

ValidatorDatesFormatting

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Do most people allow users to type in a complete free-form text date? Or do you give them three boxes where they must put in month day and year separately?

I'm trying to come to terms with validation. I can't turn on the automatic validation `<action validate="true" ... >` because the users are allowed to leave the form before it's complete and come back to it. Will I still be able to use the plug-in Validator? (All the actions in the struts-validator example have 'validate' this turned on.

But here's where I get lost. In order to copy the properties back and forth from Value Object to [ActionForm](#), the types have to match. (Don't they?) But if I put a `java.sql.Date` into my [ActionForm](#), then it will blow up when the user types 7/13/1985 rather than 1985-07-13 and submits the form.

So, I need a String property in the [ActionForm](#), and ... some special something that turns it into a `java.sql.Date` but will not blow up if the input is wrong?

Answer(s)

we use this http://developer.iplanet.com/viewsource/husted_calendar/husted_calendar.html

-Tim Cronin

Also Commons [BeanUtils](#) provides a number of automatic conversions, so this might be performed already.

Rob Leland

The link Tim provided is broken. You can try the excellent [Mishoo's DHTML Calendar](#)

Pedro Caetano

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