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Creating an extension - Part 2

In the first part of the tutorial entry we created an extension provider for a local context which we can use in order to create our extension of choice Mango Blog. This entry will cover the collection of the necessary data in the config.xml file which is part of the installation repository.

Creating the data collection form

In order to collect user data, you can create a config.xml which is part of the provided repository and contains elements that define the form displayed. There are several different elements that can be used. In order to check what elements you can use and especially what the allowed attributes are, just check our documentation wiki.

The data collection form for Mango blog looks like this:

```
<</span>?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>

 label="Step 1" description=" You are about to install Mango Blog. You will need to have a database (MS SQL or MySQL) already created (it can be an empty database). ">
     label="Location" description="Please set the location where you want to install Mango blog to">
         type="text" name="destination_path" description="path where Mango blog should be installed into">evaluate:expandPath('/mango/')

     label="Existing Database" description="Choose from an existing datasource. If your hosting provider requires you to supply username and password every time you need to access your database, fill out the corresponding fields.">
         type="radio" name="datasource_select" description="You can select a new datasource from the dropdown below">
             value="existing" description="">Choose existing database

         dynamic="listDatasources" label="Datasources" name="datasource" type="select" description="This the Data Source Name (DSN) created for Mura. This is usually done in the ColdFusion or Railo administrator, or in the control panel of your host if you are installing Mura in a shared environment. Please note that if you are installing Mura in a shared environment, this will likely need to be changed to something other than 'muradb' to make sure it is unique to the server. You can use either MSSQL, MySQL or H2SQL Databases, please select one of your databases"/>
         type="text" name="db_username" label="Username" description="Username to access your database"/>
         type="text" name="db_password" label="Password" description="Your database password"/>

     label="New Datasource" description="Create a new datasource">
         type="radio" name="datasource_select" description="Provide the necessary data in order to create the corresponding data">
             value="new" description="">Create new datasource

         type="text" name="datasource_new" value="mangoblog" label="Datasource name (required)"/>
         type="radio" label="Choose DB Type" name="dbtype_new">
             value="mssql" description="">MS SQL 2000
             value="mssql_2005" description="">MS SQL 2005
             value="mysql" description="" selected="true">MySQL

         type="text" name="server_new" value="localhost" label="Database server" description="Your database host address (i.e.: localhost, an ip address or url)"/>
         type="text" name="database_new" value="mangoblog" label="Database name" description="The name of your database"/>
         type="text" name="username_new" value="root" label="Username" description="Username to access your database"/>
         type="password" name="password_new" value="admin" label="Password" description="Your database password"/>
         type="text" name="prefix_new" label="Table prefix" description="Fill this if your database is not empty or you have another Mango installation in the same database"/>


 label="Step 2" description="New blog?">
     label="Is this a new blog" description="">
         type="radio" name="isblognew" description="You can import your blog entries from another blog. At the end of the installation process the importer will be started.">
             value="no" description="">No


     label="Author information" description="Information about the blog author">
         type="radio" name="isblognew" value="yes">
             value="yes" description="">Yes

         type="text" name="name" label="Name"/>
         type="text" name="username" value="" label="Username"/>
         type="password" name="password" label="Password"/>
         type="text" name="email" label="Email" description="Email address where password will be sent if forgotten. This address also identifies the author when writing comments in posts."/>

     label="Blog information" description="Describe your blog">
         type="text" name="blog_title" label="Title"/>
         type="text" name="blog_address" label="Blog address">evaluate:'http://#cgi.http_host#/'
```

As you can see the above code uses a notation similar to creating forms in HTML. Please check the reference in the wiki in order to find out what you can do with the different tags available. The only special thing here is the line:

```
dynamic="listDatasources" label="Datasources" name="datasource" type="select" description="This ... databases"/>
```

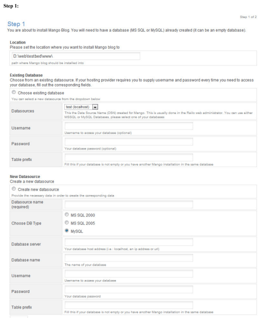
This calls the method listDatasources in the install.cfc in order to create the options of the select box. This method looks like this:

```
 name="listDatasources" returntype="void" output="no" hint="called from form generator to create dynamic forms">
     name="item" required="yes" hint="item cfc">
     var type="">
     action="getDatasources" type="#request.adminType#" password="#session["password"&request.adminType]#" returnVariable="datasources">
     query="datasources">
         findNoCase('microsoft',datasources.classname ) or findNoCase('jtds',datasources.classname )>
             type="mssql">
         findNoCase('mysql',datasources.classname )>
             type="mysql">


         item.createOption(value:type&":"&datasources.name,label:datasources.name&" ("&datasources.host&")")>

     item.createOption(value:"new",label:"Create new one")>
```

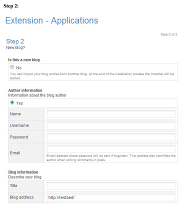
The above config.xml produces the following forms:

License: If there is a license.txt file in your archive.zip it automatically gets displayed. This is the first page.

Step 1:



Step 2:



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