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## Emailing Form Input Using ASP

By Amrit Hallan

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Everybody uses online forms these days, whether to get user feedback or to get orders. They present your visitors with a means to convey their message to you.

Most of the webmasters prefer using CGI scripts for processing and emailing form inputs. Such scripts are copiously available, mostly free, at various free-scripts resources on the Net. Most of CGI happens in Perl, so you gotta be in friendly terms with the scripting language in order to fine tune the form-handling script according to your own, special needs.

A better alternative is, using either ASP or PHP. Both scripting languages are easy to use and require less coding. In Perl, if you write a routine in 50 lines, the same routine can be written, in say, 10 lines in ASP.

In this article I'm going to tell you how to write an HTML-form handling script in ASP. This script does two things – it emails you the details entered by the visitor, and then it displays a thank you page. It also checks if the user has left a relevant field, here, email, blank.

There are basically two email handling objects used by the servers supporting the ASP capability, viz., CDONTS and SMTP. We'll see how both work.

First, let us make an HTML page that contains our form (note that every HTML tag is preceded by a dot so that some of the email clients don't throw up a tantrum – you'll have to remove them before implementing the code):

```
"form.html"
```

```
.  
.
```

```
.This is a test page to run an ASP script that handles form input.
```

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.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

And now we write the ASP file that handles the required script to process the above form. Remarks are inserted using ' .

"emailform.asp"

.  
. .  
. .

' You'll need the above command in case you want to show a "Thank you" page, as you'll need to "re-direct" to "thankyou.html".

.  
. .

.The form handling script.

.  
. .

```
.Dim nName, eEmail, AllOk, bText, Mailer  
AllOk = True
```

' We use AllOk to see whether it is Ok to proceed further or not. If AllOk contains "False," we do not proceed. The use of AllOk here may seem needless here, but if there are many fields, it comes handy.

```
nName = Trim(Request.Form("name"))
```

```
eEmail = Trim(Request.Form("email"))
```

```
If Len(eEmail) = 0 then
```

```
Response.Write "You cannot submit details without submitting your email. Please press the BACK  
button of your browser and try again."
```

```
AllOk = False
```

```
End If
```

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If AllOk = True then

```
bText = "The visitor to the web site has entered the following details:" & Chr(13) & Chr(10) & Chr(13) & Chr(10)
```

' We use the combination of Chr(13) and Chr(10) to insert the line breaks.

```
bText = bText & "Visitor's Name: " & nName & Chr(13) & Chr(10)
bText = bText & "Visitor's Email: " & eEmail
```

' This section uses SMTP

' Sending the email to the webmaster.

```
Set Mailer = Server.CreateObject("SMTPsvg.Mailer")
Mailer.FromAddress = eEmail
Mailer.FromName = nName
Mailer.AddRecipient "Webmaster", "webmaster@yourdomain.com"
Mailer.RemoteHost = "mail.yourdomain.com"
Mailer.Subject = "Form submitted at your web site!"
Mailer.BodyText = bText
```

If Mailer.SendMail then

```
Response.Redirect "thankyou.html"
```

Else

```
Response.Redirect "error.html"
```

End If

Set Mailer = nothing

' This section uses CDONTS

' Sending the email to the webmaster.

```
Set Mailer = Server.CreateObject("CDONTS.NewMail")
Mailer.From = eEmail
Mailer.To = "webmaster@yourdomain.com"
Mailer.Subject = "Form submitted at your web site!"
Mailer.Body = bText
```

If Mailer.Send then

```
Response.Redirect "thankyou.html"
```

Else

```
Response.Redirect "error.html"
```

End If

Set Mailer = nothing

End If

.%>

I have demonstrated both CDONTS and SMTP, but you have to use only one. You'll have to ask your web host what to use.

As usual, if you have a doubt, you can write to me at [amrit@bytesworth.com](mailto:amrit@bytesworth.com).

All the best.

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### **Understanding ASP.NET Validation Controls**

**By Balaji**

#### **Understanding ASP.NET Validation Controls by Balaji**

Understanding ASP.NET Validation Controls

After you create a web form, you should make sure that mandatory fields of the form elements such as login name and password are not left blank; data inserted is correct and is within the specified range. Validation is the method of scrutinizing that the user has entered the correct values in input fields. In HTML you can perform validation either by checking the values at client-side or after submitting the form at the server-side. But these methods in HTML take lots of time to create and maintain the code. Moreover, if the user has disabled JavaScript then he or she may not receive the message regarding the error.

Therefore, in ASP.NET you can use ASP.NET Validation Controls while creating the form and specify what ASP.NET Validation Controls you want to use and to which server control you want bind this. ASP.NET Validation Controls are derived from a common base class and share a common set of properties and methods. You just have to drag and drop the ASP.NET Validation Control in the web form and write one line of code to describe its functionality.

This reduces the developer time from writing JavaScript for each type of validation. Moreover, through ASP.NET Validation Controls if any invalid data is entered the browser itself detects the error on the client side and displays the error without requesting the server. This is another advantage because it reduces the server load.

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The five types of ASP.NET Validation Controls in ASP.NET Framework include:

- **RequiredField Validation control:** prompts message if any input field is left blank. This validation control can also be used to prompt message to the user if he or she has left any input field with its default value.
- **Range Validation control:** Prompts message to the user, if the data entered in the input field is not within the range of the values specified by the Maximum and Minimum properties of the validation control.
- **Comparison Validation control:** Allows the user to compare two values and check for comparisons such as equality, greater-than, less-than etc. In addition you can check whether the data entered in the input field is of the data type as specified by you.
- **RegularExpression Validation control:** Allows you to validate if the format of a certain input field is correct or not. You can check the validation of the commonly performed formats such as social security numbers, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers, and postal code.
- **Custom Validation control:** Allows you to define your own condition for validating the data in the input fields. Two validation functions can be performed using Custom Validation control: first on the server-side and second on the client-side. These functions contain logic defined by you to validate the input fields. These functions returns the True value and False value, if the condition you specified is correct or not respectively.

If the control's value does not validate to what you have specified in the validation control tag, the web form displays an error message. Moreover, you can customize the format of the error message by using the control properties such as BackColor, BorderStyle, and BorderWidth. In addition, you can use Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) to format an error message.

To access online version of the above article, please go to <http://www.dotnet-guide.com/validation.html>

Visit <http://www.dotnet-guide.com> for a complete introduction to .NET framework. Learn about ASP.NET, VB.NET, C# and other related technologies.



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