Subject: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by gpatti on Thu, 28 May 2009 19:38:30 GMT
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I have a database attribute of type TEXT. I want to restrict the actual amount of text that is entered into this field but am not sure how to do it.

My control is a multi-line text box. I wondered if I could restrict the number of rows in this box and prevent it from auto scrolling once it is full?

In the DICT application I also tried restricting the column size (on the update column screen), but it still seems to allow me to enter and save too much data.

Any suggestions?

Subject: Re: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by AJM on Thu, 28 May 2009 22:19:27 GMT
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A multi-lne text box uses the HTML textarea element, and the HTML specification does not allow for any restrictions in the amount of data which may be input by the user. Because of this there is nothing the framework can insert into the HTML document to restrict user input. There is no way to turn off the scroll bar, so you cannot use the numbers of lines and rows to restrict user input.

You can restrict the column size in the data dictionary, but this cannot be checked in the server-side code until after the form has been posted.

Subject: Re: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by gpatti on Thu, 28 May 2009 23:04:26 GMT
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What does the column size attribute in the dictionary actually do? I was able to set a small value but save larger amounts in the db. Do I have to perform some manual validation and, if so, how do I do that? I suppose it makes most sense to trap this and display a custom error.

Subject: Re: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by AJM on Fri, 29 May 2009 09:08:51 GMT
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The column size attribute is supposed to be checked during the standard field validation, and if the input exceeds this value a standard error message is supposed to be generated. I say "supposed", but due to a bug when checking the character encoding this code was skipped. This is fixed in the attached file.

This means that the length of the string can be validated against the column size specified in the data dictionary with standard framework code, so no custom code should be necessary.

File Attachments

1) std.validation.class.zip, downloaded 1761 times

Subject: Re: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by gpatti on Fri, 29 May 2009 13:47:53 GMT
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Thanks, that works and makes sense to me now!

Having played around with this a bit more I've decided that what I really need is to restrict the number of lines of text, rather than the number of characters. I'll need to write some custom code to count carriage returns and wrapped lines. Does anyone have anything like this already that I can use?

Subject: Re: Restrict the input size of a multi-line text box
Posted by AJM on Fri, 29 May 2009 14:08:10 GMT
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You might be able to do what you want with javascript, but as I don't use javascript I cannot provide a workable solution.
