

## ***FormGenerator in Bonita Workflow System***

Formgenerator allows Bonita workflow system end-users to instantiate a project or to start an activity bound to a process. It does this by filling a form with the values corresponding to the project or activity properties.

Formgenerator is a Xforms based form generator (XForms is now a w3c recommendation, since October 2003 for XForms 1.0). XForms is the new markup language for forms on the Web. Traditional HTML Web forms don't separate the data from the presentation of a form. XForms, in contrast, are comprised of separate sections that describe what the form does, and how the form looks.

Another advantage of using XForms in Formgenerator tool is that XForms is properly integrated into XML: it is in XML, the data it collects in the form is XML, it can load external XML documents as initial data, and can submit the results as XML. By including the user in the XML pipeline, it at last means you can have end-to-end XML, right up to the user's desktop. XForms allows for flexible presentation options, including classic XHTML forms, to be attached to an XML form definition. So, with XForms, the rules for describing and validating data are expressed in XML.

In definitive:

- XForms are the next generation of HTML forms
- XForms are richer and more flexible than HTML forms
- XForms are designed to handle interactive transactions
- XForms are platform and device independent
- XForms separate data and logic from presentation
- XForms use XML to define forms
- XForms contain features like calculations and validations of forms (less scripting is required)
- XForms forms can be routed to multiple users and locations
- XForms is a W3C Recommendation

For more informations, see

<http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Forms/>

## **1. Use case of Formgenerator in Bonita**

### **1.1. Start a process**

You must know before going any further that Formgenerator tool is embedded in Bonita workflow system. So, you can access it by typing a specified URL in your web browser. When the end-user types this URL and select the option to instantiate a project, he obtains the list of Bonita instanciable projects. Then he can choose one of them and then obtains a form in order to instantiate the concerned projet (The values keyboarded

in the form correspond to the project properties). After having validated the first form, the Formgenerator 1.0 end-user obtains the list of Bonita instantiated projects.

## 1.2. Start a process activity

A process activity can be started just after a project instantiation or selecting the appropriate option in the specified URL. The user obtains the list of instantiated projects. Then he can choose one of them and then obtains its associated todo list (a todo list is a list of all activities for a specified process that user has to start). By clicking on a task of this todo list, the end-user obtains a form in order to start the concerned activity (The values keyboarded in the form correspond to the activity properties).

After this you are redirected to the activity todolist page... (You must continue).

## 2. Summary

So, if you want to use Formgenerator in Bonita workflow system, you must process as follow:

- 1) Type `http://servername/formgenerator` URL in your web browser where "servername" is the server hostname on which Bonita is deployed on.
- 2) Select desired option in order to instantiate a project or view todo list.

### Case project instantiation:

- 3) Once you have selected the project you want to instantiate, you are redirected towards form page.
- 4) Fill out the form and submit data, your project is instantiated and you are redirected towards the instantiated projects list.
- 5) Choosing one project instance you can see its activities.
- 6) You can select an activity, fill out the form and submit data for the concerned activity (case activity has properties). The activity starts. After this you are redirected to the activities todolist page (View « case todo list view »).

### Case todo list view:

- 3) Select the desired activity in the « ToDo » column.
- 4) Fill out the form and submit data for the concerned activity (case activity has properties). The activity starts. After this you are redirected another time to the todolist page.