

Forms To Go

V I.7

August 1, 2003

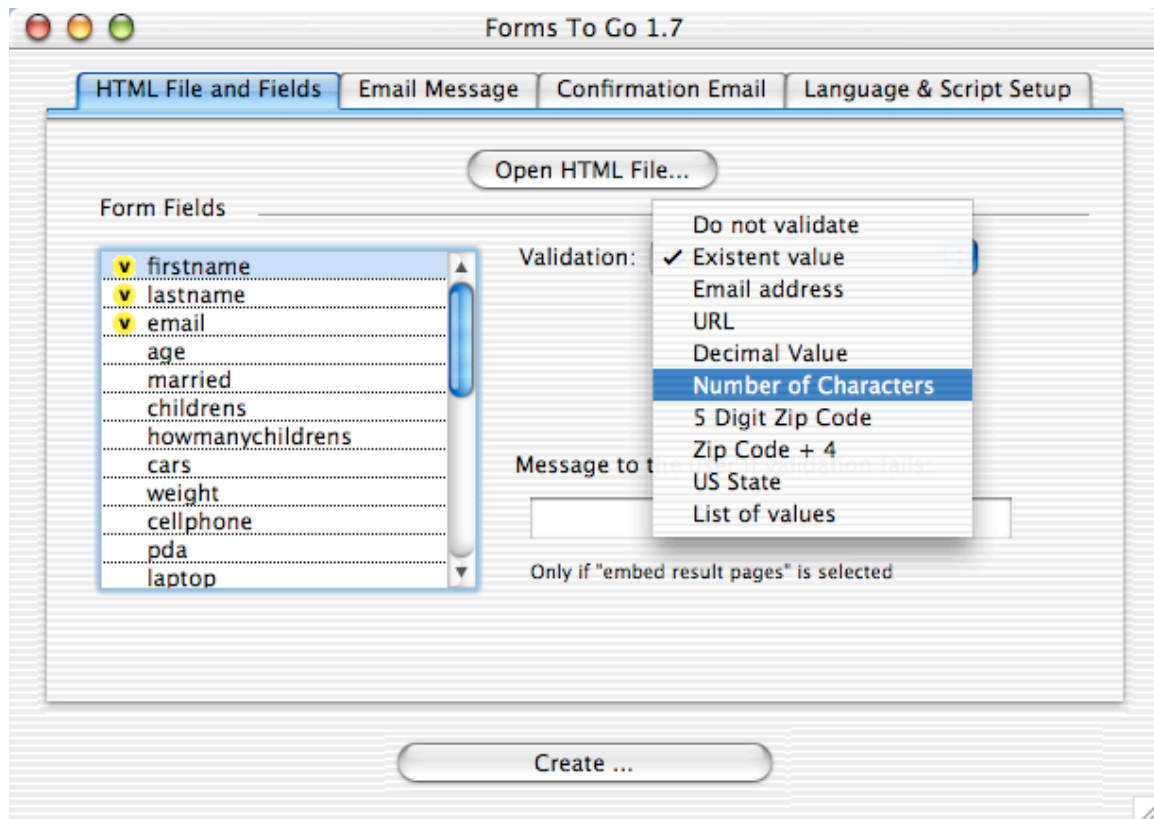
Introduction

What is Forms To Go?

Forms To Go is an application that create PHP, ASP or Perl scripts to process HTML forms and send the form's field values thru email.

No previous experience or knowledge of any of the above programming languages is required. This is the main reason why Forms To Go exists. If you're an experienced programmer, you may still find Forms To Go useful, since it'll save you time to code often requested features in websites that are time consuming.

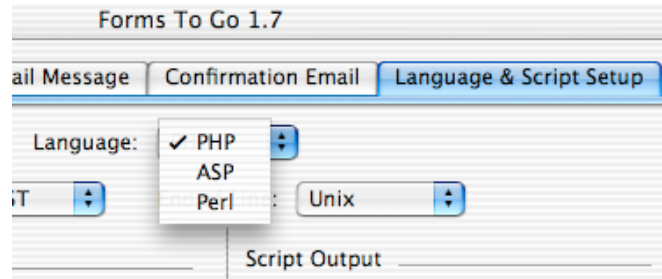
You can customize Forms To Go to perform field validation prior to be sent by email. You can force a user to fill required fields, that a specific field has a email address, or that a name field contains from 3 to 15 characters. There are many field validation types available.



Which language should you use: PHP, Perl o ASP?

Actually there are 2 and almost unique options to host a website: Unix or Windows

Almost all Unix hosting providers offer PHP or Perl, while almost all Windows hosting providers offer ASP. Many hosting proviers offer ASP on Unix and PHP and/or Perl on Windows. Not a common thing, but it exists for your convenience.



You must check which scripting language supports your hosting provider in order to use Forms To Go. If it supports more than one, it's up to you which one to use.

Does not require programming knowledge

Forms To Go is an application that doesn't require programming knowledge, but it still requires some basic information in order to work with your server environment. All the questions you'll have about which parameters to use, can be answered by your hosting provider.

There is only one thing you must do after creating the script: you must change your HTML form to add the path to the script. We'll explain more about this later.

Requirements, Installations and Update

Requirements

Forms To Go is a simple application that doesn't need too many system resources, neither it need specific installation procedures.

The Windows version of Forms To Go runs on any Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP, while the Macintosh version is carbonized, and runs on 8.6 and up, including OS X.

Installation

Simply put the application in the folder you wish, and run it from there. If you're running Forms To Go from Windows, you may want to copy eSellerate.dll, which is a library that allows you to purchase and register the software within the application.

Update

The update process is very easy: simply replace the old application in your hard disk and you're on your way to using the new application. Forms To Go will convert the preference file.

Note to registered users of Forms To Go 1.0: due to a serial scheme change from version 1.5, users of version 1.0 needs a new serial number. Please email support@bebosoftware.com or ask for your new serial number. There is no charge for this.

Using Forms To Go

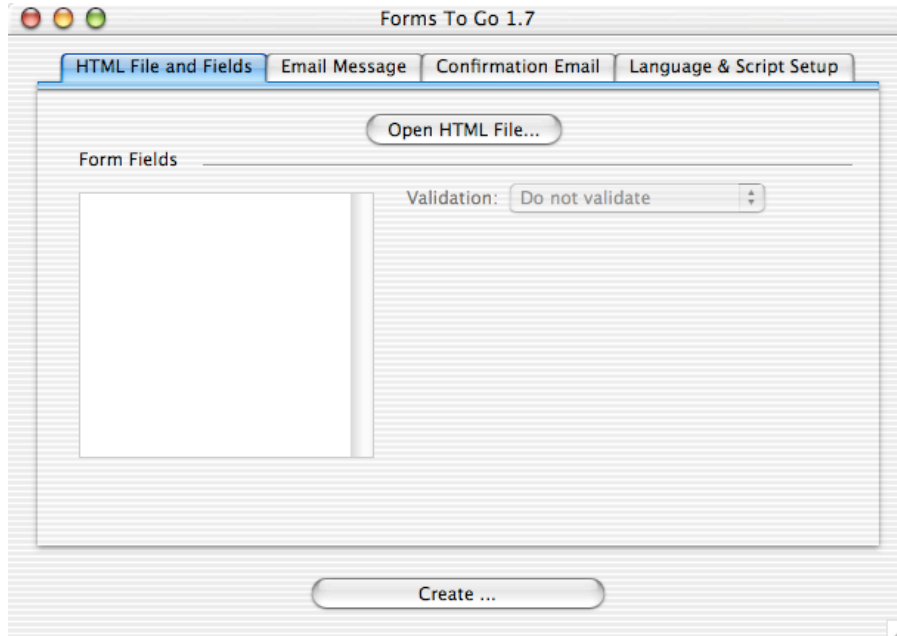
Forms To Go is very simple and intuitive for programmers, but many web designers which are not familiar with computer terms, should read this chapter.

Basically, there are 6 steps:

- Read the HTML form
- If desired, select any field validation
- Set values of the email
- Select the scripting language
- Create the script
- Modify your HTML form

Read the HTML form

The first thing you must know is that your web page should have a FORM which the need of a script. Create this form and save it to your disk. Then, go to the first tab: “HTML file and fields” you’ll find the button “Open HTML file...”. Press this button and open the form in your hard disk.



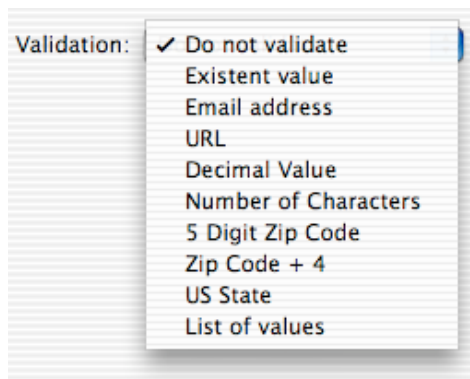
If your web page contains more than one form, Forms To Go will ask you to select for which form you want to create the script.

If desired, set any field validation

Before sending the email with the form values, you may want to verify that one or more fields have proper values, like a valid email address or a valid name, and if any of the verification fails, warn the user to correct those values before completing the form.

A special feature for registered users only is that the script can be customized to alert the user about which fields were not in the proper format. This can be done by “Embedding the result pages into the script” (more later) and writing a specific message for every field that must be validated.

It's not mandatory to select field validation, but if you want to, here are the validation options available:



Existent value

This option will only check if the form field is empty or not. If it's a text field with one or more characters, a radio button or checkbox checked, or a selected popupmenu are enough to be considered as existent value.

Email address

If you want to make sure that the value of a field is a valid formatted email address, you should check this option. While it cannot verify that the email address exists, it will be good enough to filter badly written email addresses.

URL

This field validation will verify that the value of the field is a valid and correct URL, like <http://domain>

Decimal value

Check for decimal or integer values greater than and/or lower than with this option, like user older than 18 years, available memory between 128 and 256 Mbytes.

You can type one value: greater or equal, or lower or equal.

HTML File and Fields | Email Message | Confirmation Email | Language & Script Setup

Open HTML File...

Form Fields

Validation: Number of Characters

Range: \geq 4 AND \leq 24

Message to the user if validation fails:
Last Name must have between 4 and 24 ch

Only if "embed result pages" is selected

Also, you can type both values, and the validation will be made for greater or equal and lower or equal.

Number of characters

Great for text fields, where you want to check that there is a minimum and/or maximum number of characters, like a name no greater than 15 characters.

If work much likely the Decimal value validation

5 digit zip code

If you're collecting US postal addresses and want to check for a 5 digit zip code, this is the option you should use. This option work as an alias for a decimal validation \geq 10000 and \leq 99999, and not for a US valid zip code number.

Zip code + 4

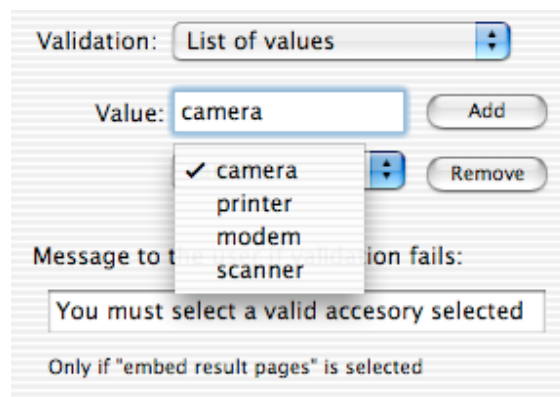
Like the previous field validation, this option will check for a field with the value like nnnnn-nnnn, used in the zip postal code in US postal addresses.

US state

Another option to check for valid US postal address, is to verify the 2 characters abbreviation of the state name. This field validation will check for those 2 specific characters.

List of values

If you're working with a checkbox, radio button or popupmenu, you might want to filter or check that the user has selected the specific field values, like sex=male or sex=female. You can use this option to check a field for those values. You can specify as many values as you wish



The screenshot shows a form validation configuration window. At the top, there is a 'Validation:' label followed by a dropdown menu set to 'List of values'. Below this, there is a 'Value:' label followed by a text input field containing 'camera'. To the right of the input field are 'Add' and 'Remove' buttons. A dropdown menu is open below the 'Value:' field, showing a list of items: 'camera' (with a checkmark), 'printer', 'modem', and 'scanner'. Below the list, there is a 'Message to the user when validation fails:' label followed by a text area containing the message 'You must select a valid accessory selected'. At the bottom, there is a small text label that reads 'Only if "embed result pages" is selected'.

Set the values for the email

The script can be setup to send one or two emails. It will always send the email to the script or form owner, with all the fields values, but optionally can send a courtesy email to the user that filled the form.

The Email message

After you've read the HTML form, you can switch to the "Email Message" tab, where you can set up the email you will receive with the form values.

One mandatory value for the script to work is in the “To” text box. Type here the email address where the form will be send. In the “Subject” text box type the subject of the email you will be receiving.

Forms To Go 1.7

HTML File and Fields | **Email Message** | Confirmation Email | Language & Script Setup

To: <your @ email.com> From: [dropdown]

Subject: <email subject>

Field: [dropdown] Add

10 20 30 40 50 60 70

```

firstname: #firstname#
lastname: #lastname#
email: #email#
age: #age#
married: #married#
childrens: #childrens#
howmanychildrens: #howmanychildrens#
cars: #cars#
weight: #weight#
cellphone: #cellphone#

```

Create ...

You must select the “From” value for the email, and this will be any field from the HTML form. This assumes that you will be asking for the email of the user in the HTML form. Future version will allow to override this option and type a free value.

The mail message can be customized in any way. You can type static text, freely add spaces, returns and other symbols. The fields values will be written in the text between the # symbol. You can delete, insert, append or duplicate the form field values by selecting them in the popupmenu and pressing the “Add” button.

Field: - Browser (HTTP_USER_AGENT... Add

10 20 30 40 50 60 70

```

firstname: #firstname#
lastname: #lastname#

Browser: #FTG_S_HTTP_USER_AGENT#
Date: #FTG_E_DATE_TIME YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS#

```

Also, there is an option to add values in the email that are available from the server, like the date and time, and/or from the user environment, like which

browser is using or from which IP address is connecting. (user environment variables is a feature only available to registered users)

The “Confirmation Email”

This option is available only for subscribing users of the software which will allow to send a courtesy email to the user that filled the form. You setup this email like you did in the “Email Message” tab.

Of course, here is mandatory that one of the fields of the forms is the email address of the user.

Select the scripting language

Clicking on the tab “Language Setup” will allow you to select the language to be used to create the script, and as we mentioned before, it’s up to you to select the language that best fits your hosting service. For this kind of script that sends an email with the form values, there is no better language than other. All those scripting languages perform very well.

Method of the HTML form

An HTML form has a METHOD attribute that can send the form values to a script by GET or POST method. You must specify in this popup menu which is the method you selected in your HTML form. Specifying the incorrect method will make the script to not perform correctly.

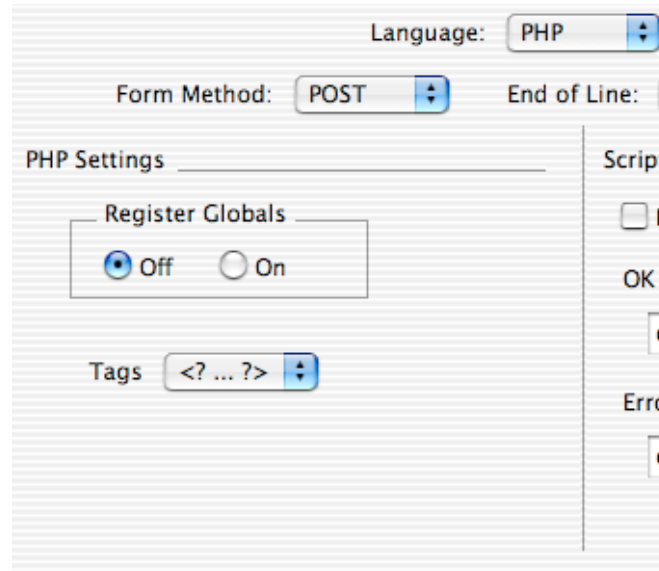
End of line

It’s very important that you select the end of line that matches the operating system where you’re running the script. If the script will run on a Unix server, you must select “Unix” in this popup menu. Likewise, if the script will run on a Windows server, you must select windows. The “Mac” option is only for compatibility purposes, if there is a user running a web server on MacOS 9 or before, using MacPerl.

After you select the language, this popup menu will be set automatically: Unix for PHP or Perl, and Windows for ASP, but this is not definitive: if you’ll be running a PHP script on a Windows server, you must change the end of line to Windows.

PHP

If you select PHP as the programming language, you have two parameters to set up.



Register Globals

For security reasons, starting PHP 4.2.0 a controversial decision was made and the default installation of PHP set the Register Globals directive to OFF (ON on previous versions). This was very controversial because many scripts started to fail when hosting providers upgraded their PHP installation. Our main goal is not to get into details of Register Globals, so here is the hint on how to set it up: if your hosting provider is using PHP 4.2 or above, set Register Globals to OFF. If your hosting provider is using an older version of PHP, like 3.0.18 and earlier, set the Register Globals directive to ON.

Tags

Classic tags for enclosing PHP code are `<?PHP ... ?>` but a shorter version is also very common: `<? ... ?>`. Another option that PHP will allow are ASP like tags: `<% ... %>`. I've found that some PHP programmers use this "ASP like" tags when scripting and working with WYSIWYG web layout programs, which recognize that code as ASP code and won't mess or modify it. If you're unsure about which one select, go ahead with the classic `<?PHP ... ?>`

ASP

ASP is a widely supported scripting language for the web and you must specify which email component to be used to send email

Language: ASP

Form Method: POST

End of Line: CRLF

ASP Settings

Email Component

☒ ASP Email
by Persists Software Inc. Microsoft IIS

☐ CDONTS

☐ ASP Mail
by ServerObjects Inc.

SMTP Server

Script...

OK

Cancel

Error...

Email component

Forms To Go can send email in an ASP script using two very popular email components which have similar names: ASPEmail and ASPMail, or using CDONTS, which is a Microsoft Windows standard.

Using ASPEmail or ASPMail, you must specify an SMTP Host, which will be used by the email component to send the emails.

If you select CDONTS and you're using Windows NT as your hosting server, you don't need to specify the SMTP server. The script will use the internal SMTP server of Windows NT. CDONTS are not installed by default in other version of Windows Servers, like XP.

Ask your hosting service provider which email component is installed on their servers.

Perl

One of the most popular scripting languages for creating CGI and process forms since the web started, had been a little bit darkened by PHP and ASP, but still, it's a powerful scripting language for the Internet, and there two important parameters you must specify if you want to create your script in Perl.

Language: Perl

Form Method: POST

End of Line:

Perl Settings

Perl path: /usr/local/bin/perl

Sendmail path: /usr/sbin/sendmail -t

File Extension: .pl

Script

☐ OK F

☐ Error

Perl path

You must specify in this text box which is the path to the Perl interpreter in your server. Generally it's located on `/usr/bin/perl` or `/usr/local/bin/perl`, but the best way to know it is to ask your hosting provider.

Sendmail path

The Perl script will use sendmail to send the email to its destination, and you must specify the sendmail path. A common place is `/usr/sbin/sendmail` for many Unix installations, but again (you guessed it) you must ask your hosting provider.

Also, make sure to check which flags must be set when invoking sendmail, because for security reasons, almost all hosting service providers will limit the way sendmail is used, and will ask to include `-t` and `-i` flags when invoking sendmail. Other hosting services are more strict and will ask for more options to be set.

After you know the path to sendmail and which options must be set, type them in the "Sendmail Path" box, like `/usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i`

Actions taken by the script after the form is processed

After the form is processed, if no validation field had been set or if all validation as been cleared, the script will redirect the user to a OK HTML page, which you must create with a message that the form as been submitted OK.

Without embedding the result in the script

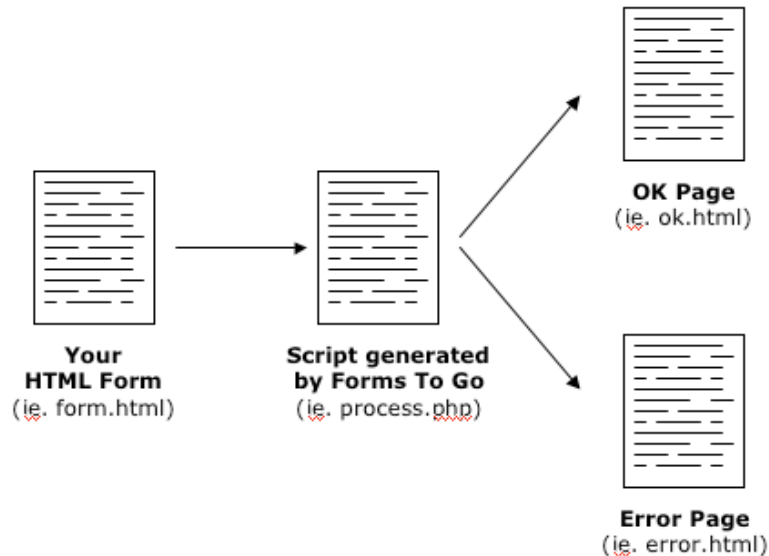
Script Output _____

☐ Embed result pages in the script

OK Page

Error page

This OK HTML page can be located in the same directory of the script, another directory or any other website. If it's located in the same server, type the path to the OK page in the text box "OK Page". If it's a URL located outside the server, type the full URL like <http://www.anotherdomain.com/thanks.html>



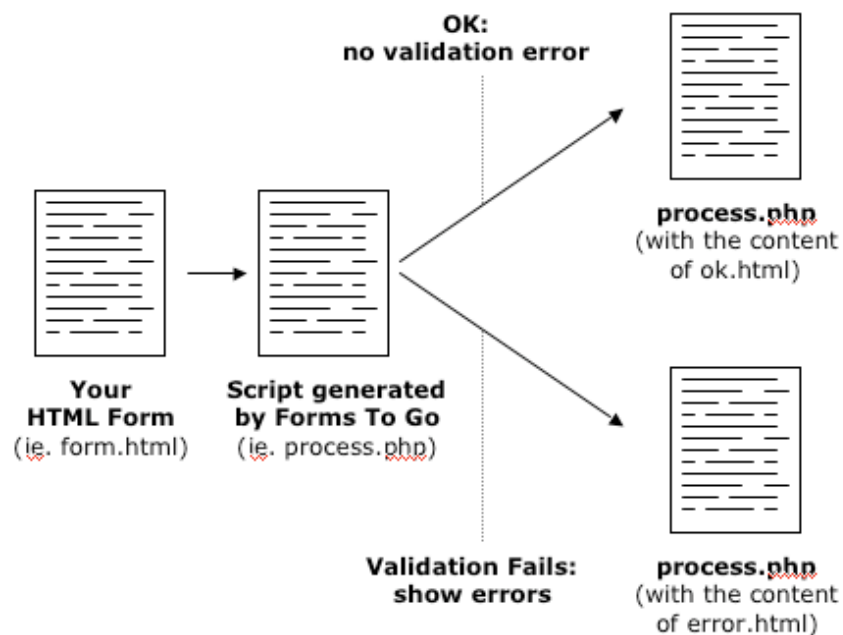
If "Embed Result in the script" is NOT CHECKED, your script will function like this illustration

If you selected validation for one or more fields and any of the field didn't succeed the validation, the user will be redirected to a ERROR HTML page, which you must also create with a message to the user notifying that one or more fields have incorrect values and he must press the back button to return to the form.

Embedding the result pages in the script

This is a new feature introduced in Forms To Go 1.7. If you select this option, the created script will show the result pages, OK Page or Error page, embedded in the script.

If you don't embed the result pages in the script, Forms To Go will create a script that will redirect the user to the OK Page if no validation is selected or there are no validation errors, and will redirect the user to the ERROR page if there is a validation error.



If “Embed Result in the script” is CHECKED, your script will function like this illustration

If you check “**Embed the Result in the script**”, when the user submit the form to the script, the OK Page or Error Page will be read by the script and sent to the browser, without redirection, with the script's URL in the browser.

Because you're embedding the result pages in the script, it is possible to alter the OK Page and Error Page with information available in the script, and this information can be different error messages for every field that didn't success in the validation.

If you include an HTML comment like `<!-- VALIDATIONERROR -->` in the Error Page, this HTML comment will be replaced by all the messages written in the validation error field:

You can optionally add a Message for every field that doesn't succeed the validation

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Forms To Go - Error Form</title>
</head>
<body bgcolor="#ffffff">

  Your form has the following errors:<P>

  <!-- VALIDATIONERROR -->

  <P>
  Press the BACK button and correct the errors.

</body>
</html>
```

The script will replace <!--VALIDATIONERROR --> with all the predefined user messages

Create the script

If you've read your HTML form, set the "To" field in the "Email message" tab and selected a programming language, you're ready to create the script. If any of the mandatory values is missing, you'll see an error message notifying which values are required.

If everything is OK, you'll see a window asking you to select which is the location where you want to save the script. Also, you can specify a different name and extension for the script.

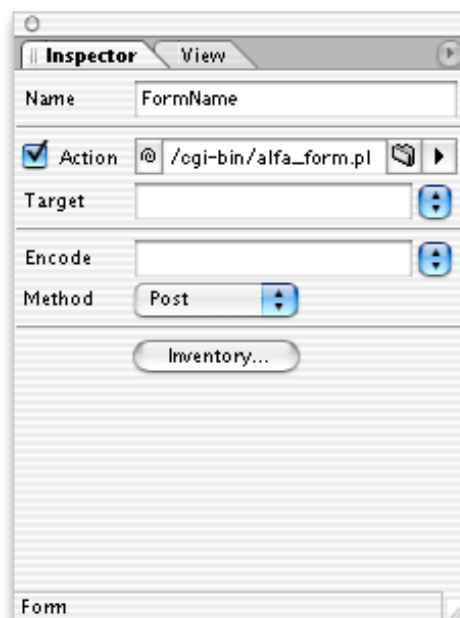
Modify your HTML form

In order for your HTML form to work, you must include the path to your recently created script in the ACTION attribute of the FORM tag. You can do this using your favorite web creation and layout program, with the notepad or a text editor.

```
<p></p>
<form action="/cgi-bin/alfa_form.pl" method="post">
  <table width="380" border="1" cellspacing="2" ce'
    <tr>
      <td>First Name</td>
      <td><input type="text" name="firstname" :
    </tr>
```

Editing with a notepad

Make sure you type the correct path. An example of this is: if the script is in ASP or PHP and is located in the same directory as the HTML form, just type the name of the script. If the script is located on a special folder, type the path to that folder from the HTML form.



Example: Changing form attributes with Adobe GoLive's Inspector

Special care must be taken with the scripts written on Perl. For security reasons and the way Perl language works, many web servers and hosting service providers use a standard way of invoking Perl scripts, and maybe you'll have to include them in a special directory named cgi-bin.

Also, your hosting service provider will ask you to name the file with .pl or .cgi or .perl, depending on the configuration.

Preferences

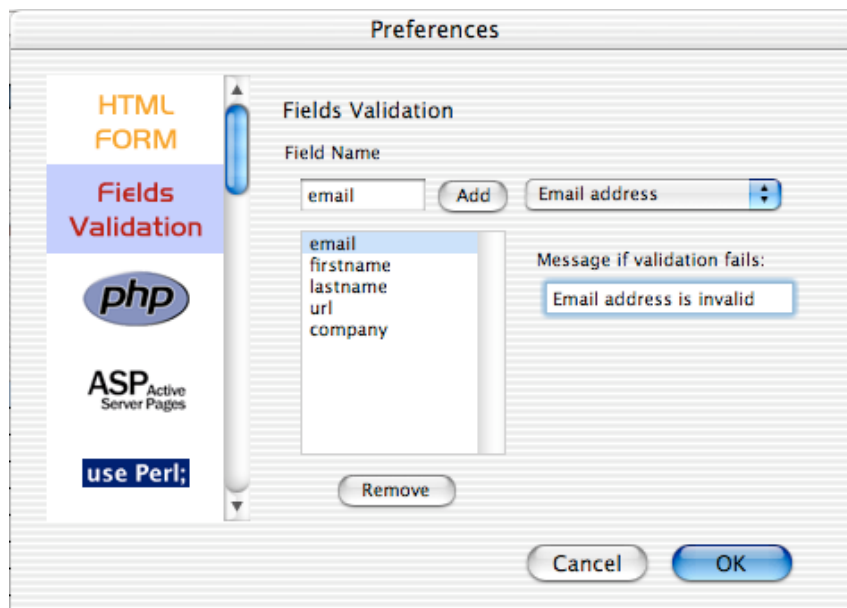
Available from version 1.6, you can set many values in the Preference window which you can invoke from the menu.

HTML forms

In this preference panel you can set some options that affect the HTML form you will read. At this moment there are only 3 options which allow you to include or not in the field's value list, some type of tags that are not commonly used for values: SUBMIT, RESET and IMAGE tags.

Validation Fields

In order to save time setting validations for every field when you open new HTML forms, you can preset field names for specific validation: i.e.: you can set that every time an HTML form is opened and a field named “**email**” is found, to apply the **Email Validation**



This way, you can preset as many field names as you want and as long your forms have those field names, they will be automatically validated when the you open a new HTML Form.

Unregistered version of Forms To Go will only be able to include 2 predefined field validations. Registered version can add unlimited field validations.

PHP

In this preference panel you can preselect the parameters already explained in section 3.4.3

ASP

Like 4.2, in this preference panel you can select the parameters already explained in section 3.4.4

Perl

Like 4.2, you can select the parameters which will be used in section 3.4.5 in this preference panel.

JSP

We're working to include JSP as an additional language in Forms To Go and we've made visible this empty preference panel in order to know the interest of the users for JSP. Depending on the interest, we'll include it on the next version or maybe later in another future version.

Script

This preference panel let you specify many parameters which will affect the script.

You can specify the default language, as well the OK page and ERROR page you will use.

Also, you can specify that the METHOD should be read from the HTML file, or to be set to GET or POST by default.

Updates

This option will allow a silent check for updates of Forms To Go everytime the program is launched. The program won't send any information about your computer or data. It'll only ask BeboSoft.com server for a new release of the software, in order to keep you updated with the latest release for bug fixes and new features.

Frequently Asked Questions

In our web site you can find many frequently asked questions that can help in your Forms To Go experience.

Check them out at:

<http://www.bebosoft.com/support/faq/>

Support

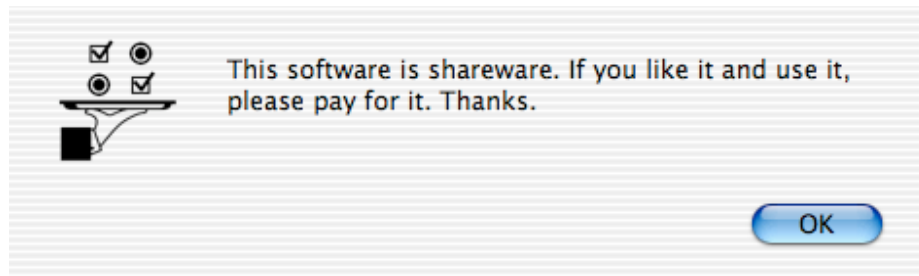
If you need more help that could not find in this manual, please feel free to contact us thru email at support@bebosoft.com or thru our website <http://www.bebosoft.com/>

We answer to all messages we receive in a maximum time frame of 2 to 3 days, but unfortunately we cannot help you with problems that are beyond Forms To Go, like problems with PHP, Perl or ASP.

Registering Forms To Go

Forms To Go is shareware

Shareware means that if you like it and use the application, you must register and pay for it. There are some options in Forms To Go that are only available to registered users and many more features will be added in the future that will only be available to registered users.



Also, you will remove all registration reminders.

Forms To Go is \$ 10.95 (USD). You can purchase it thru the application, which is safe, secure and fast, or thru our web store, which is also safe and secure.

In both cases you'll receive an receipt by email with detailed information about the purchase, including a serial number.

If you purchased thru our webstore, after receiving the serial by email, you'll need to register it by inserting your name (as typed at the time of the purchase) and the serial number.

If you purchased thru the application, you'll be registered immediatly.

Lifetime registration warranty

We warrant you that future releases of Forms To Go will work with the serial number you'll receive and you won't have to make payments for future upgrades, even if they have new features.

Also, as the application grows we're expecting to increase the price for it. Don't pay a higher price for future version.

Contact Us

If you have any question, any, please contact us at:

Web site: <http://www.bebosoft.com/>

Email: support@bebosoft.com

We appreciate all your comments and suggestions, as well other inquires you have.

Change Log

Version 1.7 – August 1, 2003

- [new] – Field validation can be preset in the preferences. Every new processed form will have specific validation set according to the field name
- [new] – Result pages (ok page and error page) can be embedded into the script generated by Forms To Go. This will allow customization of the error page and avoids caching of the result pages.
- [new] – Include a different error message for every form values that fails validation
- [new] – Show an icon before every field name that currently have any type of validation
- [new] – Show an alert icon before every field name that contains characters not allowed in field names according to the standard
- [new] – Better code for PHP, ASP and Perl

Version 1.6.2 - July 8, 2003

- [new] – When user change the preferences, it is notified that they will be applied after a new form is loaded
- [fix] – Field names repeated for HTML radio buttons and popup menus.
- [fix] – ASP script had many bugs in code for date, zip code validation and confirmation email to user
- [fix] – PHP script had many bugs in code for list values validation, using a function that was only available in the newest beta PHP 5, and zip code validation
- [fix] – Perl script had many bugs in code for list values and zip code validation

Version 1.6.1 – July 2, 2003

- [fix] – <textarea> and <select> tags where filtered out. This bug was introduced on 1.6 and due to the importance, a new build was made

Version 1.6 – July 1, 2003

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- [new] - Support for Perl programming language
- [new] - Preferences window which allow setup of many parameters
- [new] - Preference's enabled auto check for updates
- [new] - Ability to filter SUBMIT, RESET and IMAGE type input's tags if desired

[new] - Range fields will be visible only when range validation options (decimal and number of characters) are selected
[new] - Support for multiple forms in the same HTML page
[new] - Automatically set the Method popup menu based on the METHOD attribute of the form
[new] - Environment variables: Date, Time, Date & Time in email message
[new] - New validation type: by value list. Field value must match any value in the specified list
[new] - New validation type: existent value
[new] - Set PHP tags used in the script

[fix] - Special char \$ is now escaped if used in email body or subject for PHP script

Version 1.5.2 - May 28, 2003

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[new] - Change the behavior of the CREATE push button. Instead of dimming it because all required fields or actions were not completed, now is always enabled, and displays an error message of missing parameters

[fix] - ASP scripts were not sending email with ASPEmail or ASPMail components due

[fix] - ASP scripts failed to process some ASPEmail or ASPMail methods

[fix] - Body email constructed in ASP missing end of line characters

[fix] - Validation by Number of Decimal of Value Range failed if any of the range value was empty

[fix] - The filename displayed in the success window after creating the script was wrong

[fix] - Does not allow the user to run the script with the default email addresses in the "Email Message" and "Confirmation Email" tabs

Version 1.5.1 - May 28, 2003

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[fix] - Registering the software won't remove all registration warnings

Version 1.5 - May 26, 2003

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[new] - Support for ASP (Visual Basic) scripting language and 3 email

components

- [new] - Confirmation message to sender
- [new] - Better PHP/ASP script: more verbose
- [new] - Register Globals options for PHP
- [new] - Specify the METHOD of the form
- [new] - Select the type of end of line for the script file
- [new] - More validation options: 5 Digit Zip Code, Zip + 4, Telephone Number, US State Abbreviations
- [new] - Include 2 server variables in the email message
- [new] - Software purchase option inside the application using eSellerate.net

- [fix] - Bad characters in field names when reading some forms
- [fix] - If there is a missing range limit, the script will parse error.
- [fix] - Only numeric characters, delete, left arrow and right arrow allowed in the range fields
- [fix] - Cosmetic fixes when resizing the window and some elements didn't resize
- [fix] - Clicking on the empty list box caused an unhandled error and the application shutdown
- [fix] - Adding double quotes " to the email message will cause the PHP script to fail: Parse Error
- [fix] - Adding double quotes " to the OK Page and Error Page fields will cause the PHP script to fail

Version 1.0 - May 4, 2003

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First release

License Agreement

PLEASE READ THIS SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT "LICENSE" CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THE SOFTWARE. BY USING THE SOFTWARE, YOU AGREE TO THE TERMS OF THIS LICENSE. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE, YOU SHOULD CLICK THE CANCEL BUTTON BELOW.

1-Definitions. For the purposes of this agreement:

"Software" refers to version 1.6 of the computer software supplied with this agreement entitled "Forms To Go" and provided as a computer program

"Serial Number" refers to a 35 digit code that will register the software on your computer and permits unlimited usage of the software functions

"Shareware" refers to a license type of software, where you're allowed to use the software for 30 days without paying any registration fee. After 30 days, if you continue to use the software, you must register and pay for it.

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