

## Writing Scripts for Processing a form in PHP if Register Globals has been turned Off

by R. Berdan November 16, 2004

Below is a form that will output the data to the web page for testing purposes, send the data to a specified email address, and collect the data in a data.txt file on the server for later retrieval, and the final statement will output the data in the data.txt file to the web page. In most cases you will not print or echo each variable to the screen, nor would you echo the data from the text file unless you are making a guest book. This form includes all the elements you might encounter in building a form and the processing script.

Simple test form - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address http://localhost/simpleformc.html

### Test PHP form Job Application using Register Globals Off

Robert Berdan Name:  
rberdan@scienceandE mail address:

What job type are you looking for?

Programmer  
 Web developer  
 Instructor

Please enter your mailing address

Calgary, AB

Which programming languages do you know?

PHP  
 Javascript  
 ASP

How do you prefer to be contacted?

email

Which days of the week are you available for an interview?

Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

submit reset

Done Local intranet

Sample form with an example of all elements See the code on the next page.

Form HTML code it calls a form processor script called **formc.php**

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Simple test form</title>
</head>
<body>

<blockquote>
<h2>Test PHP form Job Application using Register Globals Off</h2>

<form method="post" action="formc.php">
<input type="hidden" name="hidden1" value="Job Application for S&A">
<input type="text" name="name">Name:<br>
<input type="text" name="email">E mail address: <br>
<p>What job type are you looking for?</p>
<input type="radio" name="job" value="programmer">Programmer<br>
<input type="radio" name="job" value="webdeveloper">Web developer<br>
<input type="radio" name="job" value="instructor">Instructor<br><br>
<p>Please enter your mailing address</p>
<textarea rows="4" cols="36" name="address"></textarea><br><br>
<p>Which programming languages do you know?</p>
<input type="checkbox" name="choice1" value="PHP">PHP<br>
<input type="checkbox" name="choice2" value="Javascript">Javascript<br>
<input type="checkbox" name="choice3" value="ASP">ASP<br><br>
<p>How do you prefer to be contacted?</p>
<select name="contact">
<option value="email">email</option>
<option value="mail">mail</option>
<option value="phone">phone</option>
</select>
<br>
<br>
<p>Which days of the week are you available for an interview?</p>
<select name="week[]" Multiple>
<option value="Monday">Monday</option>
<option value="Tuesday">Tuesday</option>
<option value="Wednesday">Wednesday</option>
<option value="Thursday">Thursday</option>
<option value="Friday">Friday</option>
</select><br><br />

<input type="submit" name="submit" value="submit">
<input type="reset" name="reset" value="reset">
</form>
</blockquote>

</body>
```

The PHP script is on the next page.

```

<?php
// PHP script for processing a form if Register Globals is turned Off on the server
// this works if register globals is On or Off
$hidden1 = $_POST['hidden1'];
$name = $_POST['name'];
$email = $_POST['email'];
$job = $_POST['job'];
$address = $_POST['address'];
$choice1 = $_POST['choice1'];
$choice2 = $_POST['choice2'];
$choice3 = $_POST['choice3'];
$contact = $_POST['contact'];
$week = $_POST['week'];

// verify the variables are being processed - use for testing purposes only
print "Hidden data: $hidden1<br>";
print "Name: $name <br>";
print "email: $email <br>";
print "Job selected: $job <br>";
print "Address: $address <br>";
print "Programming languages: $choice1 $choice2 $choice3 <br>";
print "Method of contact: $contact <br>";
print "Days available: $week[0] $week[1] $week[2] $week[3] $week[4] <br>";

// add date the form was submitted
$date = gmdate("M d Y");
print "$date <br>\n";
print "<h2>Thank you $name we received your request and will get back to you shortly </h2>\n ";
// send data to a specified email address
$to = "rberdan@scienceandart.org";
$subject = "Job Application";
$body = " Date: $date \n Name: $name \n E-mail address: $email \n Job Sought: $job \n Mailing
address: $address \n Programming languages: $choice1 $choice2 $choice3 \n Method of
Contact: $contact \n Hidden Data: $hidden1 \n Days available: $week[0] $week[1] $week[2]
$week[3] $week[4] \n\n";
mail($to,$subject, $body);

// send data to a text file optional for use in storing the data for later analysis
$filename = "data.txt";
$filepointer = fopen($filename, "a+");
fwrite($filepointer, "Date: $date \n Name: $name \n E-mail address: $email \n Job Sought: $job
\n Mailing address: $address \n Programming languages: $choice1 $choice2 $choice3 \n
Method of Contact: $contact \n Hidden Data: $hidden1 \n Days available: $week[0] $week[1]
$week[2] $week[3] $week[4] \n\n");
fclose($filepointer);

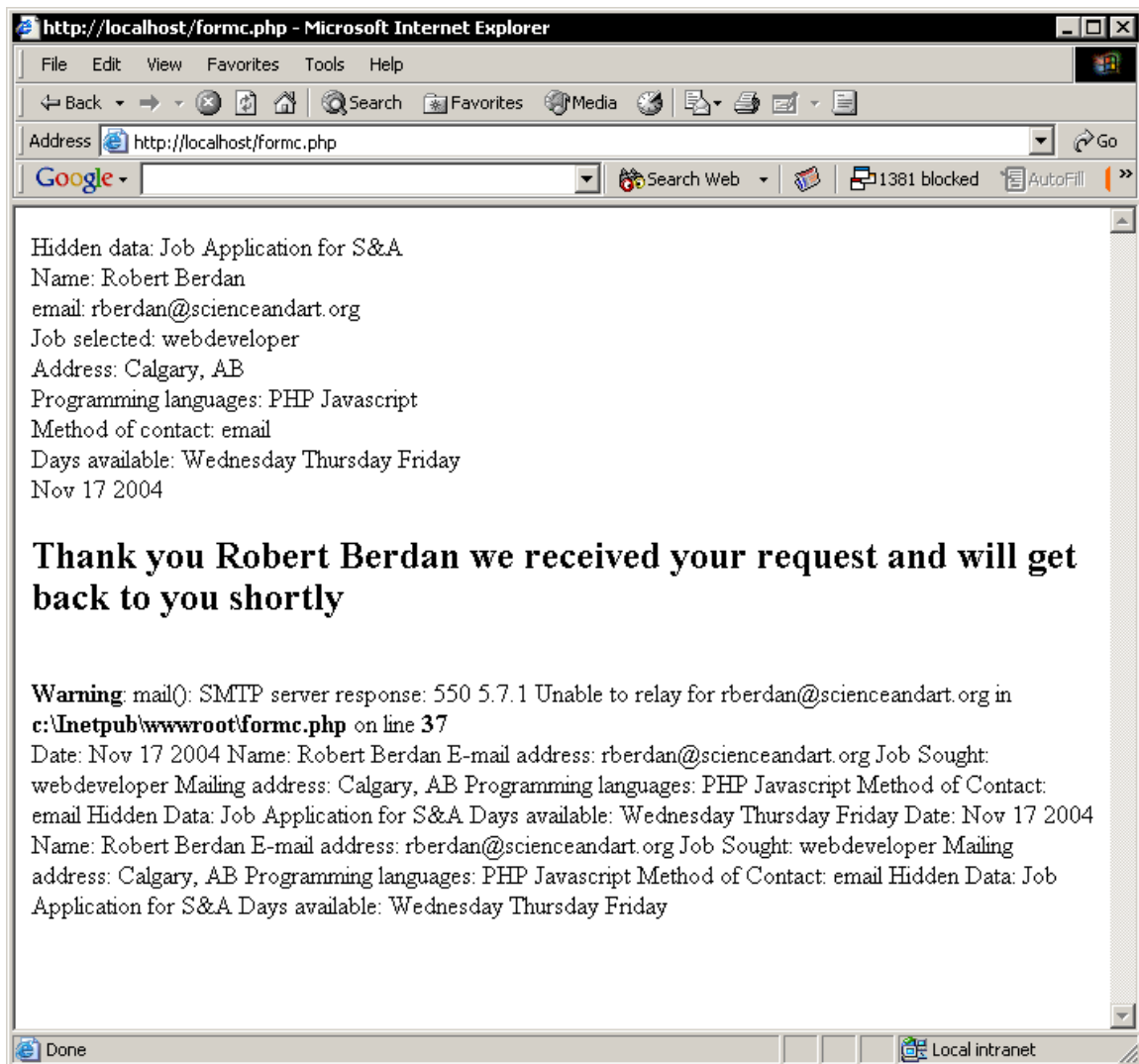
// outputs data in the data.txt file to the web page normally you would not do this
$output = readfile($filename)
?>

```

Where code extends off the edge at the right do not add carriage returns let the text wrap in your editor, the correct end of each line is ended with a semicolon except for comments and \$output

If the data won't write to the data.txt file make sure you have changed its file permission to read and write on the server!

This is what the data should look like when you submit the form tested on a local server IIS



The email warning will only occur if you test the script locally, it will not be there if you upload the scripts to a server on the Internet.

With this example you should be able to write a PHP script to process any kind of form whether or not `register_globals` is set On or Off. This is by far the most secure way to do it, but many servers still have `register_globals=On` – if security is not a concern you can omit validating each variable in those cases

It is recommended that you write your scripts with `register_globals` turned =Off and validate each variable

e.g. `$job = $_POST['job'];`