

This Tutorial is going to show you how to create an Advanced form in BlueVoda, and how to easily create (no hand coding required) the necessary PHP script. It goes beyond the tutorials and the scripts presented up to this moment: in fact, it will also provide for Required Field Validation, Email validation, Single or Multiple File Upload, as well as correct feedback from multiple choice Comboboxes / Listboxes. It embeds a complete error reporting page, with a template built by you, so it will suit your own pages, as well as a custom made thankyou page. You can have a multiline (text) header and footer for your email. Last, it provides for a customized autoresponder that will email your visitor a copy of the email, with a customizable multiline (text) header and footer.

We shall show you what the conditions for the correct functioning of the script are, how to customize your script, and how to create your personalized error page with all the error messages included, just using BlueVoda and the script that we will provide you..

Please note that this tutorial requires you to have at least a minimum experience with building forms in BlueVoda. If you don't, please watch [BlueVoda Form Tutorial 1](#), and [BlueVoda Form Tutorial 2](#) carefully. By doing so you will become familiar with form fields, and their properties. For NON BlueVoda users, it is assumed that they know how to create their forms in their favourite software.

Please note that this Tutorial is also available in PDF and Word format included in a zip that you can download from here . Save the PDF or HTML file on your computer, for offline work.

In simple words, that's how our form and script work:

1. The form submits all the necessary info, including info on field validation, to a php script.
2. The script performs field validation, upload attached files, creates the email and the autoresponder mail and sends them.
3. The visitor is redirected either to a **Thankyou** (or Confirmation) page, or to an **Error** reporting page if the script finds errors in the info the visitor has filled in.

If you are more experienced, you already know that one of the best ways to process the form info, is to submit it to a php script that will validate, check, create the email, and send it to you. You can also do more things with the info: store it in a database, or write it in a file. However these are particular features, that require a more or less customized script. In our case we want to provide you with a as generic as possible script.

However, BlueVoda has gained it's fame and has had such a success because it requires no HTML knowledge or hand coding from the user. With this in mind, we have created a script that will allow the users to setup their form without hand coding at all.

Important: this script will also work with forms created in any other software (Dreamweaver, Frontpage, any html editor) as long as they are HTML forms. It will also work with hand coded PHP forms.

Please follow the steps that are described below. We suggest that you first read these instructions carefully and then proceed to installation and use of the software.

1. Setting up the software

Before you go on, please [download](#) the zip with all necessary files and instructions. The zip contains an entire folder called BVFORMS. Unzip it on your computer, in a folder called "BVFORMS" . If you are a BlueVoda user, this folder should preferably be inside your BlueVoda folder on your computer. From this point on, you can continue reading off line if you prefer so, by opening the Advanced BlueVoda From Processor Tutorial file (Word or PDF)

The files included in the zip are:

- a. PHP files:
 1. abvfp.php
 2. ndadmin1.php
- b. BlueVoda pages:
 1. ndadmin.bvp
 1. ndconfirm.bvp
 2. ndadminhelp.bvp
 3. errorpage.bvp
 4. thankyou_page.bvp
 5. contactform.bvp
- c. Tutorial files:
 1. Advanced BlueVoda From Processor Tutorial (Word file)
 2. Advanced BlueVoda From Processor Tutorial (PDF file)

d. HTML pages, PHP pages and GIFS: **these are only required by NON BlueVoda users**, as explained in point 5. If you are a NON BlueVoda user please read carefully the variation on the procedure.

1. thankyou_page.html (just for the purposes of this tutorial, create your own).
2. errorpage.html (to be published as .php, or uploaded as html and renamed on the server to .php)
3. ndadmin.php (to be published as .php, or uploaded as html and renamed on the server to .php)
4. ndconfirm.html
5. ndadminhelp.html (use it as it is)

1. Setting up the form correctly.

Ok, let's start with an example form that we have built. In order to show you the script capabilities, we have included text fields, a textarea, radio buttons, check buttons, a listbox set at single selection, a second one set to allow multiple selections, and 4 upload fields. The steps to follow are, however, the same, for whatever form you want to process.

You can open the form (contactform.bvp) from the zip content, (**Non BV users**: open the "contactform.html" file) so you can examine it closely. Please note that there are no images, otherwise the page that you would download would be half complete.

Please take note of the requirements your form must fulfil for the proper script functioning:

1. ALL of your fields must be named correctly. This means that each field must have a unique name. Since the field names will be used for creating the email that will be sent to you, it is reasonable to give the fields names like "Name", "Address", "City", etc. Avoid blank spaces, and symbols as "?", "/", "\", ".", "-", "@". Using these symbols might crash the script in some cases.
2. If necessary, use underscores between words, f.e. "First_Name".
3. The visitor's email field, **MUST** be named "Email", uppercase "E", lowercase for the rest of the word.
4. The submit button, **MUST** be named "submit", all lowercase characters.
5. The reset **button MUST** be named "reset", all lowercase characters.
6. Multiple choice Listboxes or Comboboxes must have SQUARE BRACKETS [], (**-with no space between them -**) after their name, so that HTML will interpret them as arrays. For example, a "How did you find us" listbox allowing multiple selections, should be named "How did you find us[]" .
7. The info sent out doesn't include any validation information about the field themselves. So, we need to include this info somehow: we will do this by adding an extension to the field names, that will "instruct" our script what (if any) kind of validation it must perform. These extensions are the following:

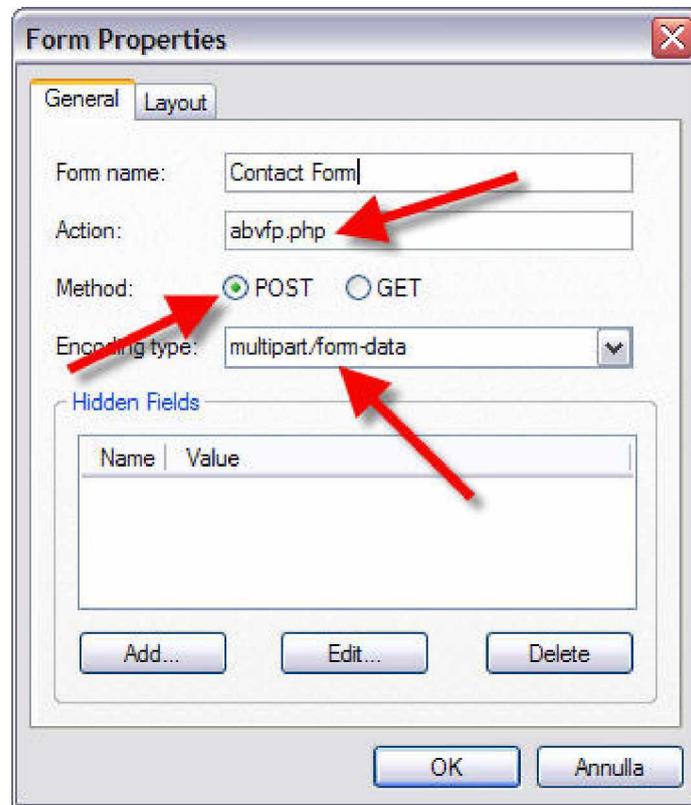
Type of field	Validation extension
Text with no "@" - 30 chrs	A
Text with no "@" - 60 chrs	B
Text with no "@" - 200 chrs	C
Text with no "@" - 500 chrs	D
Text with no "@" - unlimited chrs	E
Text with 1 "@" - 30 chrs	F
Text with 1 "@" - 60 chrs	G
Text with 1 "@" - 200 chrs	H
Text with 1 "@" - 500 chrs	J
Text with 1 "@" - unlimited chrs	I
Email field	e
Numeric field	N

So, f.e., if you have a field named "Name", and you want to make it a required field, you should name it "Name-R". If you want to set the length of the same field to 30 characters, you should name it "Name-RA". A telephone field should be a numeric field, so it should be named "Telephone-N". If you need it to be a required field, just name it "Telephone-NR". A comments area, that you wish to be up to 200 characters and contain the @ symbol only once (to avoid spammers using your script for sending spam emails) should be

named "Comments-H" . The order used for validation and required extensions is not important: -RA is the same as -AR.
Please note that the script itself will take off these validation characters in the email that will be sent to you.

Setting up correctly the form properties.

Double click on the form area. The Form Properties dialog box will come up. Ste the form properties as follows:



Form Name: give it a descriptive name, as f.e. [Contact Form](#) (optional)

Action: set the action to be [abvfp.php](#)

Method: **POST**

Encoding type: [multipart / form-data](#)

One last step: this script makes use of the PHP `$_SERVER['HTTP_REFERER']` command. Since not all browsers support this feature, we have implemented an alternative, which requires you to add a hidden field in your form. This hidden field must contain the form URL, without any http or www. F.e., if your form URL is <http://www.yoursite.com/contactform.html>, just add a hidden field in your form . The field name should be "ndpage" and it's value simply "contactform". To add this field, in the Form Properties dialog box, click on "Add", then in the Name field type in "ndpage" and in the Value field type in "contactform" . If the URL of your page is http://www.yoursite.com/Survey_form.html the value should be "Survey_form"



Save your form and publish it. Just look at the following image:

2. Setting up a “Thank you “ page.

This is the page where your visitor will be redirected after a successful submission. This is a simple HTML page that you can create in BlueVoda (or in other software). Have a look at [this](#) simple example or, if you are offline, open the “thankyou_page.html” from the zip content. We suggest that you include your menubar in this page, so visitors will be able to continue surfing your site.

There are absolutely no special requirements regarding this page. It is a simple HTML page, as any other page of your site. Build it any way you like. There is also no problem in saving your page as anything else: You can save it as “myerrorpage”, or “contactformerrorpage” or anything else. Using the script administrator, as shown in the following part of this tutorial, will allow you to setup the script correctly for the new page name.

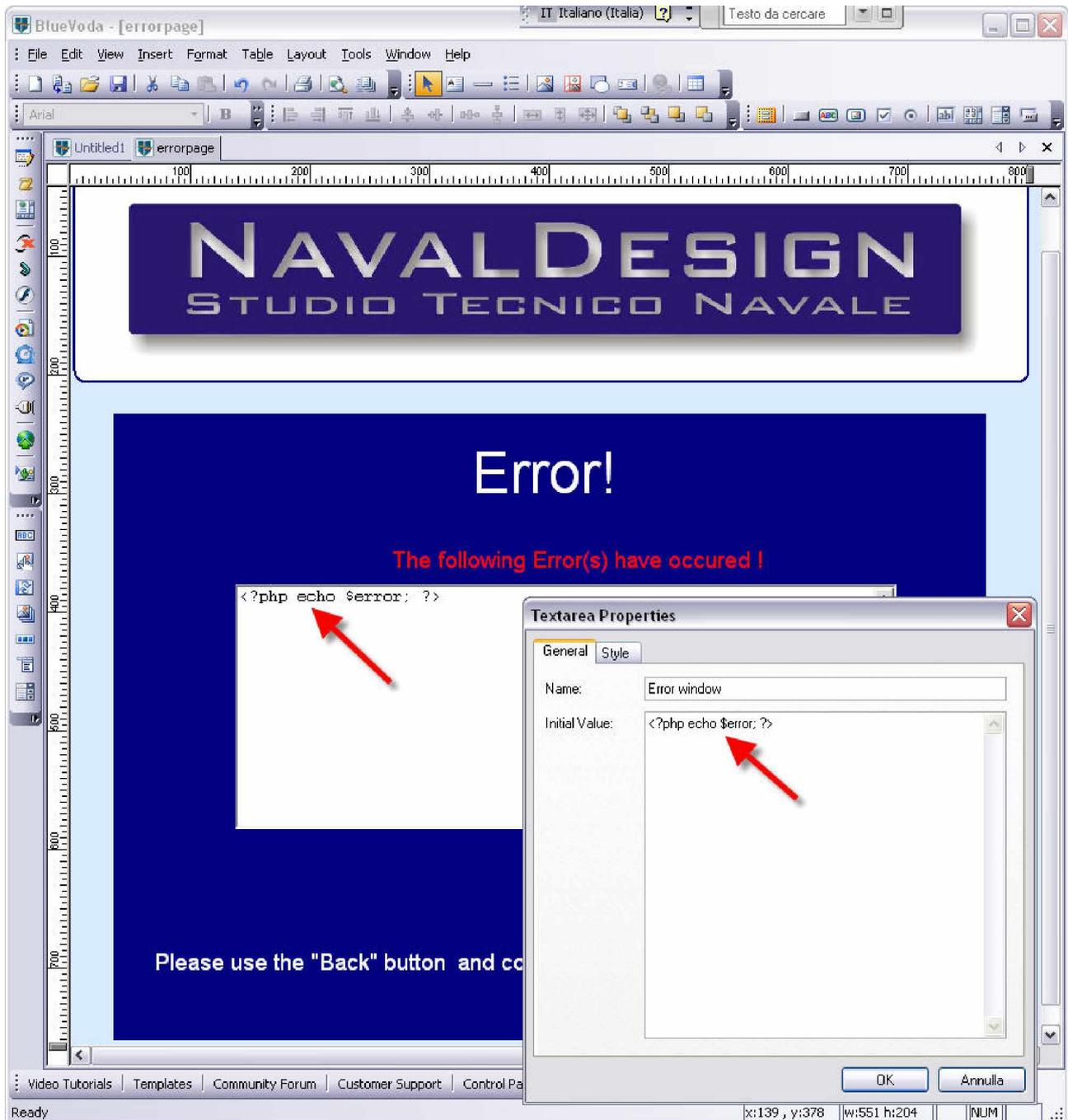
4. Setting up the “errorpage “.

We recommend that at a first time you do not create your own error page. Just use the one that came with the zip. Later on, when you have become familiar with this software, you can modify the page or even create your own. If you go this way, just publish the page on your site and skip this step for the moment.

The error page is the page that will contain all the error messages that may be created through the script validation process. It has to be a php file, so let's see how you can create it:

Create the page as you like it: there is only one layout requirement: leave enough space for a textarea window that will display the error messages. Have a look at [this](#) one, or open the file “errorpage.bvp” from the zip.

NON BlueVoda users : open the “errorpage.html” file.

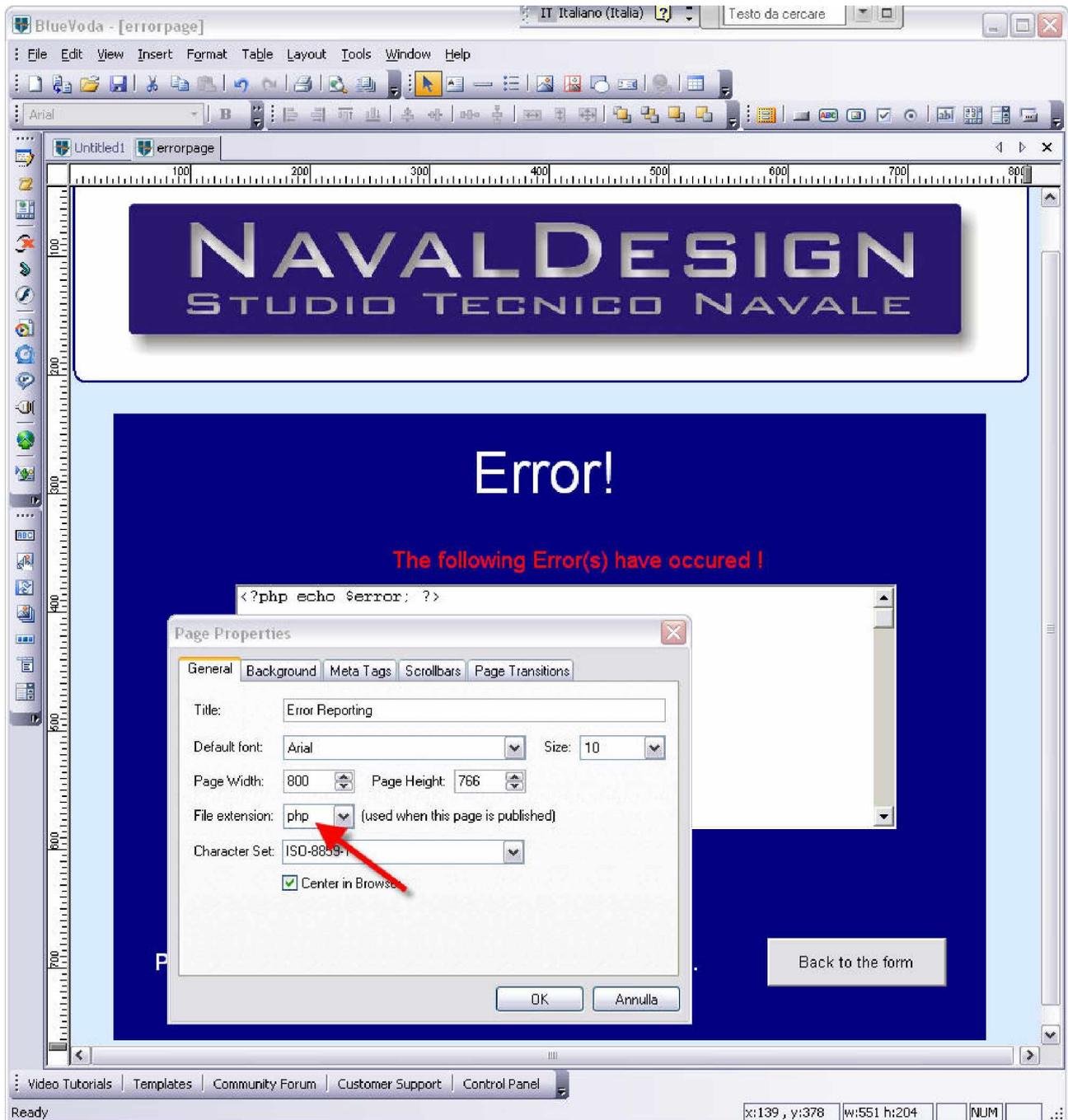


Now, this page has to be published as PHP file, not HTML. This is because this page has to communicate with the script, in order to be able to receive the error message from the script, and display it properly. Let's see how this is done:

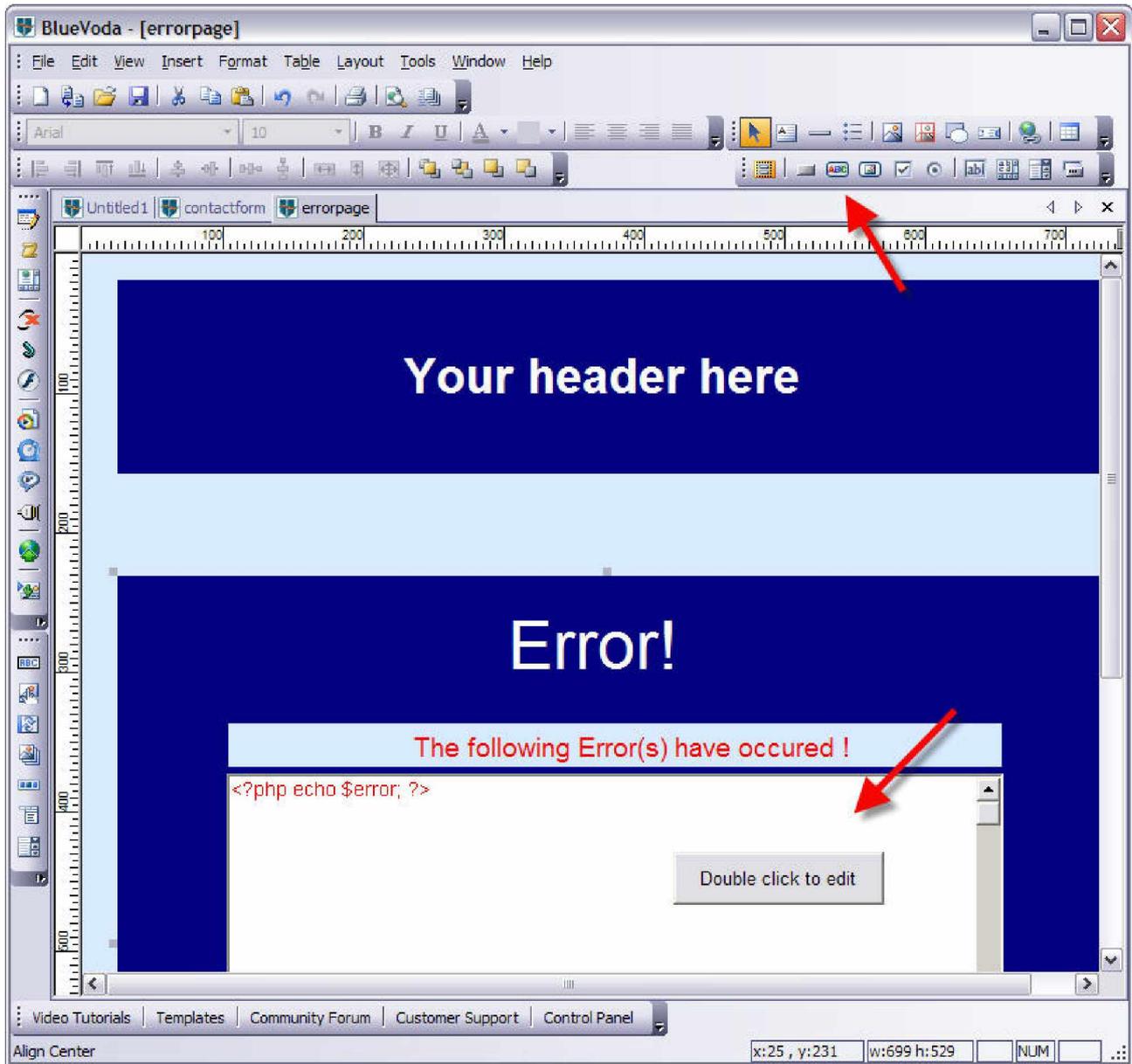
Double click the text area and set the initial value to be : `<?php echo $error; ?>` . You can copy it from here and paste it in the field "Initial Value" window.

Now go in Page Properties, and set the page extension (when the page is published) to be php as in the picture below:

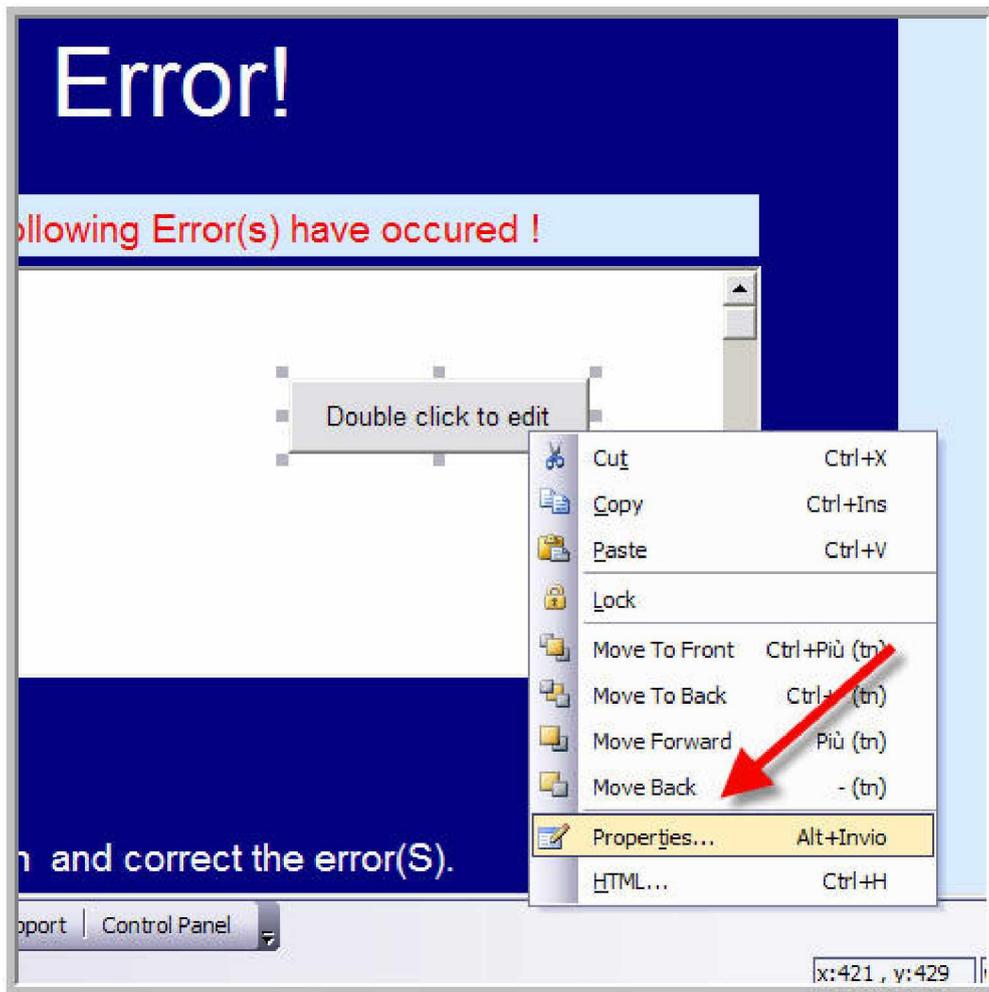
(NON BlueVoda users: publish the page as PHP if your software allow you to do so, or publish it as HTML and then rename it directly on the server, changing the extension from .html to .php). Please note that the code can also be edited simply in notepad. If you do so, save as "ndadmin.php" and upload it on your site.



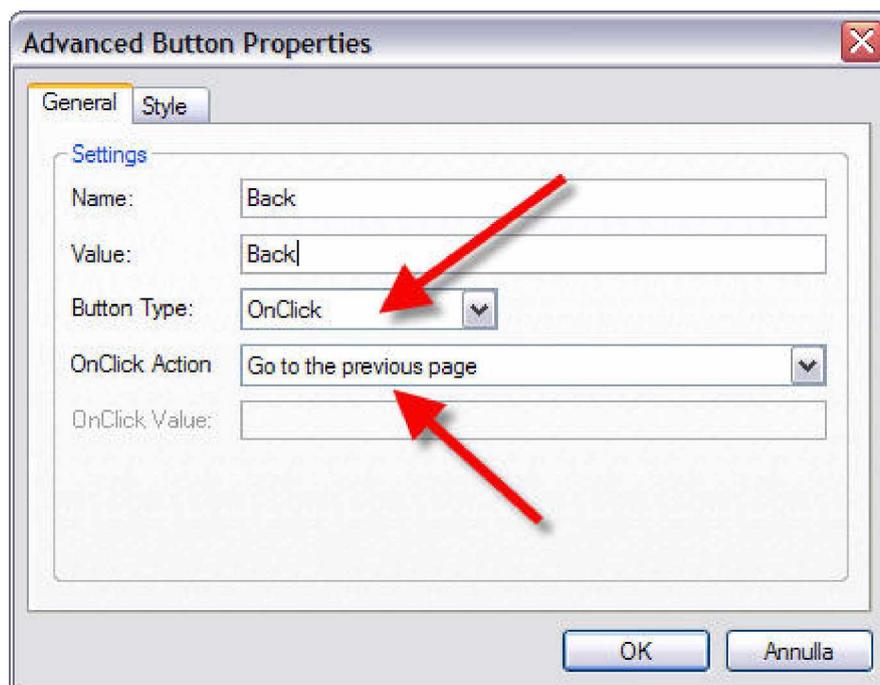
As you can see in the image, you also need to embed a “Back to the form” button so the visitor can return to the form and edit his errors. To accomplish this, use BlueVoda’s Advanced Button tool.



Click on the tool, and the button will appear in your page.
Right click it and select Properties from the right click menu.



Now, when you click on Properties, the Advanced Button Properties dialog box will appear:



Set the properties as follows:

Name (optional) : Back
Value (optional) : Back
Button Type (required) : OnClick
OnClick Action (required) : Go to the previews page.

Now select the button text and edit it so the button label becomes “Back to the form”.

You can even customize your button appearance by clicking on Style.

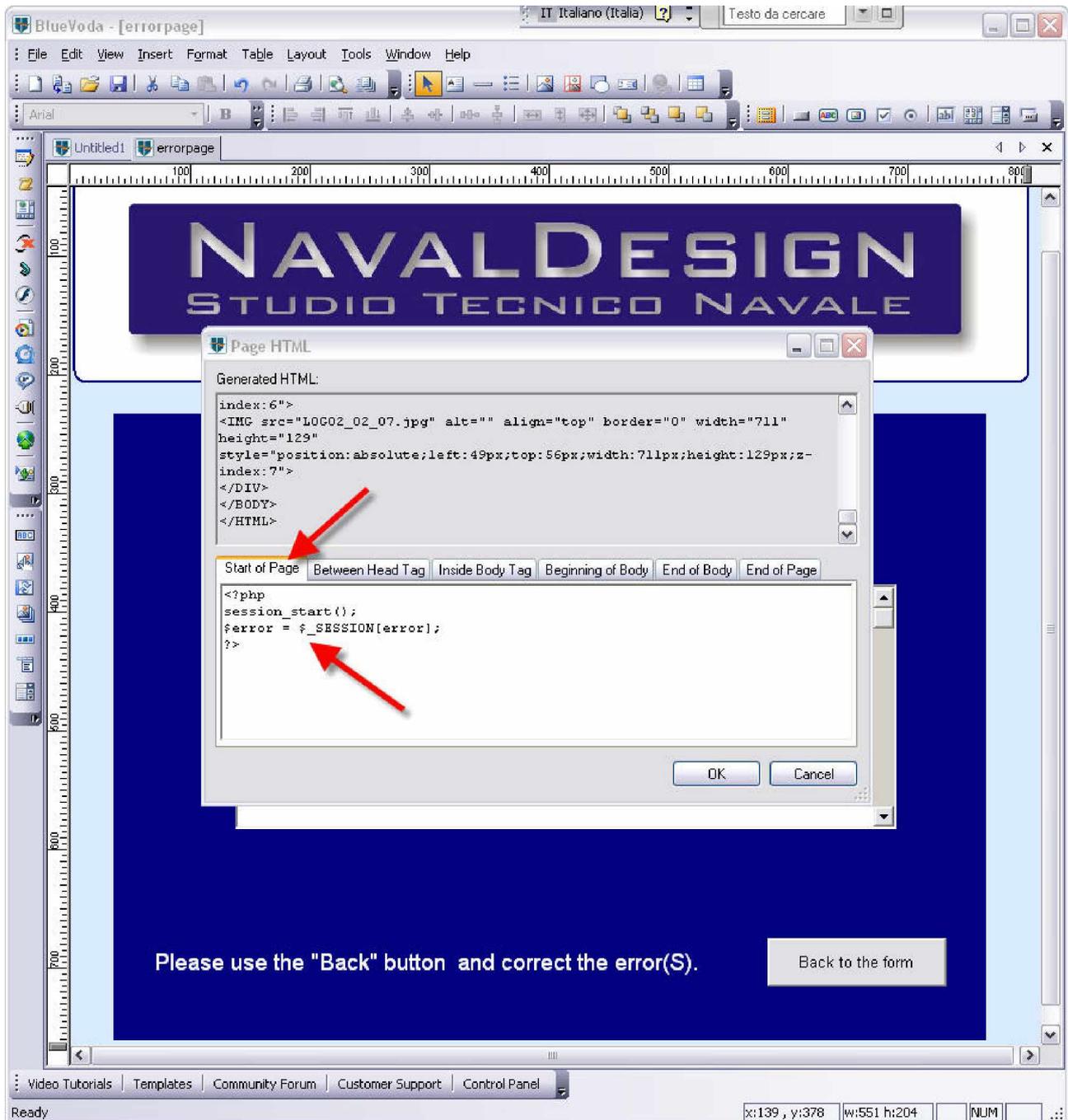
Of course, you can always use the page that came with the zip, and only customize the layout and the visual part of the page.

NON BlueVoda users: If your software does not allow you to insert a “Back” button, instead of creating the page from scratch, use the HTML page as it is. The Back button is already there. Customize only the layout and the visual part of the page.

One last step before you can publish your Errorpage : Go in Page HTML, click on “Start of Page” and paste the following code (you can copy it directly from here):

```
<?php  
session_start();  
$error = $_SESSION[error];  
?>
```

NON BlueVoda users: Insert the code in the very beginning of your page code, before anything else.



Ok, now save your page as "errorpage". Save and Publish.

There is no problem in saving your page as anything else: You can save it as "myerrorpage", or "contactformerrorpage" or anything else. Using the script administrator, as shown in the following part of this tutorial, will allow you to setup the script correctly for the new page name.

5. Setting up the software.

Ok, let's go to the script part.

It consists of the following parts:

- a. **The processing script:** that's the file "abvfp.php" that came with the zip. This is a generic script, that will receive the form info, it will perform necessary validations and security checks, and will create the mail that will be sent to you, as well as the autoresponder mail. If it finds any errors, it will redirect to the errorpage, otherwise, after the mail submission, it will redirect the visitor to the thankyou page.

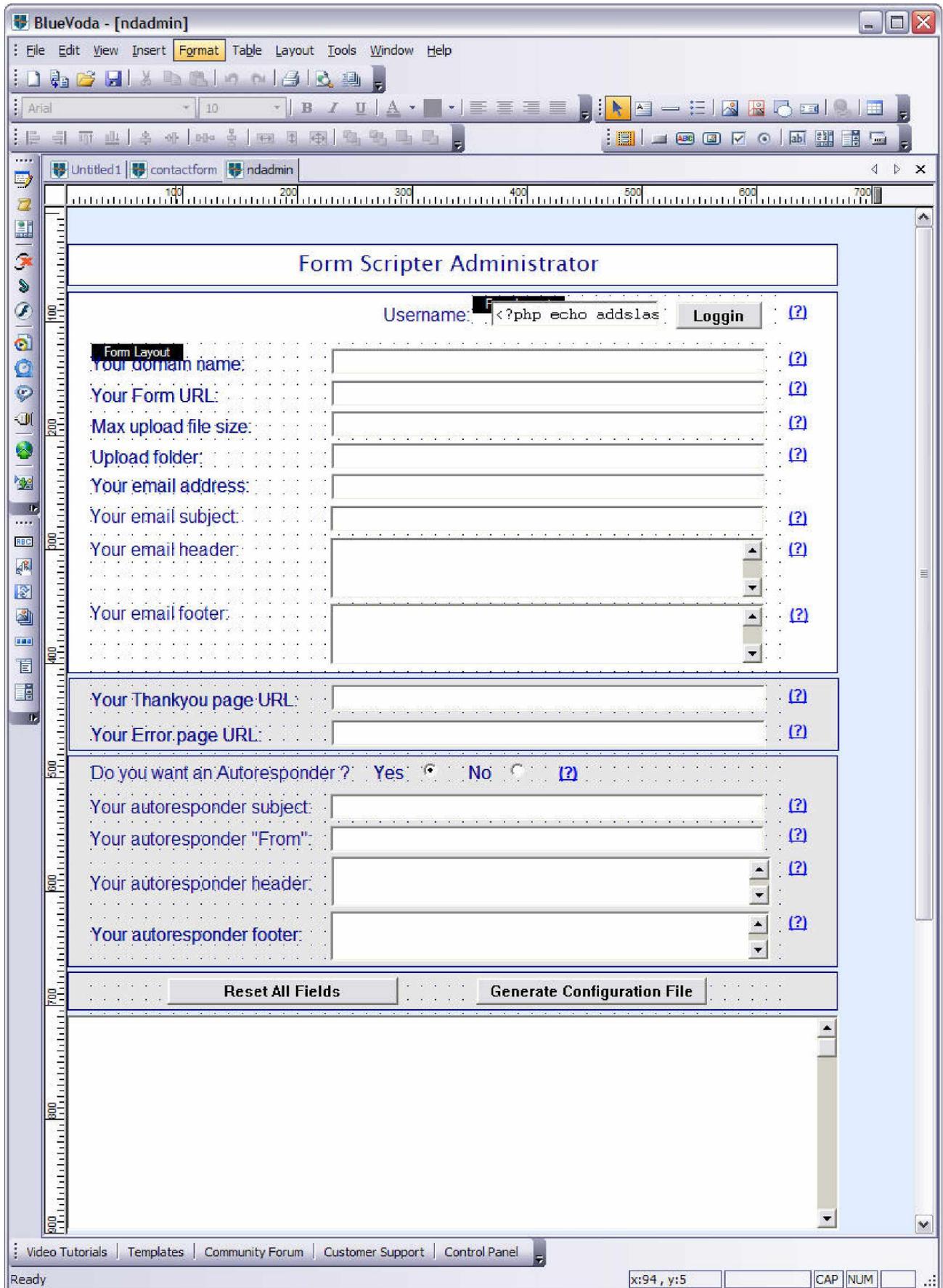
This is a generic script, that will process any and all the forms on your site, within it's limits. It will NOT perform database storing or file creation with the form info.

Please upload the script on your site, as it is. No editing is required.

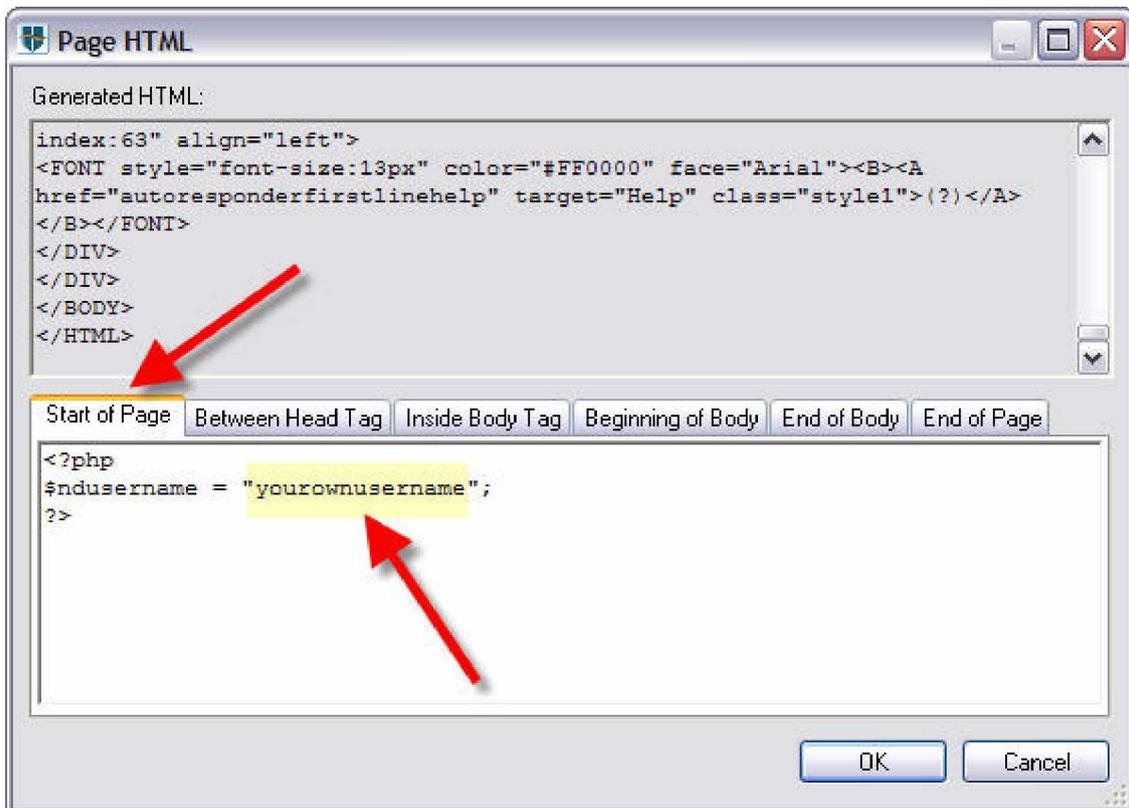
- b. [The configuration page and script](#). These are the files “[ndadmin.bvp](#)” , “[ndadmin1.php](#)” and “[ndadminconfirm.bvp](#)” . What are these? Since our processing script is a generic one, it needs to know which form it has to process each time. To be able to do so, you must create a configuration file for every form. No fear, this is done with a very friendly user interface that will guide you step by step in creating this configuration file. After you fill in the required fields in the “[ndadmin](#)” page, the configuration file is automatically created by “[ndadmin1](#)”. Then the third page, “[ndadminconfirm.bvp](#)” gives you a confirmation that the configuration file has been successfully created. How do you set them up?

[For the user interface:](#)

Open the file “[ndadmin.bvp](#)” in your BlueVoda. You will have the following screen:



Click on **View, Page HTML**, and then then click on **"Start of Page"**



You will see this line:

```
$ndusername = "yourownusername" ;
```

Change yourownusername with a username that you like. This assures that only you have access to this page. This is a necessary security measure so that no one else will be able to use this admin page.

Click Ok, **save the page and publish it on your site.**

Please note that we have already set the pages properties so the page will be published as PHP and not as HTML.

We will explain later how you use this page.

NON BlueVoda Users: Open the [ndadmin.html](#) (from the zip) in your software. Go in editing mode, and manually edit the username. Publish the page on your site as "ndadmin.php", or, if your software doesn't allow this, publish as html and then using FTP rename it, changing the extension to .php. Please note that the code can also be edited simply in Notepad. If you do so, save as "ndadmin.php" and upload it on your site.

For the configuration file creator:

This is the file "ndadmin1.php". Simply upload it on your server. No editing is required.

For the help file:

Open the "ndadminhelp.bvp" file on your computer. Save it (please do so) and publish it on your site. You can, alternatively, simply upload the "ndadminhelp.html" on your site.

NON BlueVoda users: upload the "ndadminhelp.html" file on your site as it is.

For the confirmation page: open the "ndadminconfirm.bvp" file in your BlueVoda. Save it. Publish it on your site. You can, alternatively, simply upload the "ndadminconfirm.html" on your site.

NON BlueVoda users: upload the "ndadminconfirm.html" file on your site as it is.

6. Using the software.

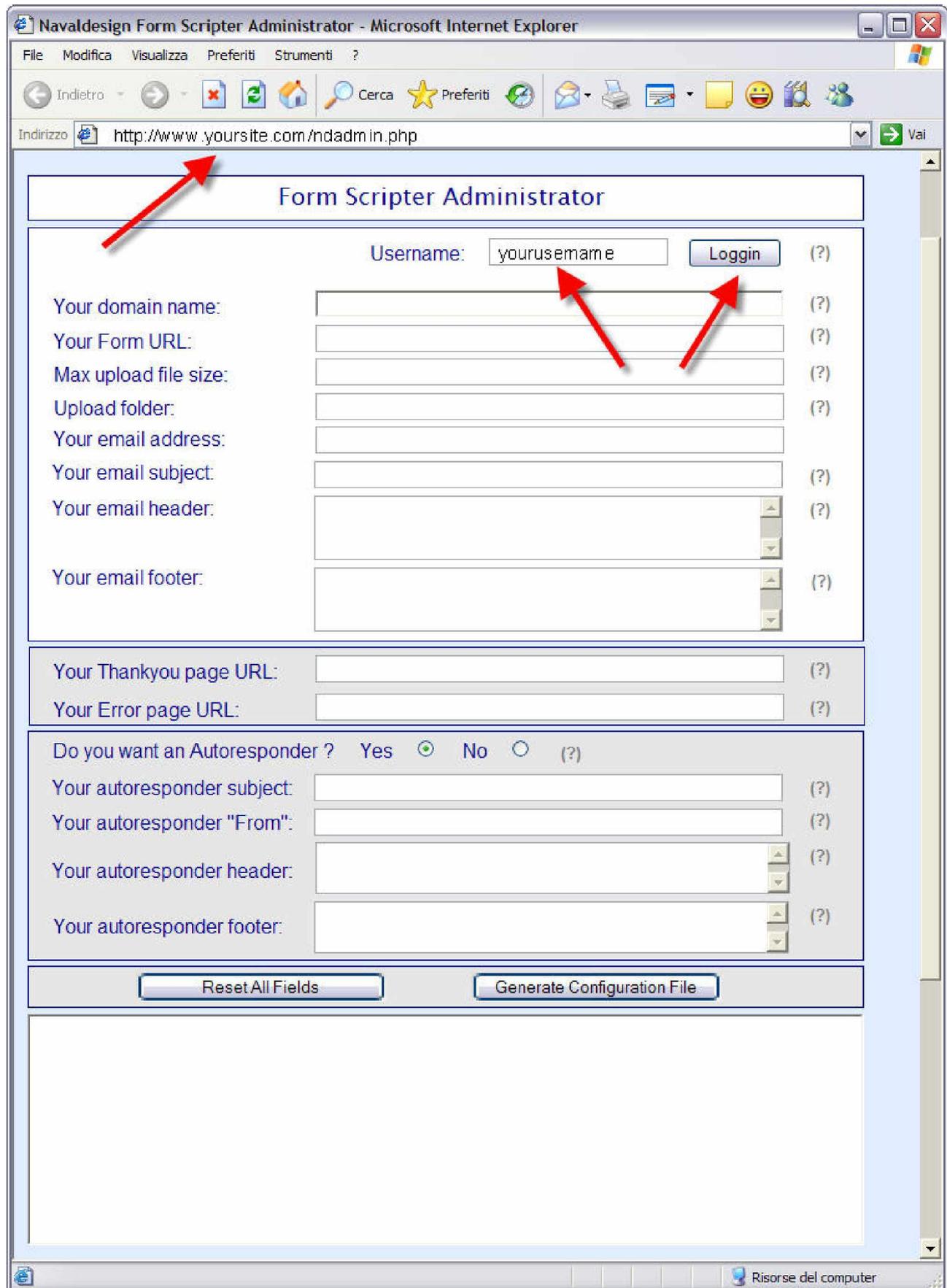
Ok, at this point you have :

- a. Created your form, saved and published it on your site

- b. Uploaded or published on your site the necessary scripts and user interface pages.

Let's see how you will now use the software to create your forms processing scripts. This is the only procedure that you will have to do every time you want to setup a new form.

Type in your browser's address bar <http://yourdomain.com/ndadmin.php>, changing "yourdomain" with the actual domain name. This will result in opening the user interface, and the following screen will appear:



The form is setup in such a way that if you don't login, it will do nothing. So please type in your username (the one that you have set in this page before you published (see point 4) and click on "Login".

Now the page is activated.

Fill in the fields as required. For each field you have clear indications in the bottom help window, by clicking the (?) beside the field itself. Attention: fields with "*" are required, else the script might not work.

Last, click on "Generate Configuration File".

Navaldesign Form Scripter Administrator - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Indirizzo <http://www.yoursite.com/ndadmin.php>

Form Scripter Administrator

Username: (?)

Your domain name: * (?)

Your Form URL: * (?)

Max upload file size: * (?)

Upload folder: * (?)

Your email address: * (?)

Your email subject: * (?)

Your email header:

Your email footer:

Your Thankyou page URL: * (?)

Your Error page URL: * (?)

Do you want an Autoresponder? Yes No (?)

Your autoresponder subject: (?)

Your autoresponder "From": (?)

Your autoresponder header:

Your autoresponder footer:

Risorse del computer

You need to repeat this procedure for every form you want to process with this software.

Please note that, as an advice, we recommend that you install this software in your public_html folder. In any case, if you want to install it in another folder, make sure that both your form as well as the software pages and scripts are in the same folder.

One last step: you need to create a folder for the uploads. This folder has to be inside your public_html folder, if you have installed the software in public_html. Or inside the folder where you have installed the software. After creating it, make sure to set it's permissions to 777.

If you do use another folder, create and publish an index page in this folder, even a blank one. Otherwise, your folder content will be browseable by everyone, and he could also download your files and take possession of your code. At that point he would be able to configure a script that would use your own script for spam submission.

That's all. Play around and experiment with your form processor, and create as many forms as you like. The script will process all of them with no difficulty. If you need assistance don't hesitate to contact me through my [form](#). Have fun.