

Re: How to upload form data containing special characters correctly?

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2006-09/msg00211.html>

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- *From:* Jerry Stuckle <[jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 04 Sep 2006 14:19:04 -0400
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Wim Cossement wrote:

Jerry Stuckle wrote:

You'll need to select the correct character set for MySQL. It might be utf-8, as some have suggested, but you might find another charset more applicable. See the MySQL doc and comp.databases.mysql newsgroup for more info on mysql topics.

Well, I've been hearing for a while UTF-8 is the best for all that stuff, so tables and DB's are all in utf8\_general\_ci (does anyone know the difference between that and utf8\_bin, and what's utf8\_unicode\_ci doing in that list)

That some peoples opinions. And remember, they are opinions. Some people know what they're talking about, and some don't. Take anything you get on the internet (including this) with a grain of salt.

Personally, I use the charset which matches my data. This may or may not be utf-8.

Also, rather than use addslashes() you should use mysql\_real\_escape\_string() to escape your characters.

Some like the other better, there are still discussions going on... :-)  
<http://www.sitepoint.com/forums/showthread.php?t=337881>

Not much discussion. addslashes() is a PHP construct which escapes certain characters. mysql\_real\_escape\_string() is a mysql function to escape the characters necessary to place the data in a mysql database using the current charset.

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mysql\_real\_escape\_string needs no special processing when reading the data out – the data is exactly as it was before mysql\_real\_escape\_string was called. That is not the case for addslashes().

You shouldn't use htmlspecialchars() for storing data into the database; that's a display issue, not a storage issue. You should only use it when displaying data (if necessary).

The fact is that the data does not really need to be displayed in a webpage, this is just for uploading. I'll rather use OpenOffice with MyODBC to edit the data when needed and use a report to display it.

That's fine. So don't use htmlspecialchars() at all then.

And also ensure you're using the correct character set on your html page to display the data.

I guess this is the case.

The header contains `<meta http-equiv="content-type" content="application/xhtml+xml; charset=utf-8" />`

Now I'm going to try this and I'll let you know the outcome.

Thanks a bunch,

Wimmy

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Remove the "x" from my email address

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