

# **Forms To Go**

**V 1.6.2**

**July 8, 2003**

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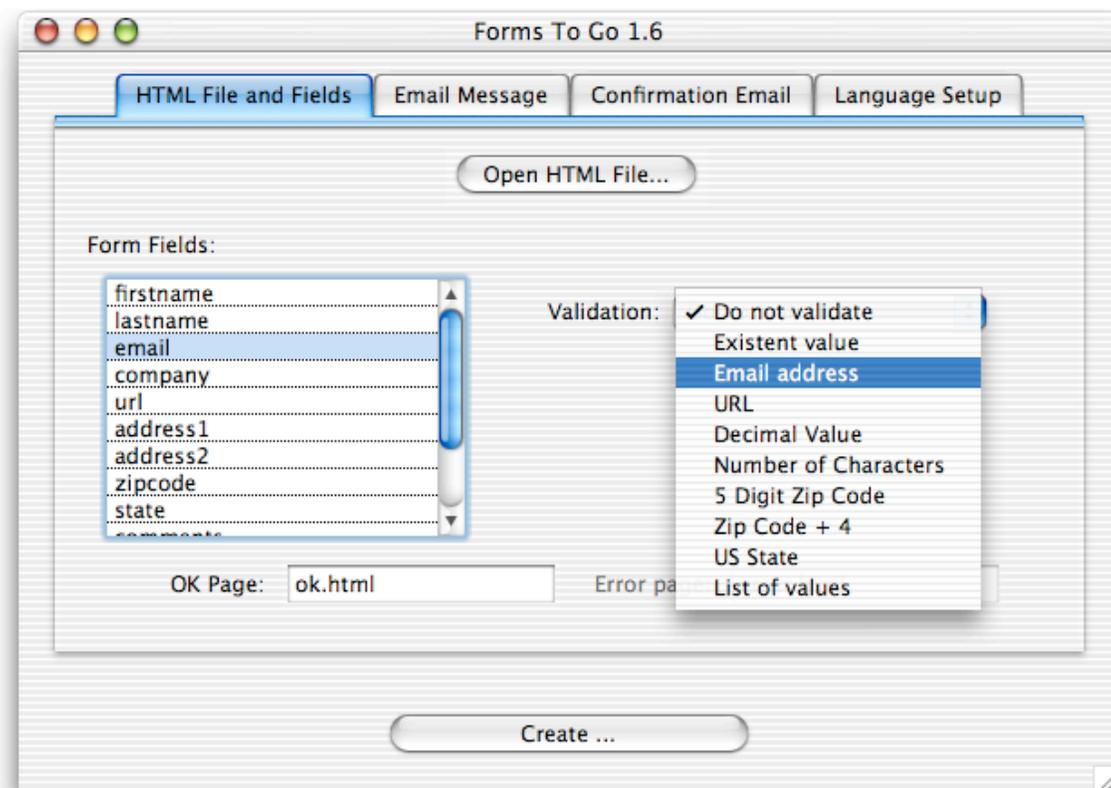
# Introduction

## 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.

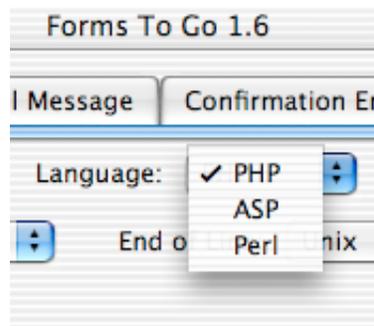
You can customize Forms To Go to perform field validation prior to be sent by email. You can force a user to fill required fields, that a specific field has a email address, or that a name field contains from 3 to 15 characters. There are many field validation types available.



## 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@bebsoft.com](mailto:support@bebsoft.com) or ask for your new serial number. There is no charge for this.

## Using Forms To Go

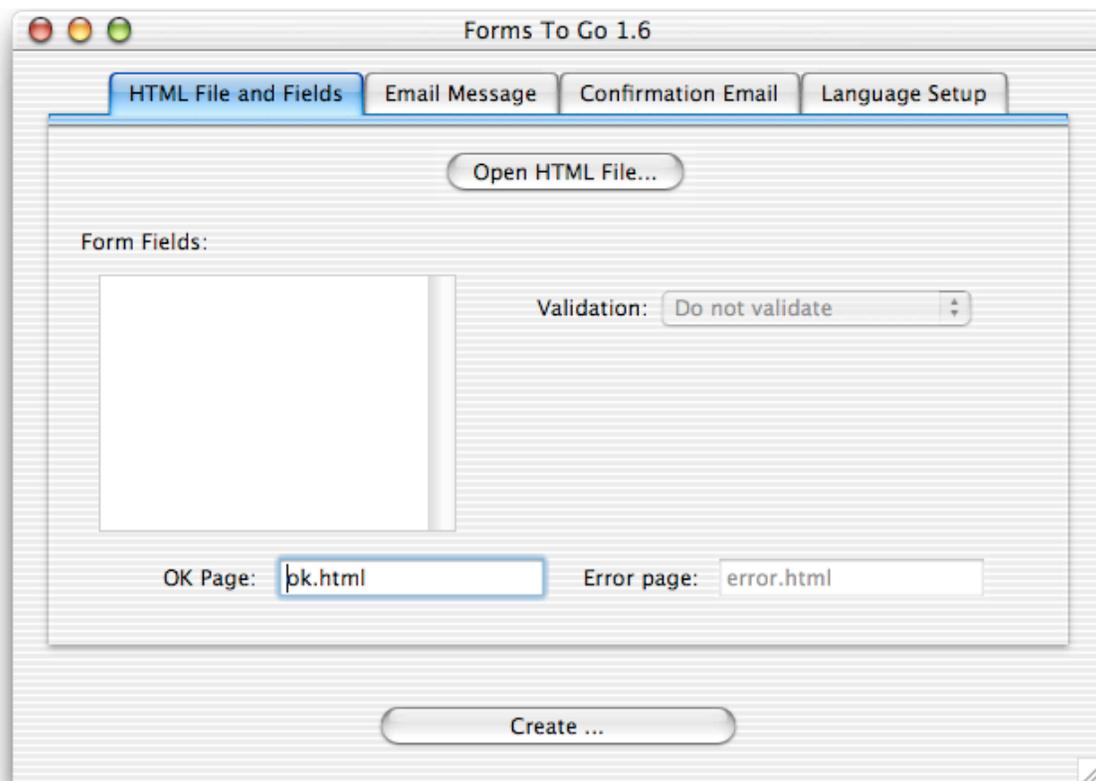
Forms To Go is very simple and intuitive for programmers, but many web designers which are not familiar with computer terms, should read this chapter.

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.

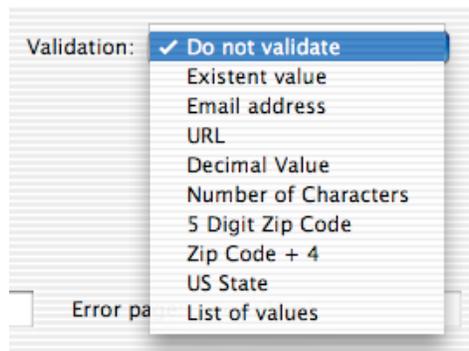


If your web page contains more than one form, Forms To Go will ask you to select for which form you want to create the script.

## 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 an email address or a valid name, and if any of the verification fails, warn the user to correct those values before completing the form.

Its 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 bad written email addresses.

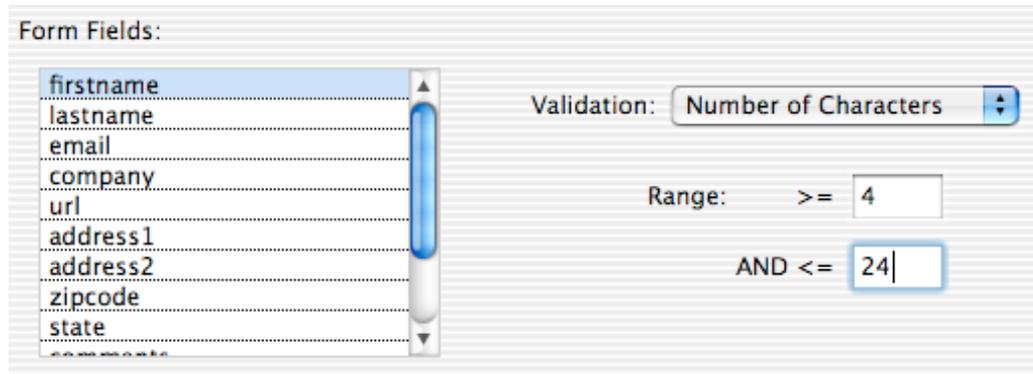
### URL

This field validation will verify that there value of the field is a valid is a 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.



The screenshot shows a configuration window for form validation. On the left, a list titled "Form Fields:" contains the following items: `firstname`, `lastname`, `email`, `company`, `url`, `address1`, `address2`, `zipcode`, and `state`. The `firstname` field is currently selected. To the right of the list, the "Validation:" dropdown menu is set to "Number of Characters". Below this, the "Range:" is configured with a greater-than-or-equal-to symbol followed by the number "4". A second condition is added with "AND <= 24".

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

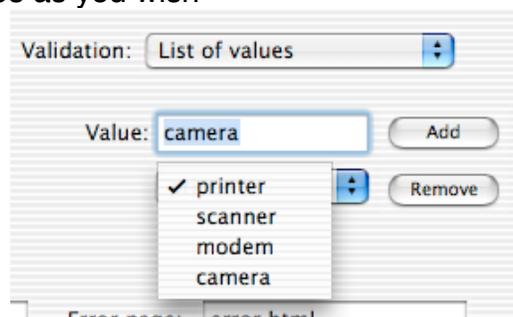
Like the previous field validation, this option will check for a field with the value like `nnnnn-nnnn`, used in the zip postal code in US postal addresses.

## 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

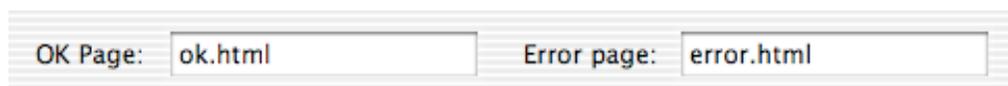
If you're working with a checkbox, radio button or popup menu, you might want to filter or check that the user has selected the specific field values, like sex=male or sex=female. You can use this option to check a field for those values. You can specify as many values as you wish



The screenshot shows a configuration window for validation. At the top, there is a dropdown menu labeled 'Validation:' with 'List of values' selected. Below this, there is a 'Value:' input field containing the text 'camera'. To the right of this field is an 'Add' button. Below the 'Value:' field is a list box containing the following items: 'printer' (with a checkmark), 'scanner', 'modem', and 'camera'. To the right of the list box is a 'Remove' button. At the bottom of the window, there is a label 'Error page:' followed by a text box containing 'error.html'.

## 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 has been cleared, the script will redirect the user to a OK HTML page, which you must create with a message that the form has been submitted OK.



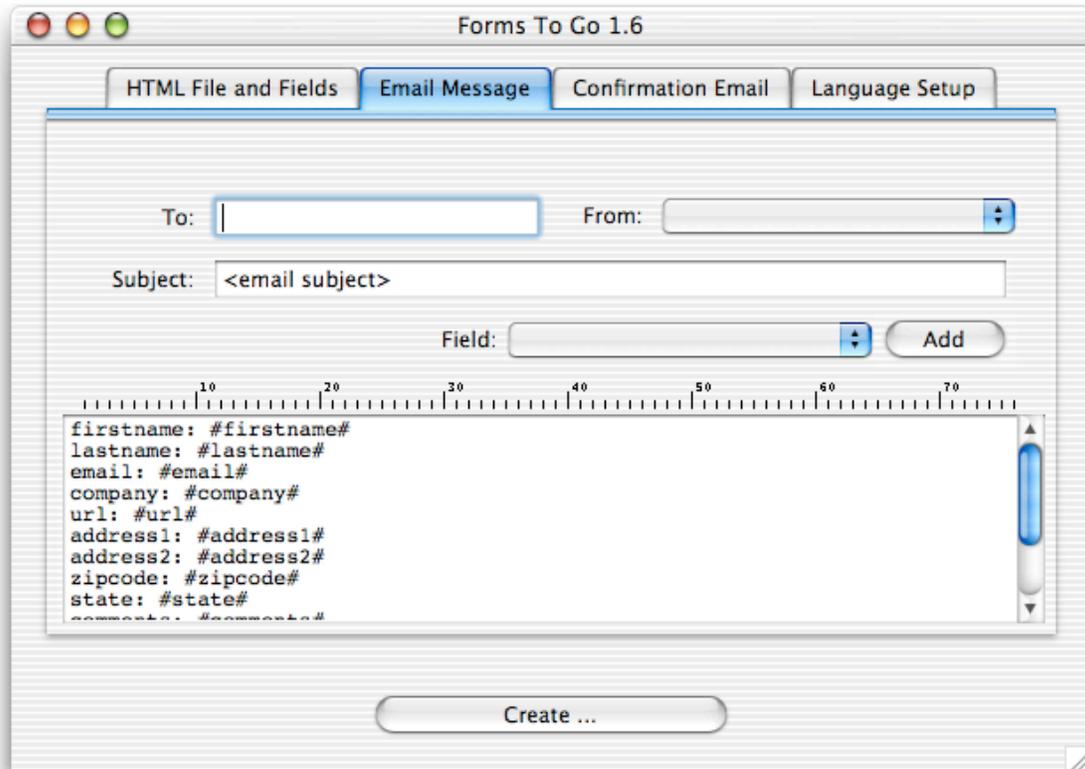
The screenshot shows two configuration fields. The first is labeled 'OK Page:' and contains the text 'ok.html'. The second is labeled 'Error page:' and contains the text 'error.html'.

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 you selected validation for one or more fields and any of the field didn't clear 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.

## 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

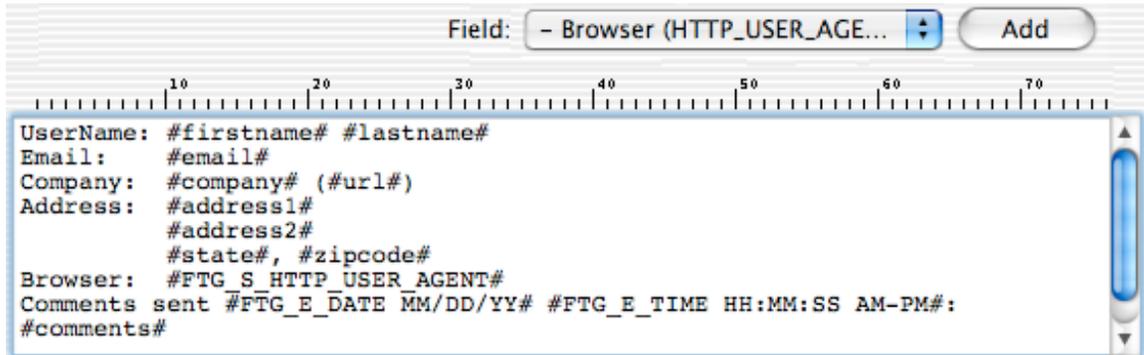
After you've read the HTML form, you can switch to the "Email Message" tab, where you can set up the email you will receive with the form values.

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.

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.



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.

### **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 field 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 fit your hosting service. For this kind of script that send 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 have 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.

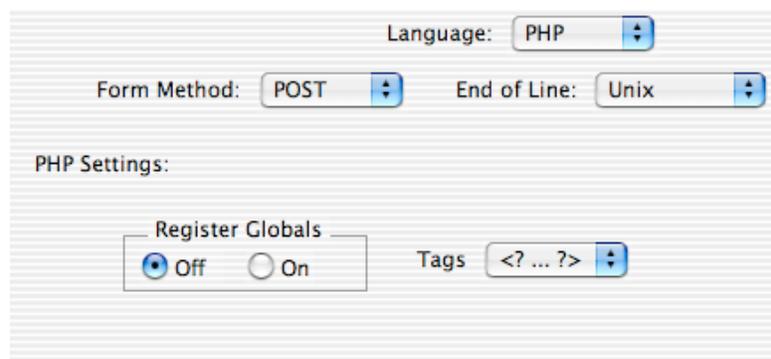
## End of line

It's very important that 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.



The image shows a screenshot of a web form for configuring PHP settings. At the top, there is a "Language:" dropdown menu set to "PHP". Below it, there are two more dropdown menus: "Form Method:" set to "POST" and "End of Line:" set to "Unix". Under the heading "PHP Settings:", there is a "Register Globals" section with two radio buttons: "Off" (which is selected) and "On". To the right of this is a "Tags" dropdown menu set to "<? ... ?>".

### 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.

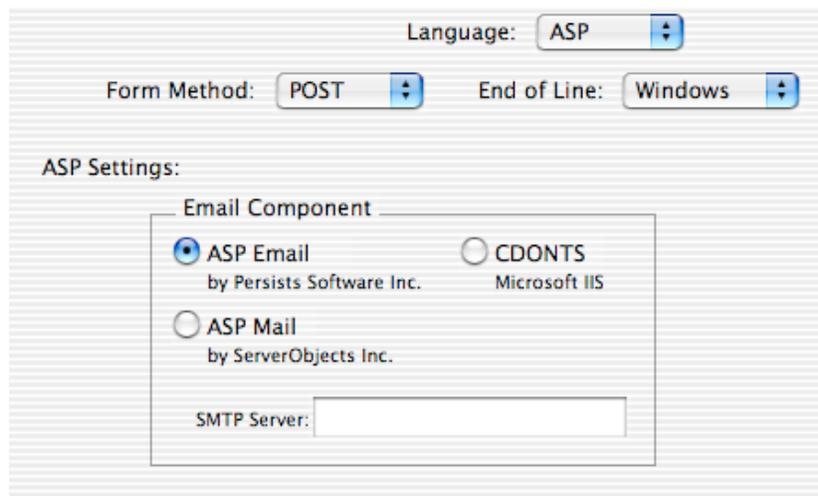
### Tags

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



The image shows a screenshot of the 'ASP Settings' dialog box. At the top, there are three dropdown menus: 'Language:' set to 'ASP', 'Form Method:' set to 'POST', and 'End of Line:' set to 'Windows'. Below these is the 'ASP Settings:' section, which contains an 'Email Component' group box. Inside this group box, there are three radio button options: 'ASP Email by Persists Software Inc.' (which is selected), 'ASP Mail by ServerObjects Inc.', and 'CDONTS Microsoft IIS'. Below the radio buttons is an empty text input field labeled 'SMTP Server:'.

### 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.

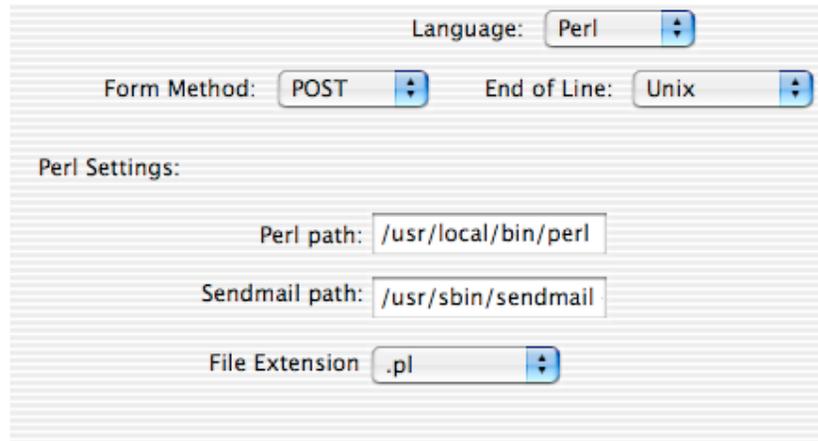
Using ASPEmail or ASPMail, you must specify an SMTP Host, which will be used by the email component to send the emails.

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 CGIs 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.



The image shows a configuration interface for a Perl script. At the top, there are three dropdown menus: 'Language:' set to 'Perl', 'Form Method:' set to 'POST', and 'End of Line:' set to 'Unix'. Below these is a section titled 'Perl Settings:' containing three input fields: 'Perl path:' with the value '/usr/local/bin/perl', 'Sendmail path:' with the value '/usr/sbin/sendmail', and 'File Extension:' with the value '.pl'.

### 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`

## 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.

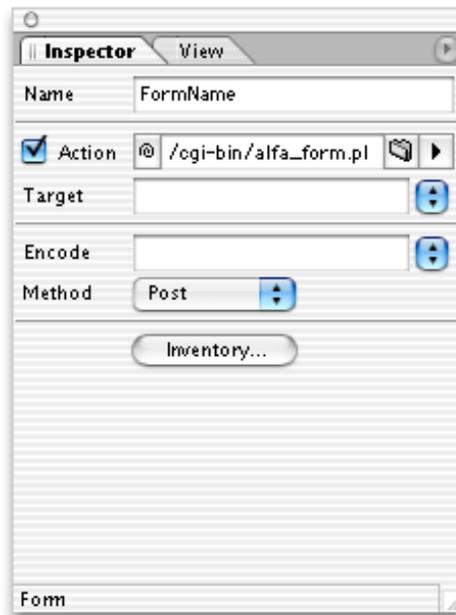
## Modify your HTML form

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.

### **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**

### **Which scripting language is recommended?**

Any of the languages PHP, ASP or Perl will perform great for sending and email and validating a form. It's not a difficult task where the language plays an important role.

However there are some considerations: a Perl script can be a little bit more difficult to setup than a PHP script: permissions, path and more, so if you don't want to mess with technical stuff and have both options available, you'll want to use PHP instead or Perl.

If you're using Windows and have more options than ASP, like PHP, you might want to consider using ASP, since it's a native language for Windows.

## Support

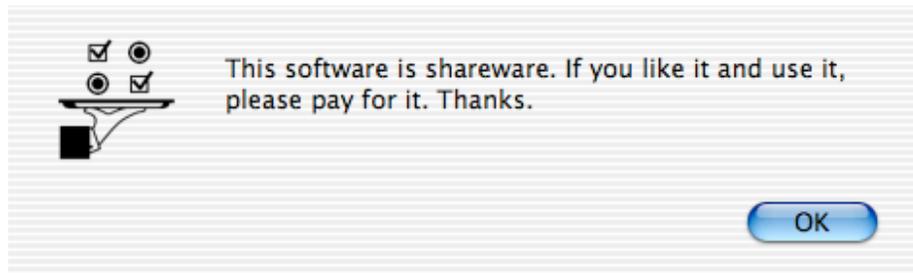
If you need more help that could not find in this manual, please feel free to contact us thru email at [support@bebsoft.com](mailto:support@bebsoft.com) or thru our website <http://www.bebsoft.com/>

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.

## Change Log

Version 1.6.2 - July 8, 2003

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[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

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[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

=====

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

Version 1.5 - May 26, 2003

=====

[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

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