

Eureka!

SHELL SCRIPT

Submit Google Forms by curl command

JULY 30, 2014 | YKYUEN | 6 COMMENTS

Google Forms is a very common way to collect user data nowadays. After you have created the form, you could insert it to your web site and present it with your own style.

Other than that, we could integrate Google Forms with the backend job since we could submit the form through command line. Let's take a look on the following example.

1. Create a new form on your Google drive. The edit page url should be in the following format.
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/<form-id>/edit>
2. View the live form and inspect your field elements to get all the field name.

The screenshot shows a Google Form in a browser. The form title is "Google form could be submitted by command". Below the title is a text input field with the placeholder text "Say sth!". The input field is highlighted with a yellow border, and its dimensions are shown as 123px x 19px. Below the input field is a "Submit" button. The form also includes a "Never submit passwords through Google Forms." warning and a "Powered by Google Forms" logo.

The browser's developer tools are open, showing the HTML structure of the form. The selected element is an `input` tag with the following attributes: `name="entry.1202908243"`, `value="entry_1202908243"`, `class="ss-q-short valid"`, `id="entry_1202908243"`, `dir="auto"`, `aria-label="Say sth! text"`, and `title="Say sth! text"`. The `error-message` attribute is also present with the value `"274377095_errorMessage"`.

The CSS styles for the input field are shown in the right pane of the developer tools. The styles include:

```

input {
  vertical-align: middle;
  margin-left: 0;
  margin-top: 0;
}
input[Attributes Style] {
  unicode-bidi: -webkit-isolate;
}
input,
input[type="password"],
input[type="search"] {
  -webkit-appearance: textfield;
  padding: 1px;
  background-color: white;
  border: 2px inset;
  border-image-source: initial;
  border-image-slice: initial;
  border-image-width: initial;
}

```

(<https://ykyuen.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/submit-google-form-by-command-11.png>)

3. Construct the curl command as follow:

- `curl https://docs.google.com/forms/d/<form-id>/formResponse -d ifq -d <field-name>=<field-value> -d submit=Submit`

In my case the curl command is

- `curl https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/formResponse -d ifq -d entry.1202908243=Eureka -d submit=Submit`

4. Execute it in shell and that return your the submitted successfully html.

```

Save
furies — root@git:/data/repos — bash — 134x38
hatuey:furies yingki tyuen$ curl "https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/formResponse?ifq&entry.1202908243=Eureka&submit=Submit"
-bash: !: event not found
hatuey:furies yingki tyuen$ curl "https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/formResponse?ifq&entry.1202908243=Eureka&submit=Submit"
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd"><html><head><link rel="shortcut icon" href="https://ssl.gstatic.com/docs/spreadsheets/forms/favicon_jfk2.png" type="image/x-icon">
<meta http-equiv="Content-type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
<meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=10; chrome=1;">
<meta name="fragment" content="!">
<base target="_blank">
<title>謝謝您! </title>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="">

<link href="/static/forms/client/css/4041131687-formresponse_ltr.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet">
<style type="text/css">

</style>

<link href="/static/forms/client/css/699806371-mobile_formresponse_ltr.css" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" media="screen and (max-device-width: 721px)">
</head>
<body class="ss-base-body" dir="ltr"><div class="ss-container"><div class="ss-resp-card"><div class="ss-header-image-container"><div class="ss-header-image-image"><div class="ss-header-image-sizer"></div></div></div>
<h1 class="ss-confirmation">Google form could be submitted by command</h1>
<div class="ss-resp-content"><div class="ss-resp-message">我們已經收到您回覆的表格。</div>
<div class="ss-opt-actions">

<a class="ss-bottom-link" target="_self" href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/viewform?ifq&entry.1202908243=Eureka&submit=Submit&amp;usp=form_confirm">提交其他回覆</a></div>
</div>
<div class="ss-response-footer"><table class="ss-footer-content"><tr><td><div><div>這份表格是透過「Google 表格」建立的。</div>
<div><a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/create?usp=form_confirm" aria-label="建立自己的「Google 表格」。">建立您的表單</a></div></div></td><div class="ss-logo-container"><div class="ss-logo-image"></div>
<span class="aria-only-help">Google 表格</span></div></td></tr></table></div></div><hahatuhatuhatueyhatuhahhhhhhhhhhhhhahhahhhhh
hatuey:furies yingki tyuen$
  
```

(<https://ykyuen.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/submit-google-form-by-command-2.png>)

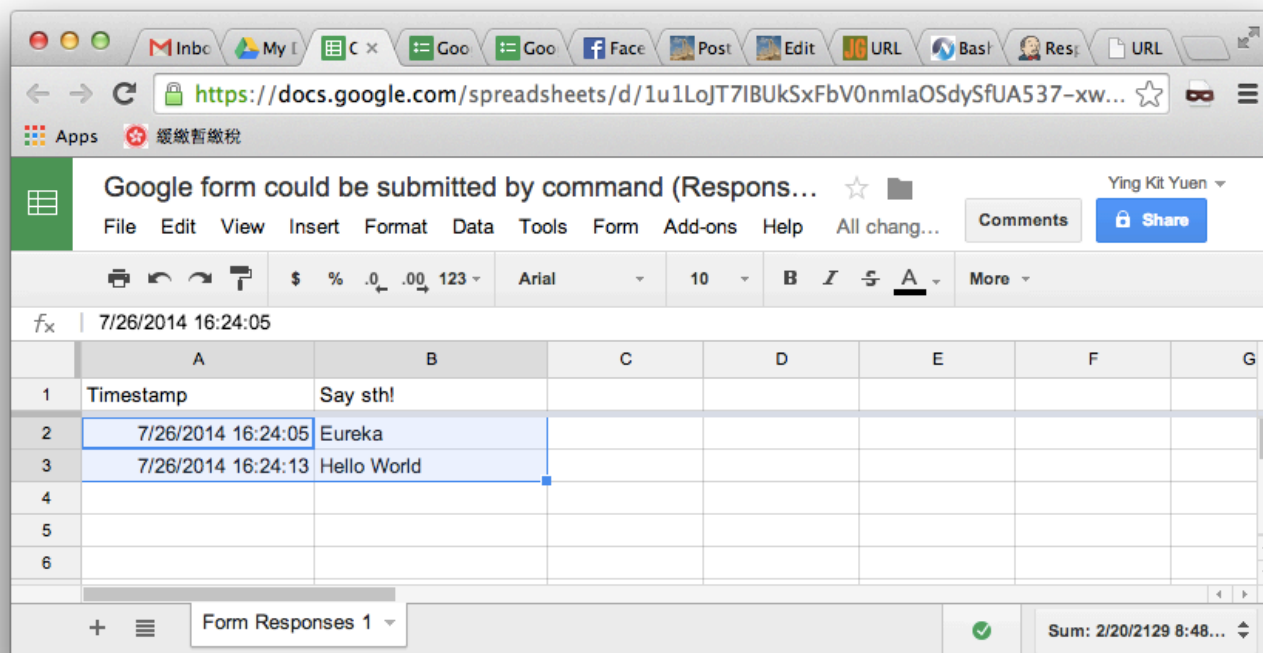
5. If your `<field-value>` contains special characters like whitespace, wrap the key value pair with double quote.

- `curl https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/formResponse -d ifq -d "entry.1202908243=Hello World" -d submit=Submit`

6. You could also submit the whole url without breaking down the parameters. in that case you need to **encode the special characters like whitespace**. For example if the text contains a whitespace, replace it with `%20`.

- `curl "https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXuDjRY/formResponse?ifq&entry.1202908243=Hello%20World&submit=Submit"`

6. Check the response spreadsheet.



(<https://ykyuen.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/submit-google-form-by-command-3.png>)

Done =)

Reference: URL Tricks for Google Forms: Pre-populate, and Automatically Submitting Responses (<http://justingale.com/2013/09/url-tricks-for-google-forms-pre-populate-and-automatically-submitting-responses/>)

Update @ 2014-07-31: Thanks Philip for suggesting using the `-d` parameter in the curl command. =D



◀ [GOOGLE](#) ◀ [GOOGLE DRIVE](#) ◀ [GOOGLE FORMS](#) ◀ [HTML](#) ◀ [SHELL SCRIPT](#)

6 thoughts on “Submit Google Forms by curl command”

1. [無聊達人](#) says:

JULY 30, 2014 AT 13:45

Try -d for passing parameters, I think it will take care encoding for you. 😊

```
curl https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XEJWxStJhNhfv_smf9pzQxEBbXMjhyuRyp7aHXu-DjRY/formResponse -d ifq -d "entry.1202908243=Hello World (philip)" -d submit=Submit
```

1. [ykyuen](#) says:

JULY 30, 2014 AT 13:48

wow~ great! works like a charm~~

let me update the post later~~ =D

2. Pingback: [Shell – String replace | Eureka!](#)

3. [t](#) says:

MARCH 21, 2015 AT 19:00

What if I tell you there is a copy as cURL command in network tab.

1. [ykyuen](#) says:

MARCH 27, 2015 AT 22:32

I didn't realize that. Thanks. =)

4. **paulj** says:

OCTOBER 26, 2016 AT 10:32

Can you also update a form?