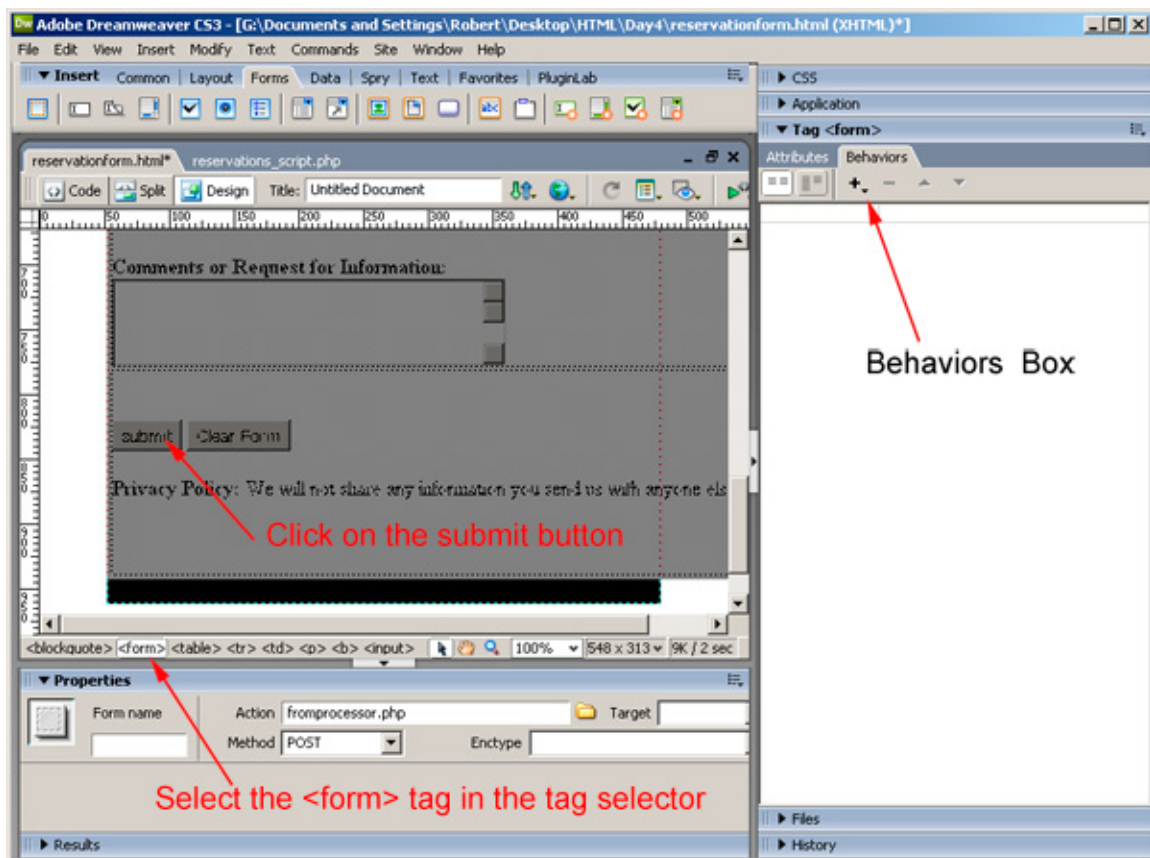


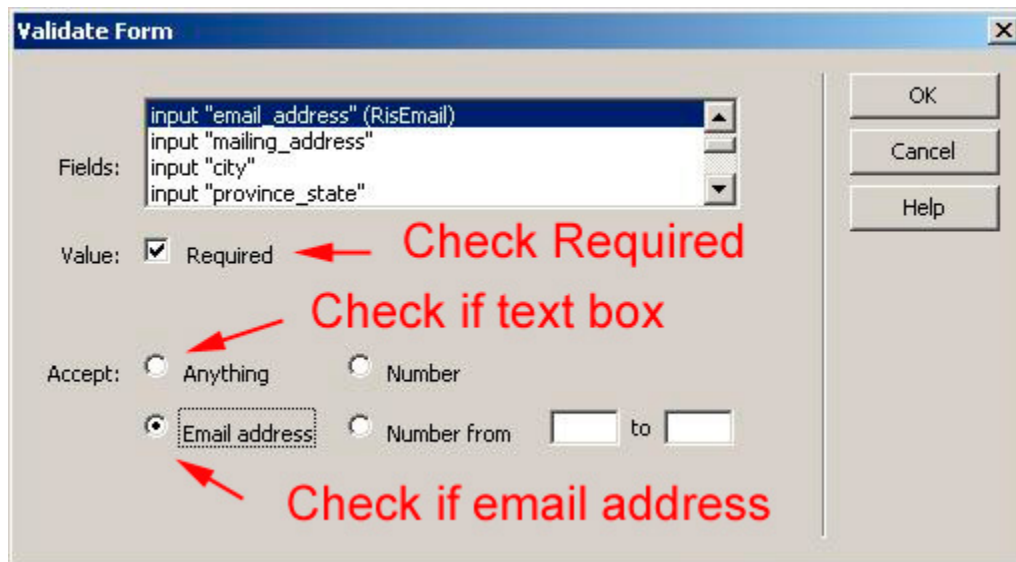
Validating a Form using Javascript written by Dreamweaver - R. Berdan

Dreamweaver writes javascript using its behaviors box. The javascript is sometimes called "machine code" because a software program writes it. The code looks much more complicated than code written by a human programmer, but Dreamweaver can write the code 10X faster and although the code is more complex it does not significantly affect the page load time. These instructions will work with any version of Dreamweaver MX, MX2004, 8 and CS3.

1. First create your form in Dreamweaver and assign the names and id elements to each of the input fields.
2. In Dreamweaver expand the side panels so you can see the Behaviours panel. If you can not see it go to Window>Behaviors.
3. Place your cursor on the submit button at the bottom of your web page in Dreamweaver and click on the <form> tag in the bottom tag selector bar. The entire form will be selected (darkened). This method will check that specific form elements are filled in when the user clicks on the submit button. If any of the form elements we select are not filled in and alert box will pop up and indicated to the user an error has occurred and the user must go back and fill in the specific boxes.



4. Then go to the Behaviours box and click on the + symbol to view a drop down menu. From the menu choose > Validate form and you will see a pop up box appear.



5. In the Fields box select the form element you want to validate. E.g email. Then select the checkbox> required and the radio button email address. Continue by selecting the next form element you want to verify. For text boxes generally you select Value>required and accept Anything. If you are validating a phone number you can select the radio button for Number. Once you have completed all the form elements you want to validate select OK.

6. Preview your form in a web browser and click on the submit button without adding text to any of your form elements. You may have allow your browser to run the javascript. You should see a small alert box pop up with a message.



When the user goes back and fills in the form properly, this warning box will not appear and the form will be submitted.

The error message is not particularly friendly – we can customize the message, but we can't modify the alert box appearance in any way. To modify the text message select View >Code and go to the javascript code in the head section of your document and locate the script.

```
<script type="text/javascript">
<!--
function MM_validateForm() { //v4.0
  if (document.getElementById){
    var i,p,q,nm,test,num,min,max,errors="",args=MM_validateForm.arguments;
    for (i=0; i<(args.length-2); i+=3) { test=args[i+2]; val=document.getElementById(args[i]);
      if (val) { nm=val.name; if ((val=val.value)!="") {
        if (test.indexOf('isEmail')!=-1) { p=val.indexOf('@');
          if (p<1 || p==(val.length-1)) errors+='- '+nm+' must contain an e-mail address.\n';

```

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    } else if (test!='R') { num = parseFloat(val);
    if (isNaN(val)) errors+="- '+nm+' must contain a number.\n";
    if (test.indexOf('inRange') != -1) { p=test.indexOf(':');
    min=test.substring(8,p); max=test.substring(p+1);
    if (num<min || max<num) errors+="- '+nm+' must contain a number between '+min+' and
'+max+'.\n";
    } } } else if (test.charAt(0) == 'R') errors += '- '+nm+' is required.\n'; }
} if (errors) alert("The following error(s) occurred:\n"+errors);
document.MM_returnValue = (errors == "");
}}
//-->

```

7. In the code above I made the text inside the alert("The following error(s) occurred: \n red in color. This is the warning text message that appears in the alert box. You can change this message to anything you want but be very careful you do not alter or delete anything else or your script will not work.

e.g. alert("Please go back and fill in the following: :\n"+errors);

After doing this save your page and test the form by clicking on the submit button.

TIPS

It's a good idea to label those fields that are required. Often we simply put a message at the top of the form followed by an asterisk. E.g. Required fields * and then place the asterisk beside those fields that are required.

To modify the script after you made it using Dreamweaver, select the form button, and the form tag in the tag bar and double click on the Validate form text that appears in the Behaviors side panel.

Also be sure you have a privacy policy at the bottom of your form its law in Canada, you must tell users what the information is being used for and whether or not you plan to share this information. You may not collect information from minors (under 18) without parents consent.

You can also validate each of the form elements separately as the user tabs or places their cursor in each form element. To do this validate the elements without selecting the submit button and form tag.

Select the text box you want to validated, click on the Validate + symbol in the Behaviors box, select the form field and click OK. Repeat for each box you want to validate. Dreamweaver adds OnBlur event handler which means when the user moves their cursor out of the text box without filling it in the alert box pops up. It's just another way of validating your form.

Form basics: try to keep your forms as short as possible, only validate information that you really need and then be sure to respond to a user promptly. If you plan on collecting "sensitive" information like credit cards, social security numbers etc you need to have your form on a secure server so that the top of the URL field says <https://form.html> which means any data submitted will be encrypted. If you do not do this it is possible for some folks to intercept and possibly steal the information being submitted. Having an encrypted form usually means talking to your web provider who will help you set this up. There is usually an additional fee of \$50-100/year. There are no changes to the code of the form – just where it is placed on a secure server that makes it secure.