



Steven Knight Training December 2003

FORM DATA PROCESSING.....	2
OPTION 1	2
OPTION 2	2
SETTING UP YOUR FORM TO USE A FORM TO MAIL SCRIPT	3
<i>Preparation.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Setting up your form</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Publish and Test</i>	<i>5</i>

No liability is accepted for any loss or damage arising from the use of this guide. Copyright Steven Knight Training Pty Ltd ©2003

Form Data processing

Once you have created your form you need to consider where the data goes. When you submit a form the data is sent from your computer to the server. It is directed to a nominated page which includes instructions to process the data.

There are two common approaches.

Option 1

The most common approach is to have your form results sent to a nominated e-mail address. This is accomplished by a form handling script on the server which takes your data and uses it to create an e-mail which is forwarded to the nominated address.

Most leading Hosting services will provide commercial customers with a standard form to mail script using CGI and Perl. Similar results can be achieved using other server side technologies eg ColdFusion or ASP.

In this guide we will look at using a typical form handling script as provided by a hosting service. These should be tested, reliable and easy to use.

Note

If your web hosting service doesn't provide a standard form handling script, you need to review your planning processes! In your web site planning you need to identify the features you wish to provide on your site. Then select a hosting service that supports the technologies required to deliver those features. Don't shop for hosting on price alone!!!

Option 2

You may wish to have the form data entered into a database. Dreamweaver MX can create pages to achieve this using many leading server side technologies including ASP. Contact your account manager at IT&T Education for details of the training I can provide to assist you in this area