

I'm gonna miss XML formatted cforms

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Anyone who has spent more than 12 minutes coding on a team with me will know that I am passionate about `<cform></cform>`, and more specifically, `<cform format="xml">`.

That said, I will be abandoning XML formatted cforms and going back to regular old HTML cforms.

Unfortunately, the new extended form controls that use YUI and ExtJS do not work when using the XForms based cforms.

The reason I love XForms based cforms is because I can set up the XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language - Transform) to format all of my forms in exactly the same way. Since, most of the time, forms are going to have the same layout and styling across an entire site, it makes sense to use an auto generated form. With my XSLT I never had to enter a `class=""` or an `id=""` or use `<label></label>` tags. It was all done behind the scenes. It made my source code lighter, and reduced the number of likely errors I would see.

I will greatly miss the time savings of XML formatted cforms; however, I greatly welcome the time-saving and beautiful cform extended controls. Things like `<cinput autosuggest="true: />` and `<cfgrid>` and `<cfcalendar>` and the FCKeditor make me absolutely giddy with excitement.

When I first realized they would not work, I started to look into why, I looked first at `<cftextarea richtext="true" />`, since that is what I was working on. I was able to find what was missing and create a custom XSLT Stylesheet to load the FCKeditor onto any textarea that were in the form. At first I was very happy, and I strutted around the house like the cock-of-the-walk exclaiming my brilliance, and then I looked at what it would take to make autosuggest work in XML forms. That made me sad. While it would likely be possible to make all of the new extended form controls work with XML formatted cforms, I do not think it is worth the overall headache of building a customized XSLT Stylesheet to handle ALL of those scenarios.

It will likely be worth the loss of XML formatted cforms to have these new extended controls, but I wish for a perfect world where they will work together. Perhaps I can make something worth with ColdFusion Custom Tags.