the page editor's toolbar, a new browser tab will be open showing a live rendering of the sample:

About this blog

In this blog, Tony Erwin covers a range of topics related to Maqetta. Maqetta is an open source project that provides WYSIWYG visual authoring of HTML5 user interfaces (desktop and mobile).

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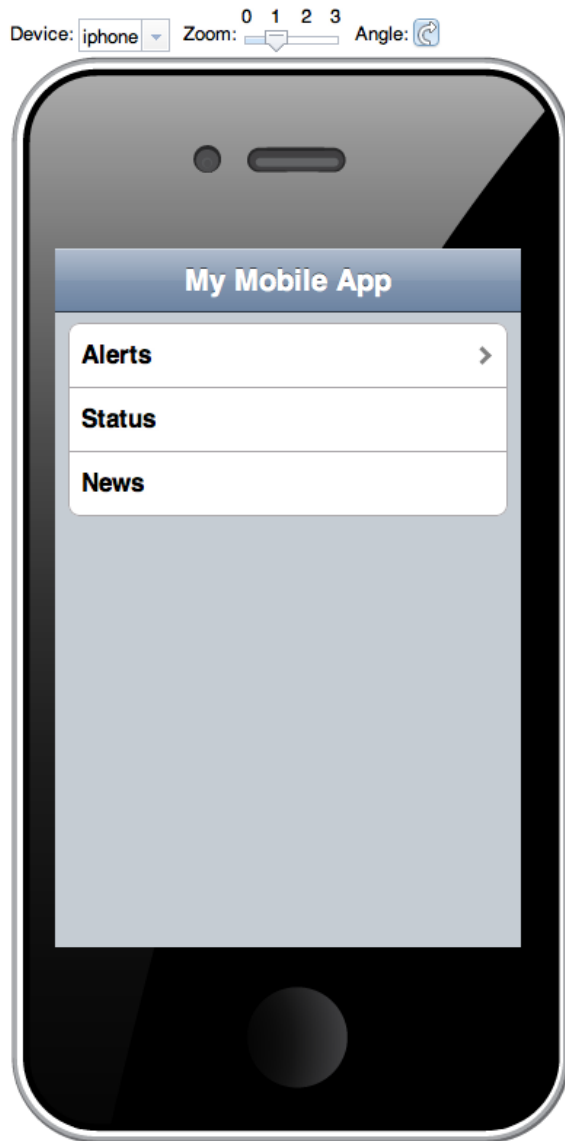
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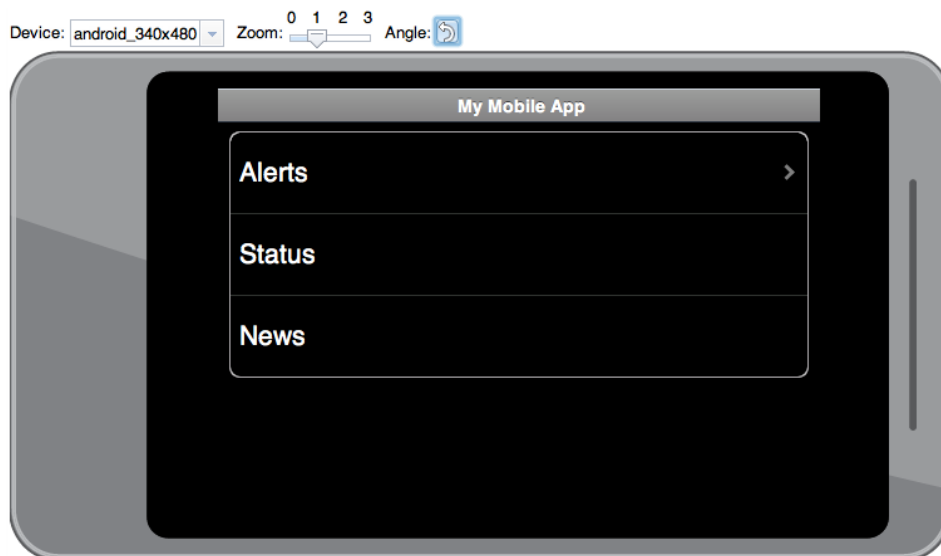
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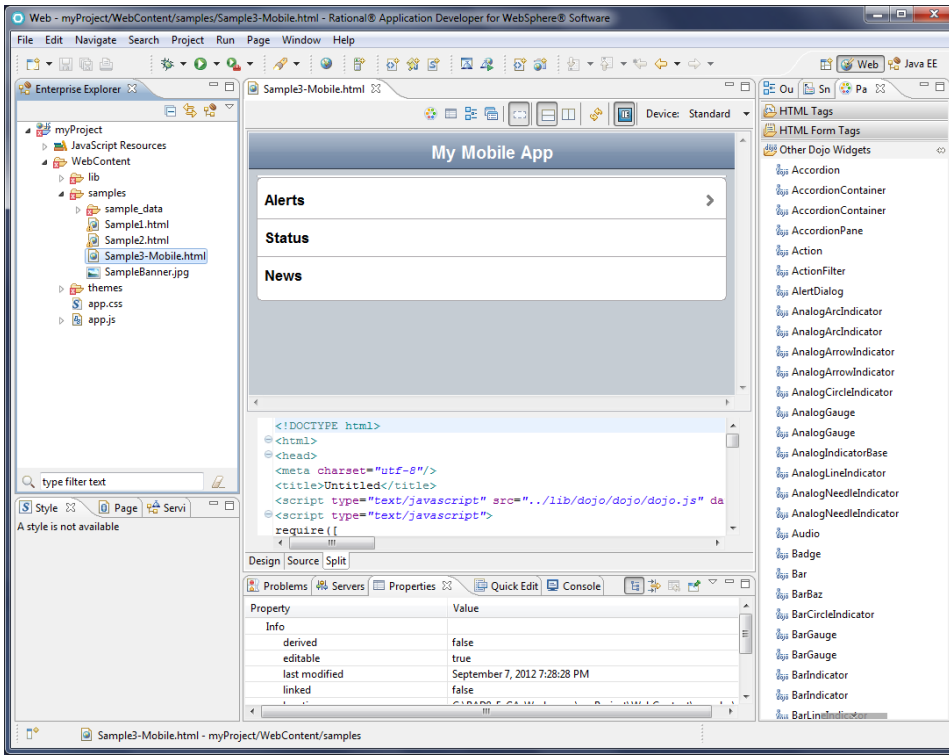


Using the controls in the preview, you can change the device type, change the zoom level, and modify the device's orientation. For example, in the screenshot below, I changed the device type to Android and flipped the device on its side:



Mobile Sample in RAD Page Editor

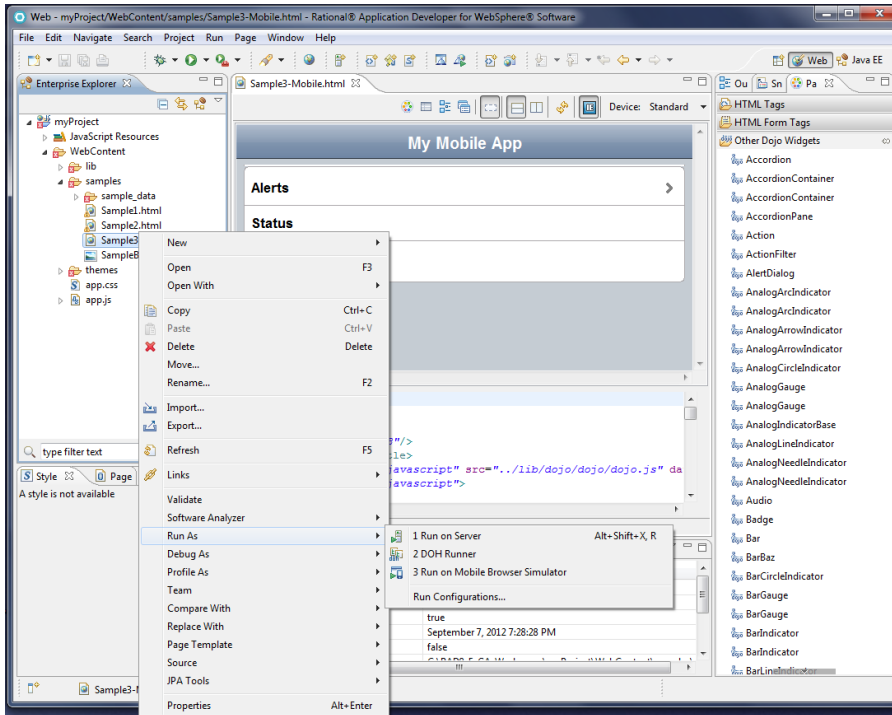
Now, let's switch to RAD. In the screenshot below, I've switched to the *Web Perspective* and opened *Sample3-Mobile.html* in RAD's Rich Page Editor. As you can see, the rendering looks a lot like like it did in Maqetta (the main difference being there's no device silhouette).



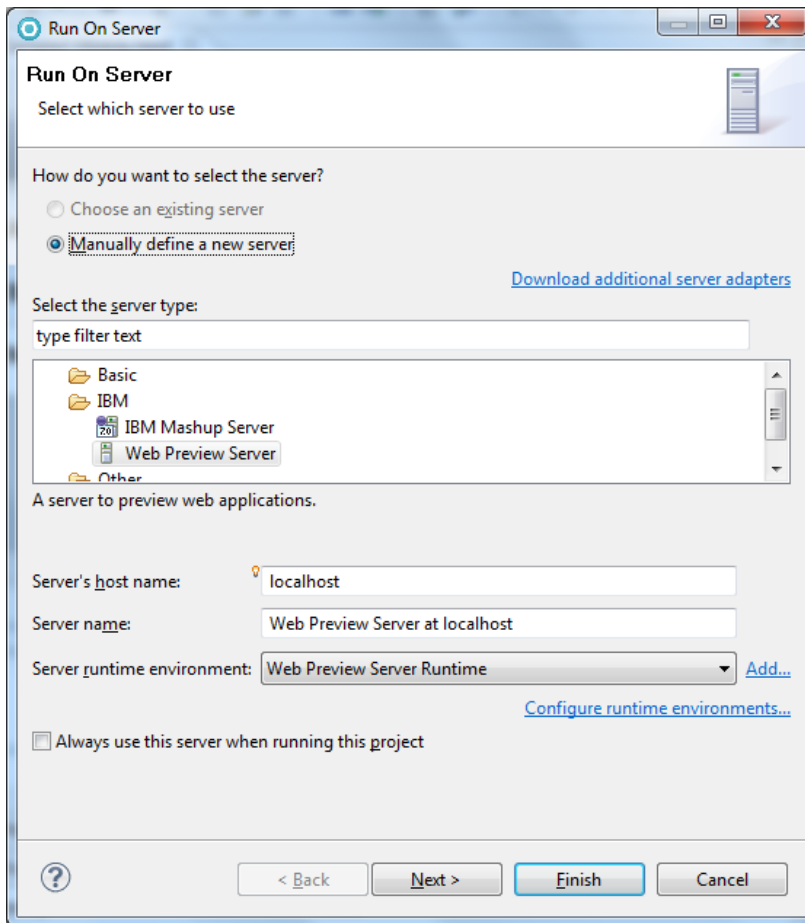
Using RAD's Mobile Preview

Now, of course, the next logical thing to do would be to launch the UI in a true mobile previewer like we did earlier in Maqetta. But, unlike Maqetta, there's some extra set-up required to use RAD's mobile preview:

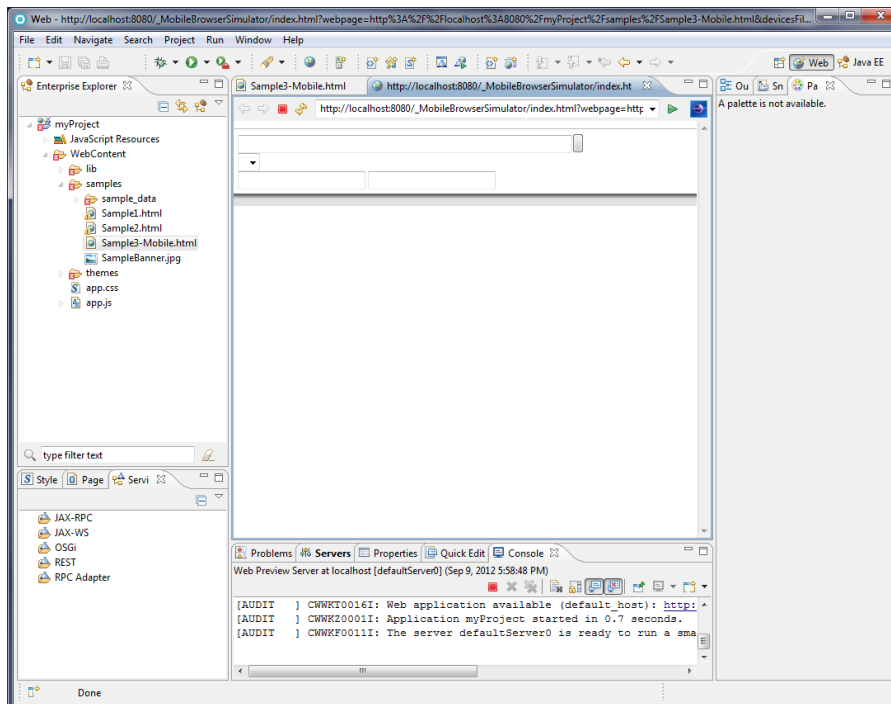
1. First, right-click on *Sample3-Mobile.html* in the Explorer tab and choose *Run As -> Run on Mobile Browser*.



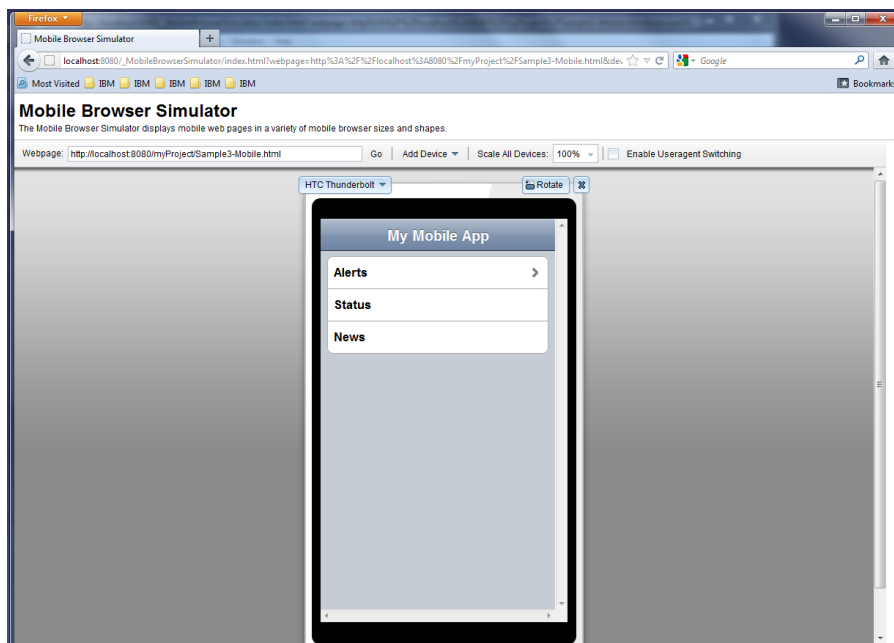
2. This will cause the *Run on Server* wizard to launch. Click *Finish*.



3. When the wizard goes away, you'll see a *Progress Information* dialog.
4. Once processing is complete, the progress dialog will disappear and an inline browser will be shown within RAD with a rendering of the page that looks pretty useless. But, luckily, as we'll see in the next step, we can solve the issue very easily.



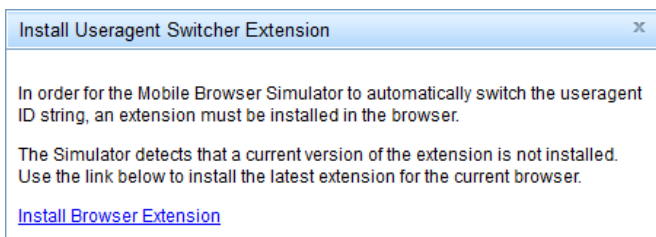
5. The trick here is that we need to move to a full, standalone browser for the Mobile Browser Simulator to work properly. With that in mind, copy the URL in the inline browser's address bar from RAD and paste it into your desktop browser. At this point, you should see a mobile rendering more like you'd expect as the shown in the screenshot below. (NOTE: I happen to be using Firefox in the screenshots, but at the time of this writing the Mobile Browser Simulator [supports Firefox 3.6+ and Chrome 17+](#)).



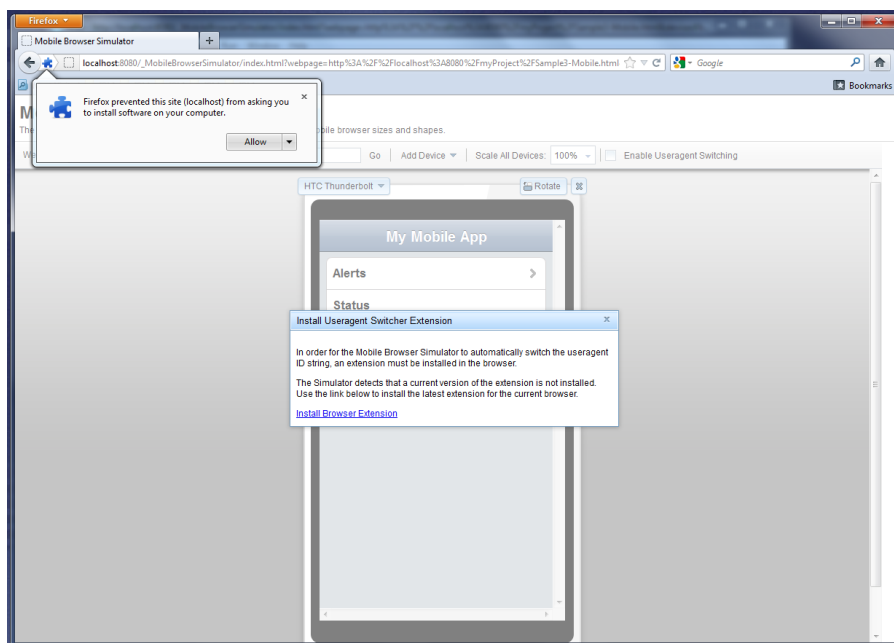
Enabling User-Agent Switching in Mobile Browser Simulator

One of the features we saw earlier in Maqetta's preview was the ability to switch to different devices. If we want to do that in Mobile Browser Simulator provided by RAD, we need to enable user-agent switching (which is a one-time set-up):

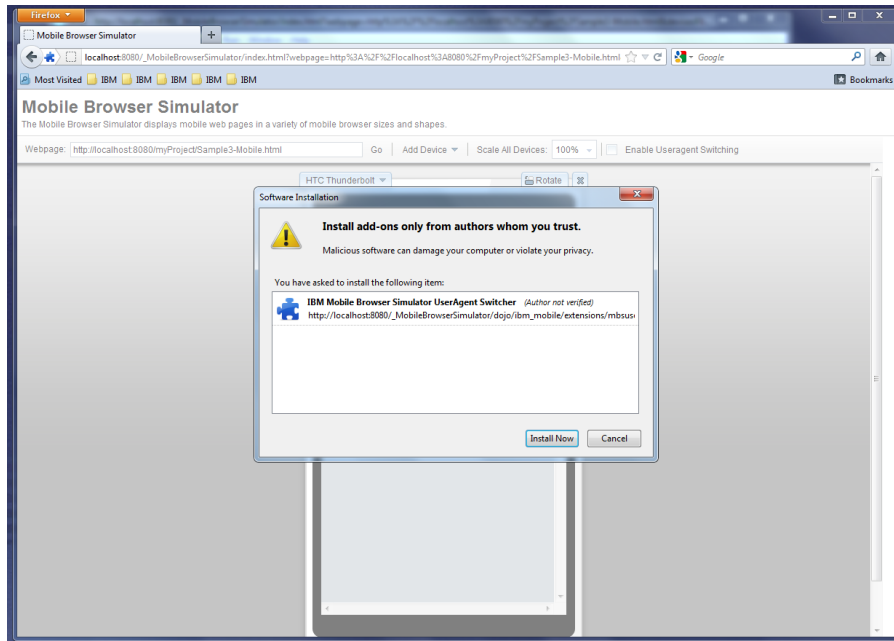
1. First, click on the *Enable Useragent Switching* checkbox which will bring up the dialog below. Then, click on the *Install Browser Extension* link.



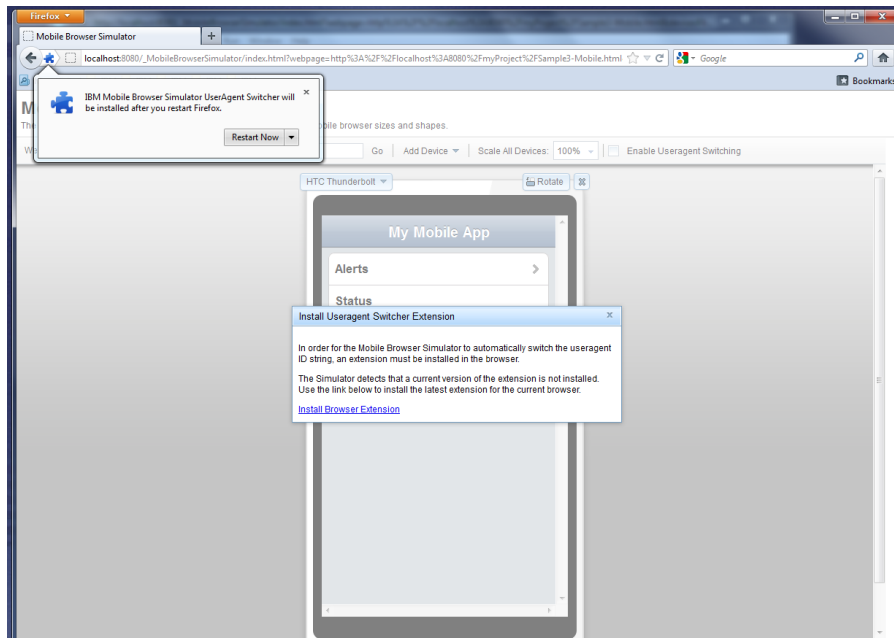
2. Firefox will then present a pop-up saying it prevented software from being installed. At this point, you should click the *Allow* button on that dialog.



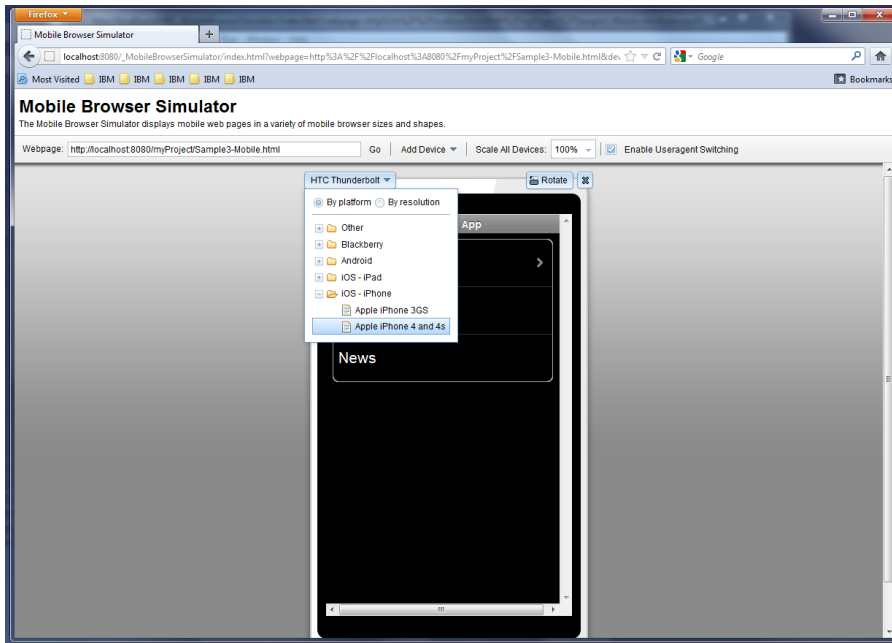
3. Next, you will see the typical warning about only installing add-ons from trusted sources. Click *Install Now*.



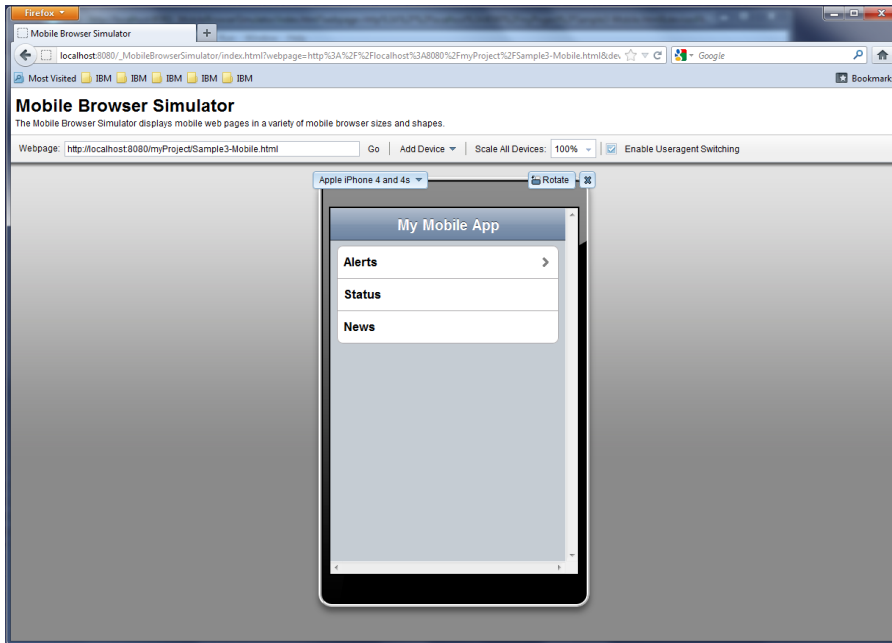
4. When Firefox asks if you want to restart the browser, click the *Restart Now* button.



5. When the browser is restarted, you'll see that the *Sample3-Mobile.html* file is rendered using the *HTC Thunderbolt* device (the default for the Mobile Browser Simulator). And, you can see the other available device types by clicking on the device menu.



6. If you choose *Apple iPhone 4 and 4S*, you will see the rendering similar to what we had when we started in Maqetta:



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