

- 4 The package name, notes, price, contract length, discount, set-up fee, and totals will display. If the information is correct, click Apply.
- 5 You will receive a notification if the package was successfully added.

# Chapter 11: Formmail

## Feature Overview

Installing formmail will place a perl script in your website's cgi directory. This script enables

**Note:** In order for formmail.pl to work, it is required that you have a FormMail.conf file in your home directory. This file helps to prevent spam addressed to your domain, preserving your bandwidth for legitimate users of your site. In addition, it enables you to enhance your forms and provide shortcuts that not only simplify your forms, but also enable you to hide your email address from spiders and email harvesters.

## Using formmail

To use Formmail, you need to create a form on one of your web pages.

The form action line should be `<FORM ACTION = "/cgi-bin/formmail.pl" METHOD = "POST">`

formmail.pl will do all the programming work for you. You alter the behavior of Formmail by using hidden fields in your form.

There is only *one* form field that you must have in your form for FormMail to work correctly. This is the recipient field.

## Creating a configuration file

Before you can use formmail, you will need to create a formmail configuration file. This can be done in one of two ways. The first method uses the File Manager in your Control Panel; the second uses ssh access to your domain. Either way will work equally well for this application. If you have any trouble creating your .conf file, please contact support for assistance.

### Method One: File Manager

- 1 You will find the configuration file text at the bottom of this guide. Simply select the text with your mouse, right click, and choose copy.
- 2 Once the text is copied, go to your Control Panel Main Menu, and click the File Manager icon.
- 3 When the File Manager screen loads, type ".FormMail.conf" (without the quotes) in the text area to the left of Create/Edit file, then click Create/Edit file.
- 4 When the page loads, right click your mouse and select paste. (If the file is not empty, you already have a configuration file, and can skip this step.)

**5** After you paste the text, change the size to 90 so that it will be easier for you to read and edit.

**6** Scroll through the text of the configuration file, being sure to update the values to suit your needs. At the very least, you will need to enter your domain name (without the www.) in between the `allow_mail_to` lines, and put your email address in between the `postmaster` lines.

**7** Once your changes have been made, click the Save button.

At this point, you can send email via forms in your html files to any email address set up on your domain. If you would like to send email to other addresses other than ones set up on your domain, simply add the email addresses in between the `allow_mail_to` lines of your configuration file. (There is more detailed information explaining this in the actual configuration file. Please read over it and if you have any questions, please contact support for assistance.)

**Note:** Although you will not be able to see your configuration file in the File Manager, it is there. Because it begins with a 'dot' (.), it is considered hidden. You can always access it simply by typing the name in the text area manually. This configuration file contains more detailed information concerning `allow_mail_to`.

#### **Method Two: Command Line via SSH**

This method may be considered a more advanced method because of the 'vi' editor. Its commands may be confusing to some individuals. If you have any problems with this method, please try the above method, or contact support for assistance.

**1** You will need to enable SSH to your domain.

**2** From the command prompt, type the following:

- `cd /home/user` (hit enter key) (Replace user with your domain's username)
- `vi .FormMail.conf` (the first dot "." indicates that this will be a hidden file and not visible from the File Manager).

**3** Now, within the vi editor:

If the file comes up with a blank screen,

- use the i key "i" to activate insert mode
- switch to the browser window (this screen)
- select-n-copy the Example `.FormMail.conf` at the end of this page.
- when copied, switch back to the shell screen and paste the copied text
- when the lines are pasted in, type Escape "Esc" and then colon 1 ":1" to go to the top of file (hit enter key)

**4** Once at the top of the file, proceed to read the descriptions and become familiar with their purposes. When you come to `postmaster` and `allow_mail_to`, you will have to enter

the values in between the two lines marking the boundaries of those values. The rest is optional, but very handy.

When you need to change the file, please refer to these 'vi' commands:

- Type `i` to get into insert mode.
- Type `o` to get into insert mode on the next line below your cursor.
- Type `u` to undo your last change. note: cannot be in insert mode.
- Type `Esc` to exit out of insert mode.
- Type `:w` to save the file.
- Type `:wq` to save and exit vi.
- To save your entries and exit the vi editor, do the following: Hit the `Esc` key, type `:wq`, then hit the `Enter` key.

The email addresses in the `.FormMail.conf` `allow_mail_to` section should match the email addresses in the value field (e.g): `<input type=hidden name="recipient" value="username@hotmail.com,anothername@yahoo.com">`

The form action line should be: `<FORM ACTION = "http://domainname.ext/cgi-sys/formmail.pl" METHOD = "POST">`

The above is also true if you would like to use your own secure apache certificate for your forms. The only change is the `FORM ACTION` line. The `http://` gets replaced with `https://`. For example, the form action line for a domain specific certificate should be: `<FORM ACTION= "https://domainname.ext/cgi-sys/formmail.pl" METHOD = "POST">`

The above is also true if you would like to use a server wide secure apache certificate for your forms. The only change is the `FORM ACTION` line. The root domain name is required between the servername and the `cgi-sys` directory. For example, the form action line for server wide certificate should be: `<FORM ACTION = "https://host.servername.ext/domainname/cgi-sys/formmail.pl" METHOD = "POST">`

## Required Form Fields

The only required field is the recipient field, which must have an email address as its value

### recipient

This form field allows you to specify where your form results will be mailed. Most likely you will want to configure this option as a hidden form field with a value equal to that of your email address.

**Syntax:**

```
<input type=hidden name="recipient" value="anyname@yourdo-  
main.com,othername@yourdomain.com">
```

As mentioned above, this is an example of where the .FormMail.conf file comes into play. Any recipient that you have specified in your form must also be listed in your configuration file. Please refer to the example configuration file at the end of this guide for detailed instructions.

## Optional Form Fields

### subject

The subject field allows you to specify the subject that you wish to appear in the email sent to you. If you do not have this option turned on, then the subject will default to: WWW Form Submission .

**Syntax** If you wish to choose the subject: 

```
<input type=hidden name="subject"  
value="Your Subject">
```

To allow the user to choose a subject: 

```
<input type=text name="subject">
```

### email

This form field allows the user to specify his or her return address. If you want to be able to respond to form submitted emails, it is strongly suggested that you include this field and allow your users to fill it in. This will be put into the From: field of the message you receive.

**Syntax**

```
<input type=text name="email">
```

### realname

The realname form field allows the user to input his or her name. This field is useful for identification purposes and will also be put into the From: line of the message header.

**Syntax**

```
<input type=text name="realname">
```

### sort

This field allows you to choose the order in which you wish your variables to appear in the email that FormMail generates. You can choose to have the field sorted alphabetically or specify a set order that the fields will appear in mail messages. By leaving this field out, the order will simply default to the order in which the browsers send the information to the script (which isn't always the same order the variables appear in the form.) When sorting by a set order of fields, you should include the phrase order as the first part of your value for the sort field, then follow with the field names you want to be listed in the email message, separated by commas.

**Syntax** To sort alphabetically: `<input type=hidden name="sort" value="alphabetic">`. To sort by a set field order: `<input type=hidden name="sort" value="order:name1,name2,etc...">`

## redirect

If you wish to redirect the user to a different URL, rather than having them see the default response to the form, you may use this hidden variable to send them to another webpage.

**Syntax** To choose the URL the user will redirected to: `<input type=hidden name="redirect" value="http://your.address/file.html">`. To allow the user to specify a URL he wishes to travel to once the form is filled out: `<input type=text name="redirect">`

## require

You can require that users fill in certain fields before the user can successfully submit the form. Simply place all field names that you want to be mandatory into this field. If the required fields are not filled in, the user will be notified that information is missing, and a link back to the form they just submitted will be provided.

**Syntax** If you want to require that the user fill in the email and phone fields in your form, so that you can reach them once you have received the mail, use a syntax similar to: `<input type=hidden name="required" value="email,phone">`

## env\_report

You may include environment variables in the email message you receive after a user has filled out your form. This is useful if you wish to know what browser they were using, what domain they were coming from, or any other attributes associated with environment variables. The following is a short list of environment variables you may find useful:

- REMOTE\_HOST sends the hostname making a request.
- REMOTE\_ADDR sends the IP address of the remote host making the request.
- HTTP\_USER\_AGENT is the browser the client is using to send the request.

**Syntax** If you wanted to find the remote host and browser sending the request, you would put the following into your form: `<input type=hidden name="env_report" value="REMOTE_HOST,HTTP_USER_AGENT">`

## title

This form field allows you to specify the title and header that will appear on the resulting page if you do not specify a redirect URL.

**Syntax** If you wanted a title of Feedback Form Results: `<input type=hidden name="title" value="Feedback Form Results">`

### **return\_link\_url**

This field allows you to specify a URL that will appear on the report page. This field will not be used if you have the redirect field set, but it is useful if you allow the user to receive the report on the following page, but want to offer them a way to get back to your main page. You may set the text of the link in the return\_link\_title field.

**Syntax** `<input type=hidden name="return_link_url" value="http://your.host.xxx/main.html">`

### **return\_link\_title**

This is the title that will be used to link the user back to the page you specify with return\_link\_url. The two fields will be shown on the resulting form page as: `<ul> <li><a href="return_link_url">return_link_title</a> </li></ul>`

**Syntax** `<input type=hidden name="return_link_title" value="Back to Main Page">`

### **background**

This form field allows you to specify a background image that will appear if you do not have the redirect field set. This image will appear as the background of the form results page.

**Syntax** `<input type=hidden name="background" value="http://your.host.xxx/image.gif">`

### **bgcolor**

This form field allows you to specify a background color for the form results page in much the way you specify a background image.

**Syntax** For a background color of white: `<input type=hidden name="bgcolor" value="#FFFFFF">`

### **text\_color**

This field works in the same way as bgcolor, except that it will change the color of your text.

**Syntax** For a text color of black: `<input type=hidden name="text_color" value="#000000">`

## link\_color

This field changes the color of links on the result page and works in the same way as text\_color. If redirect is defined, then this link will have no effect.

**Syntax** For a link color of red: `<input type=hidden name="link_color" value="#FF0000">`

## vlink\_color

This field changes the color of visited links on the result page and works in the same way as text\_color. If redirect is defined, then this link will have no effect.

**Syntax** For a visited link color of blue: `<input type=hidden name="vlink_color" value="#0000FF">`

## alink\_color

This field changes the color of active links on the result page and works in the same way as text\_color. If redirect is defined, then this link will have no effect.

**Syntax Note:** For a visited link color of blue: `<input type=hidden name="alink_color" value="#0000FF">`

## Example .FormMail.conf File:

```
#### NMS Secure FormMail v2.20 2002/11/21 (Release 1.0)
####
#### *Configuration File*
#### If any values are not set properly, FormMail WILL NOT work.
####
#### Save this file in your home directory (/home/username/) named '.FormMail.conf'
####
# Set this to '1' if you receive any errors. They will
# Be displayed to the browser in a more verbose manner.
[DEBUGGING]
0
[/DEBUGGING]
# This address will receive bounced messages if any of the emails
# cannot be delivered, and should be set to your email address.
#
[postmaster]
you@yourdomain.com
[/postmaster]
# A list of the email addresses that formmail can send
# email to. The elements of this list can be either
# simple email addresses (like 'you@your.domain') or
# domain names (like 'your.domain'). If it's a domain
# name then *any* address at the domain will be allowed.
#
# Also see NOTE below for aliases.
#
# NOTE: One address/domain per line
```

```

#
[allow_mail_to]
yourdomain.com
you@yahoo.com
[/allow_mail_to]
# A hash for predefining a list of recipients in the
# script, and then choosing between them using the
# recipient form field, while keeping all the email
# addresses out of the HTML so that they don't get
# collected by address harvesters and sent junk email.
#
# For example, suppose you have three forms on your
# site, and you want each to submit to a different email
# address and you want to keep the addresses hidden.
#
# In the HTML form that should submit to the recipient
# 'me@mydomain.com', you would then set the recipient
# with:
#
# <input type="hidden" name="recipient" value="me" />
#
# NOTE: If an alias is set for any email address, then it is
# not required to be in the [allow_mail_to] block, it
# is automatically allowed.
#
# NOTE: One alias per line.
#
[recipient_alias]
me=>you@yourdomain.com
him=>you@yaoo.com,you@hotmail.com
[/recipient_alias]
# If this flag is set to 1 then an additional email
# will be sent to the person who submitted the
# form.
#
# CAUTION: with this feature turned on it's
# possible for someone to put someone else's email
# address in the form and submit it 5000 times,
# causing this script to send a flood of email to a
# third party. This third party is likely to blame
# you for the email flood attack.
#
[send_confirmation_mail]
0
[/send_confirmation_mail]
# The header and body of the confirmation email
# sent to the person who submits the form, if the
# [send_confirmation_mail] flag is set. In the
# example below, everything between the lines:
#
#     [confirmation_text]
# and
#     [/confirmation_text]
#
# is treated as part of the email.

# !!IMPORTANT!!
# Everything before the first blank line is taken as part of
# the email header, and everything after the first

```

```
# blank line is the body of the email.
[confirmation_text]
From: you@yourdomain.com
Subject: Your Form Submission
Thank you for your submission.
[/confirmation_text]
# The Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) used for the 'thank you' page
# if a redirect is not used. This is an absolute URL.
#
# i.e. /css/site.css would be http://yourdomain.com/css/site.css
#
# This may be left blank.
#
[style]
css/site.css
[/style]
# The Character set used for parsing form data and for the resulting
# 'Thank You' page after form submission.
#
# This may be left blank.
#
[charset]
iso-8859-1
[/charset]
```