

Re: suggestions wanted concerning form handling "template"

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2005-06/msg00768.html>

- *From:* Kenneth Downs <knode.wants.this@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 14 Jun 2005 10:14:35 -0400
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DJ Majestik wrote:

> OK, I am devising a php page that will handle a form submission, and
> wanted to know if anyone has already setup such an idea, or if you had
> links to point to good tutorials on this.
>
> Basically I have a form (which I use smarty templating to display, and
> smartyvalidator to validate).
>
> The php page basically is driven by the action variable (add,
> add_confirm, edit, edit_confirm, view, delete). When the form starts
> out, it is in view mode. Then if you click the add button, it switches
> to add mode. Confirming a new addition sends you into add_confirm
> (which would write to a DB, etc.). Edit would work the same way, except
> edit mode would lookup a record to display, edit_confirm would update
> that record, delete mode would delete, and view mode would basically
> display data (to edit/add/delete).
>
> Sounds easy, but my code is pretty long and I am looking to simplify
> this idea. Looking for how you all do this, and if anyone has a
> "template" setup to do this.
>
> Mine would be something like:
>
> if (\$action == "view") {
> // do something
>
> etc
>
> Ideas? Let me know. Thanks,
> Jim

I don't know what you mean by "long", but our body of code that does this is:

- 1) The HTML file at 332 lines
- 2) The processing file at 155 lines
- 3) About 200 lines of code in our main library

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Each table also has a separate file that defines all of its parameters, but these are computer-generated so we don't really think about length.

So anyway, your basic approach seems sound, but I'll warn you of one thing we ran into. We allow two states, a browse of search results, and a one-row detail view. This complicates the code a bit.

We've done away with the switch-to-edit-mode, it is not really necessary. When a user views a row, they can save or not save, they are always in edit mode.

We've done away with fancy client-side javascript control of the page and do lots of round trips to the server. Here is one reason. If the user is editing a row, then the column "state" might be a drop-down list of US States. But if the user is in "search" mode, then you want free-form entry there.

Hope this helps, we have done a complete version of this so I'd be happy to answer any questions I can.

—

Kenneth Downs
Secure Data Software, Inc.
(Ken)neth@(Sec)ure(Dat)a(.com)

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: suggestions wanted concerning form handling "template"*
◇ From: DJ Majestik

• *References:*

- ◆ *suggestions wanted concerning form handling "template"*
◇ From: DJ Majestik

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