

Preventing Form Spam in cf_sebForm

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I use [cf_sebForm](#) for all of my contact forms. Form spam is a constant problem for those forms. So, I set up a generic way to do filtering in those forms and wrote both [cf_sebForm](#) and [SpamFilter.cfc](#) to follow the same guidelines.

The "filter" attribute of [cf_sebForm](#) takes a component (or array of components). If that attribute exists, [cf_sebForm](#) will pass the Form structure into the "filter" method of the component(s) passed in to that attribute and set the Form structure to the result. This would allow you to write a filter for security or for editing out offensive language, for example.

If the filter method throws an error, then it will be treated just like an error caught by the [CatchErrTypes](#) attribute for [validation errors](#).

So, to use [SpamFilter.cfc](#), just instantiate [SpamFilter](#) (in this example into Application scope):

```
<cfset Application.DataMgr = CreateObject("component","DataMgr").init(mydsn,"MSSQL")>
<cfset Application.SpamFilter = CreateObject("component","SpamFilter").init(Application.DataMgr)>
```

Then pass [SpamFilter](#) into the [cf_sebForm](#) tag:

```
<cf_sebForm filter="#Application.SpamFilter#">
...
</cf_sebForm>
```

Note also that this [attribute could be set globally](#) as well.

Now all form submissions will be checked for spam. If [SpamFilter.cfc](#) determines that a form submission is spam, then it will return a validation error to the user alerting them to that.

[SpamFilter.cfc](#) is open source and free for any use. The [cf_sebForm](#) ([tag docs](#)) custom tag is part of the [sebtags custom tag set](#) which is open source and free for any use.