**mailform: A CGI-Script Processing Forms**

The cgi-script *mailform* processes a variety of forms and sends their content to a specified e-mail address. It is invoked by

< FORM METHOD="POST" ACTION="/cgi-bin/mailform">

and may also be invoked as secure-script using

< FORM METHOD="POST" ACTION="/cgi-bin/ssl-dir/mailform">

in the basic HTML-document of the form. In order to process the form correctly, the script expects a couple of predefined variables. They must be declared in the HTML-document of the form exactly as described below and set to a value either in the form itself or in the HTML-document using *hidden fields*. Other variables and attributes may be introduced in the form corresponding to its specific elements. They constitute the content of the form and are passed by name and value to the recipient of the mail.

**---TO**

Recipient of the mail **(required)**. The value is typically set in a *hidden field*, e.g. <INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="---TO" VALUE="*e-mail address*"> and the recipient address must be within the domain uzh.ch, eg. <name>@<department>.uzh.ch

**--CC**

e-mail address to which a carbon-copy is sent (optional)

**--BCC**

e-mail address to which a blind-copy is sent (optional)

**-FROM**

e-mail address of the sender of the form **(required)**
In order to allow JavaScript form-checking you may use JAVA\_SCRIPT\_FROM\_ADDRESS instead of -FROM.

**-NAME**

Real name of the sender **(required)**
In order to allow JavaScript form-checking you may use JAVA\_SCRIPT\_NAME instead of -NAME.

**-Subject**

Subject of the mail **(required)**. May be defined in a *hidden field*, see example above.

**-BASE\_\_URL**

URL of a document to which an error message will point in case of an error (optional). Usually you will set the value to the URL of your form. Note the double "\_\_". To customize error-messages use --errortemplate (see below).

The information above constitutes the MAIL-HEADER and will **not** be part of the MAIL-BODY, except for the name of the submitter. The MAIL-BODY contains the variables, attributes and values of the fields which are defined by the composer of the form (i.e., of the basic HTML-document).

**Configuration of information presented after submission**

The following control variables determine the information presented to the user after submission. They may be set optionally.

**-footer**

Text appearing on the confirmation-page.

* If you use < ... VALUE="INCLUDE: *pathname/filename*"> the HTML-document specified by *filename* is parsed by the web-server after submission. The *pathname/filename* describes the **full-path** of the HTML-document, e.g. /usr/local/ftp/id/public\_html/koord/www/mailform\_parsed.html.
Values of individual variables may be included in the document by $VARIABLENAME.
* If the document you want to parse resides on UniCMS, you should use
< ... VALUE="INCLUDE: *http://www.yoursite.uzh.ch/path-to-file>*">. The URL specified is then parsed after submission. In this case, you must envoke mailform using your virtual hostname in the action, e.g.
< FORM METHOD="POST" ACTION="http://www.yoursite.uzh.ch/cgi-bin/mailform">
otherwhise the specified document residing on UniCMS will not be correctly parsed.

 If you use < ... VALUE="REDIRECT:*URL*"> (the URL must be complete, eg. <http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/dl/web/formular/answer.phps>) all fields are passed using the GET-Method to the specified URL using *URL*?field1=value1&field2=value2&...fieldX=valueX. This may be useful if you pass the input to a php-script which generates a pdf-document. This [example](http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/dl/web/formular/answer.phps) may illustrate how you can work with your variables in a php-script.

**-footerURL**, **-footerURLNAME**

These variables appear as <A HREF="-footerURL"> -footerURLNAME </A> in an (optional) reference after the text specified in "-footer".

**-footerURLTEXT**

Text included AFTER the reference "-footerURLNAME".

**-printVAR**

< ... NAME="-printVAR" VALUE="1"> prints the name and value of all variables on the confirmation-page.

**-cc2Sender**

< ... NAME="-cc2Sender" VALUE="1"> submits a carbon-copy of the generated mail to the sender.

**-is\_required**

< ... NAME="-is\_required" VALUE="<field1>[:<field2>[:<field3>..]]">. With this variable required fields (in addition to the mentioned fields required by the program) can be listed, denoted by **:**. If one ore more of the listed fields is left empty, a error message is displayed to the user, listening all fields that have been left empty but should be filled.

**-sort\_list**

< ... NAME="-sort\_list" VALUE="<field1>[:<field2>[:<field3>..]]">. This variable defines the order in which the individual fieldes are printed in the e-mail.

**-errortemplate**

If you want to specify a customized error-page, use this variable.
< ... NAME="-errortemplate" VALUE="*pathname/filename*">.
The HTML-document specified by *filename* is parsed by the web-server whenever an error occurs. To display the error-message to the user, you may use the to strings $ERRORTITLE and $ERROR anywhere in your document, formatted like you want to present the two variables to the user. $ERRORTITLE means the <H1>-Error in the standard error-page, $ERROR is the associated text to the error.
If your site resides on UniCMS and you wish to maintain the template files using UniCMS, you must invoke mailform using your virtual hostname in the action, e.g.
< FORM METHOD="POST" ACTION="http://www.yoursite.uzh.ch/cgi-bin/mailform">
otherwhise the specified document residing on UniCMS will not be correctly parsed.

**Further configuration options**

In addition, you may save the contents of your form to an existing file which must be **writable** to the user *www*. You can achieve this allowing write-access to your file for everybody (world), as long as you keep this file within your directory public\_html.
To write your form-fields to a comma-separated file, you may specify a field named

**-printfile**

where the **value** of this field contains the name of your output-file.
<INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="-printfile" VALUE="*filename*">
*filename* must be a absolut filename.
You will find your fields, in alphabetical order, formated like following example:
"mazzo@id.uzh.ch";"Roberto Mazzoni";"field 1";... "field n"
Avoid optional-fields, since you do not have the corresponding field-names in your output-file unless you use the option -printform.
**Be warned, if you place your output-file inside your webspace as suggested everybody will be able to read the contents unless you protect it with a .htaccess file!**
If you write the content of your form to a file, you can suppress to receive a mail using a field named

**-printform**

where the **value** of this field speciefies the format of the output file (applies only if the option -prinfile is used).
<INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="-printform" VALUE="*T*">
*T* is the only effective value and denotes, that the records should be printed out in an XML-like-manner. Each value is sorrounded by the corresponding FORM-fieldname. This addresses the problem you may have with optional fields in your form and wants to identify the fieldnames together with the given values.
You will find your fields, in alphabetical order, formated like following example on one line per record:
<RECORD><-FROM>mazzo@id.uzh.ch</-FROM><-NAME>Roberto Mazzoni></-NAME>
<fieldname 1>fieldvalue 1</fieldname 1>... <fieldname n>fieldvalue n</fieldname n></RECORD>

**-dontmail**

and setting its value to **1**
<INPUT TYPE="HIDDEN" NAME="-dontmail" VALUE="1">
As mentioned, this option will only work if you use **-printfile**.

You may try this [example](http://www.id.uzh.ch/cl/dl/web/formular/mailform_sample.shtml)to see how it works.
For further questions please contact **webmaster@uzh.ch**.