



Introduction

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Web-based forms in Drupal

Pros and cons of Webform and Entityform
ILR and SAS-IT experiences with both

What are they?



Two popular Drupal modules used to create and process forms and display user submissions.



Webform vs Entityform differences

Webform

- End-user-friendly
- Uses its own field system
- Forms are content

Entityform

- Developer-oriented
- Uses the Drupal field system
- “Forms” are created as Entityform types



Webform intro

- 457,000 installations and is second most popular module
- Its a very easy to use module out of the box
- Treated as a content type
- Submissions can be emailed to end user and admin
- Results can be used in views or downloaded as csv



Form components

Conditionals

Arrange fields

E-mails

Form settings

Form preview

Name

e-mail

Please fill out the email you would like to receive correspondence to.

Comments

Save

Cancel

Add a field

Textfield

Textarea

E-mail

Number

Radios

Checkboxes

Select list

Grid

Date

Time

File

Hidden

Markup

Fieldset

Page break



Webform pros

- Well established & easy to use
- Large selection of add on modules
- Easy email submission interface
- Treated as content
- Works with rules
- Conditional, multipage, grid, markup, time and date fields



Webform cons

- Not treated as entities
- Uses its own storage solution
- Drupal 8 compatibility



SAS-IT experience - why Webform?

- The SAS-IT Environment/template was created before Entityform had a stable release
- A large majority of the forms are created by the contributor
- Many forms are simple registration form administered by contributors



SAS-IT experience - how we use it

- Plan out all of the existing or new form needs and functionality
- Configure Webform for contributors with needed fields
- Contributors create and administer the form
- Simple documentation to walk contributors through csv downloads



Entityform intro

- 14K installs with 77K downloads
- Uses Drupal field system, so any field can be added to a form
- To use entityform, you first create an entityform type; look and feel is similar to creating a content type
- Add an instance of the entityform type to a node whose content type includes an “entityform field”, i.e. an entity reference field to specify the entityform type.

Add entityform type

Name *

 Machine name: sample_entityform [\[Edit\]](#)

The human-readable name of this Entityform Type. This text will be displayed as part of the list in the Entityform Types page. This name must be unique.

- ☒ Append user's name to subject line of admin email; some ILR staff appreciate having this; some do not
- ☒ Send confirmation email to user
- ☐ This form requires NetID authentication
- ☐ This form is used to process payments
- ☒ Send confirmation email to admin

ILR Admin email

The email address – usually a special mailbox – to send the admin email to when a form is submitted. Also used as From email for user confirmation, so don't leave it blank.

Redirect path

What relative path should the user be redirected to on a correct submission? Leave blank for default action.

Intro form instructions

B *I* **Format**

Sample Entityform

EDIT

MANAGE FIELDS

MANAGE DEPENDENCIES

MANAGE DISPLAY



Saved Name configuration

LABEL

+ URL redirects

+ Name

Add new field

Label

+

Add existing field

Label

+

Add new group

Label

Date: field_featured_date (Featured Date)
Date: field_form_active_date_range (Form availability start date and end date...)
Date: field_h_event_date (Event date)
Date: field_h_post_date (Post Date)
Date: field_published_date (Publication Date)
Date: field_registration_end_date (Registration End date)
Decimal: field_credit_hours (Credit Hours)
Decimal: field_price (Price)
Editor Notes: field_editor_notes (Editor Notes)
Email: field_email (Email)
Email: field_email_additional (Email)
Email: field_email_additional_2 (Email (financial officer))
Entity Reference: field_content (Video)
Entity Reference: field_course (Course)
Entity Reference: field_faculty (Faculty)
Entity Reference: field_internal_link (Internal Link)
Entity Reference: field_playlists (Playlists)
Entity Reference: field_referenced_entity (Mega Menu Items)
Entity Reference: field_referenced_node (Event title)
Entity Reference: field_registration_form (Registration form)

- Select an existing field -

Field to share

group_

Group name (a-z, 0-9, _)

Entityform demo screen shots, customized for ILR



Entityform pros

- Uses standard Drupal field system
- Not content, works well with features and version control, dev / test / prod setup
- Interfaces with hook system, reasonably easy for a developer to add code to affect forms creation and processing
- No issue migrating to Drupal 8



Entityform cons

- Interface is less intuitive than webform, developer creates the forms
- Increases number of fields



ILR experience - why Entityform?

- Migration from CommonSpot to Drupal, about 60 forms to migrate
- Preferred to use Drupal's field system
- Forms as part of dev / test / prod environment, in Drupal features, and in github
- Working with Entityform author, Ted Bowman (Six Mile Tech)



ILR experience - how we use it

- ILR customizations when creating a new Entityform type
- Processing specific to some forms
- Email templates for user and admin
- Kerberos integration
- Payment form integration
- Ability to add an Entityform to any basic page
- Registration page content type
- Many Entityform options we haven't used yet



ILR experience - lessons learned

- Overall we're happy and it's working well
- Some issues:
 - Can't make form changes "on the fly"
 - Total number of fields
 - Size of the feature
- Might use a combination of entityform and webform in the future



Considerations in choosing

- Who will be creating the forms?
- What is your development process?
- Should your forms use the Drupal field system?
- What are the form requirements? Will you need to code?
- Will a form have more than 50-100 fields?
- What are your plans for Drupal 8?



Useful links

Entityform Module

drupal.org/project/entityform

Webform Module

drupal.org/project/webform

When to use which

drupal.org/node/1540680

Entityform documentation

drupal.org/node/1432894

Drupal's form modules compared

drupal.org/node/2082675

Webform add ons

drupal.org/node/1526208

Video

Webform tutorial

youtu.be/PRci_xRDTE0

Entityform intro from Six Mile Tech

youtu.be/3ELpPTUnURo (and others)

Another Entityform tutorial

youtu.be/kTGqv_BnKtw