

Open explaining lesson:

Front end

Middleware

REST API

Back end

with contact

form

example

based on

Google forms

LECTORS

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Quality Assurance Technical Lead, Senior Developer in Test, over 10 years web development practice, over 10 delivered software projects for middle and large business. Professional Scrum Master, Requirements Engineer, Management Master, Digital Product Manager Master, Full-stack developer BSc in Computer Science My most beneficial skill: I like to learn business from the inside.

Only so one can be sure that we build right product in the right way at any stage of development process.





Andrii Stepura

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Quality Assurance Technical Lead, Senior QA Automation Engineer, Product Owner, Professional Scrum Master, Full-stack developer BSc in Computer Science. Over 14 years web development practice, over 300 delivered web projects.

My most beneficial skill: Imagination to think like a stakeholder. Every piece of software starts from an idea. The first written code lines are just a half of the delivery of that idea.

GOAL DEFINITION

Create website contact form with implementation at three layers for familiarize and clarify webdevelopment terms:

- Front end
- Back end
- Middle-ware
- REST API

OUR WAY TO GOAL

Less place stereotypes, more for self abstract definition with web-development practice activity





Graphics from bluecoders.io & theodawson.net

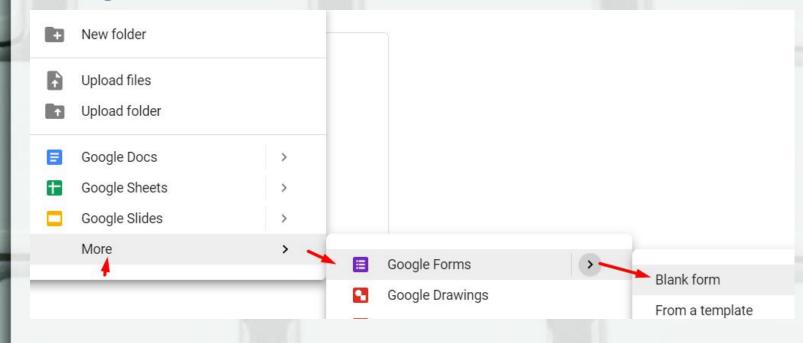
REQURED TOOLS

For creation final solution and repeat all by yourself you will need at least next tools:

- Google account (https://accounts.google.com/)
- Web browser (for demo used Chrome https://www.google.com/chrome/)
- Code editor (as ex. Notepad++ https://notepad-plus-plus.org/download/)
- REST API (REST call tool Postman https://www.getpostman.com/downloads/)
- PHP server (hosting or local server, as ex. XAMPP https://www.apachefriends.org/)

CREATE GOOGLE FORM

Login at https://drive.google.com/ with your Google Account and create form:



CREATE GOOGLE FORM

Add fields need for receive data from our

website visitors, as ex.:

- Name (short answer text)

- E-mail (use form settings)

Settings

GENERAL PRESENTATION QUIZZES

Collect email addresses

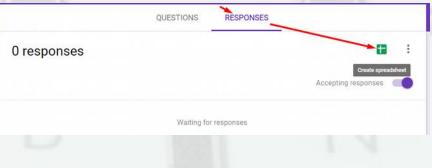
Response receipts ?

- Message (short answer text)

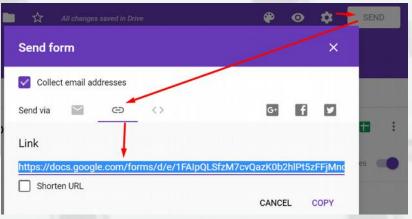
Set store answers in Google spreadsheet, its table like MS Excel, we will use it as

Database for storing:

Select response destina	ation	×
Create a new spreadsheet	Demo form (Responses)	Learn more
Select existing spreadsheet		
	CANCEL	CREATE

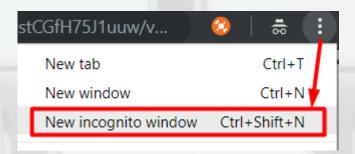


Get this form link:

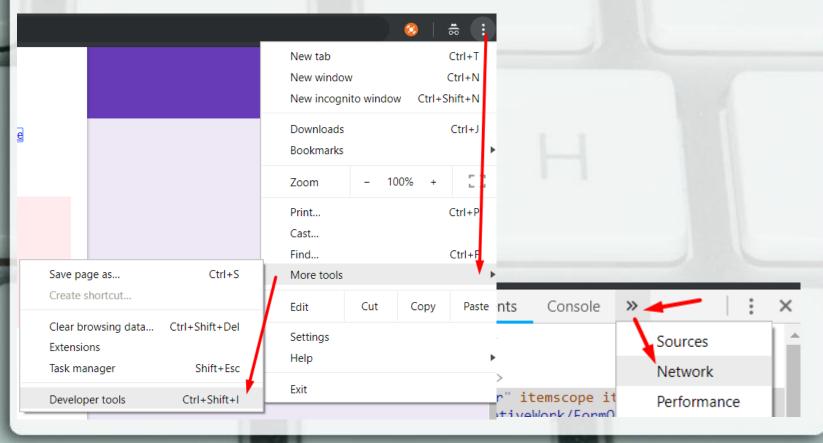


https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH75J1uuw/viewform?usp=sf_link

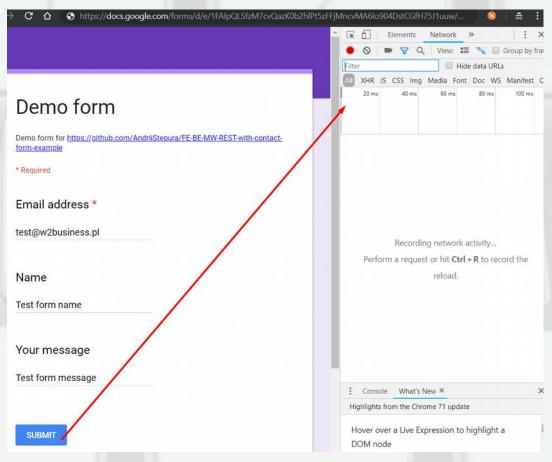
and open as other user (use incognito mode):



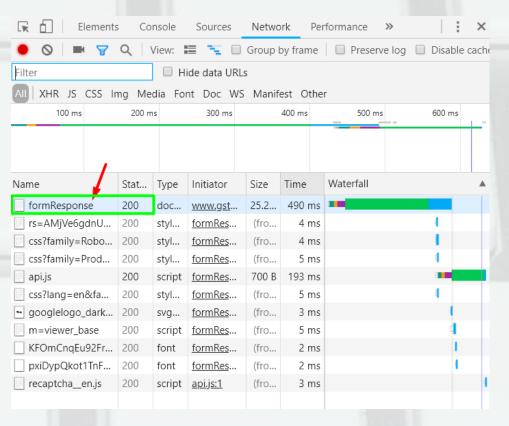
Open developer tools console (Ctr+Shift+I) and switch to Network:



Fill form and click on Submit button:



In network communication record with this post to Google form API is appeared:



EXPLORE POST REST REQUEST

Let's explore this request, headers:

Name	× Headers Preview Response Cookies Timing
formResponse	▼ General
rs=AMjVe6gdn	Request URL: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQ
css?family=Rob	azK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse
css?family=Pro	Request Method: POST
api.js	Status Code: 9 200
css?lang=en&f	Status Code. • 200

Request URL:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hIPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse

Request Method: POST

Status Code: 200

Where request URL – is Google API endpoint for our form Method is HTTP call type, more about REST - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol#Request_methods Status is result from endpoint, more about status codes - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of HTTP status codes

EXPLORE POST REST REQUEST

With POST HTTP method we send not just headers (instead GET), we also send body:

▼ Form Data

view source

view URL encoded

emailAddress: test@w2business.pl entry.1224778685: Test form name

entry.512804397: Test form message

emailAddress: test@w2business.pl entry.1224778685: Test form name entry.512804397: Test form message

fvv: 1

draftResponse: [null,null,"-9115861482995980081"]

pageHistory: 0

fbzx: -9115861482995980081

Same data saved in our spreadsheet:

Email address	Name	Your message
test@w2business.pl	Test form name	Test form message

SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

Let's analyze our current solution layers:

end

HTML5 Front GOOGLE **FORM**



HTML form received by browser with GET request to endpoint -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfzM 7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH7 5J1uuw/viewform

Back end

GOOGLE FORM REST API



Response

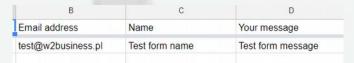
Request



REST API endpoint receive POST request, validate and save to DB

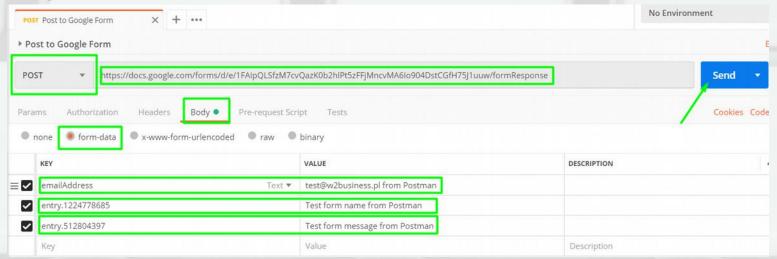
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfzM 7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH7 5J1uuw/formResponse





HTTP RESTS WITH POSTMAN

Use Postman tool for send POST HTTP request instead browser client:



Form-data:

emailAddress:test@w2business.pl from Postman entry.1224778685:Test form name from Postman entry.512804397:Test form message from Postman

HELLO ERROR "400 Bad Request"

Our request data not satisfied for REST API endpoint validation rules, so we receive response code 400 instead 200

Status: 400 Bad Request Time: 327 ms Size: 101 KB

Check DB – any changes, just 1 record try again with proper form-data emailAddress: emailAddress:test_from_postman@w2business.pl

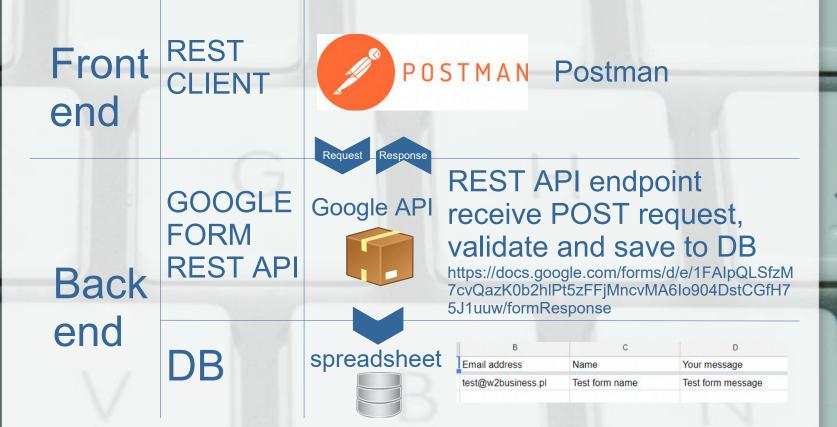
Status: 200 OK Time: 522 ms Size: 88.03 KB

and form data saved in DB (spreadsheet):

Email address	Name	Your message
test@w2business.pl	Test form name	Test form message
test_from_postman@w2b	Test form name from Pos	Test form message from Postman

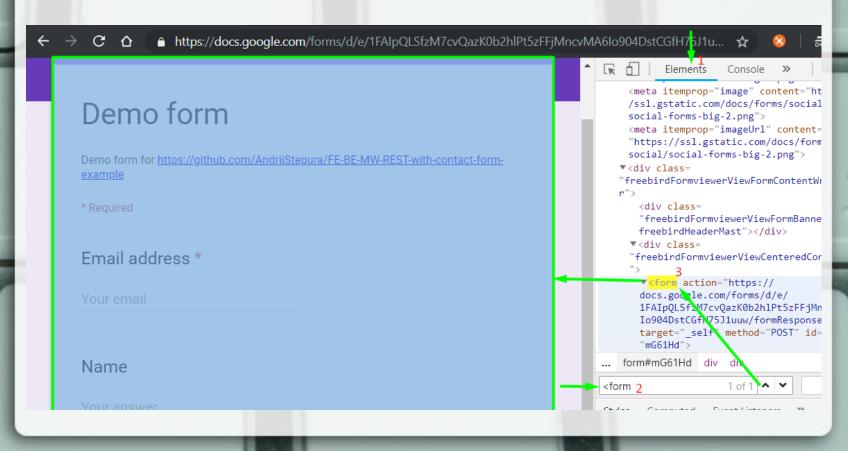
SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

Let's analyze our current solution layers:



EXPLORE GOOGLE FORM HTML

Return to Google form and inspect HTML code with Elements tab:



CREATE OUR HTML FORM

Copy all form HTML code to code editor:

```
docs. you Add attribute

In 150904Dst Edit attribute

target="""
"mG61Hd"

Logo Add attribute

Edit attribute

Edit as HTML
```

After remove classes, additional div and attributes we receive short form HTML code:

CREATE OUR HTML FORM

Open new created HTML form in browser:

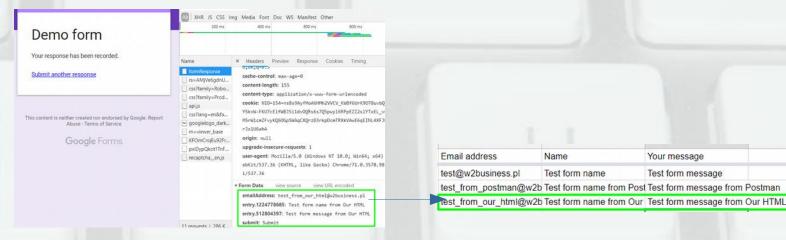
```
Elements Console Sources Network >> X

<a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1fAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2h1Pt5zFFjMncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uw/formResponse" target="_self" method="POST">...</a>//form>
</body>
<a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1fAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2h1Pt5zFFjMncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uw/formResponse" target="_self" method="POST">...</a>//form>
</body>
</html>
```

it's almost worked we need just add a button for submit this form, so let's add:

CREATE OUR HTML FORM

Let's try submit correct data to OUR HTML form and check data saved in DB (spreadsheet):



It's work (with redirect to Google forms, but work). Data from our HTML form, local hosted page or hosted online at our website now send data to Google forms

SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

Let's analyze our current solution layers:

Front end

OUR WEBSITE

GOOGLE FORM Our HTML form POST data and redirected toGoogle form page

Back end GOOGLE FORM REST API



Response

Request



REST API endpoint receive POST request, validate and save to DB

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hIPt5zFFjMncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse

DB



Name	Your message
Test form name	Test form message
	1.00.00

Let's make form more pretty with styled by CSS and HTML5 tags:

```
k type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" href="style.css" />
```

<form action="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse" target="_self" method="POST">

```
<input type="email" name="emailAddress" placeholder="Enter your E-mail">
```

<input type="text" name="entry.1224778685" placeholder="Enter your Name">

<input type="text" name="entry.512804397" placeholder="Enter your Message">

<input type="submit" name="submit" value="\$ubmit">
</form>

style.css file:

body {background: #000;}

form {background: #fff; display:block;

width:300px; -webkit-border-radius: 30px;

border-radius:30px; padding:20px; margin-left:

auto; margin-right: auto;}

input {width:100%; font-size:26px; padding: 0

2px; margin: 5px 0;}

input[type=submit] {background:#ccc;

cursor:pointer; -webkit-border-radius: 5px;

border-radius: 5px;}



Looks better but form still redirect us to Google form page. But we know about HTTP method POST and can implement this call (same as in Postman) at our Front end side with JavaScript.

1. Create file form.js and add it to HTML page:

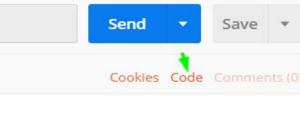
<script type="text/javascript" src="form.js"></script>

2. Update Submit button with call post function:

<input type="button" name="submit" value="Submit" onclick="sendForm()">

Get code generated by Postman and use as

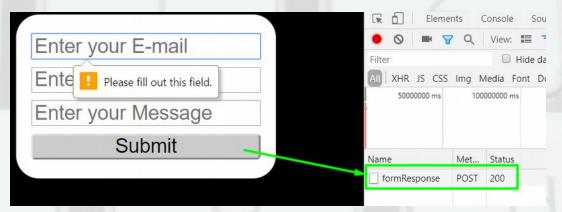
function in our form.js



Update form.js file code:

```
function sendForm(){
 var data = new FormData();
 data.append("emailAddress", "test_from_FE_JS1@w2business.pl");
 data.append("entry.1224778685", "Test form name from JS");
 data.append("entry.512804397", "Test form message from JS");
 var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
 xhr.withCredentials = true;
 xhr.addEventListener("readystatechange", function () {
   if (this.readyState === 4) {console.log(this.responseText);}});
 xhr.open("POST",
"https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hIPt5zFFj
MncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse");
 xhr.send(data);
```

Click on Submit button:



data from JS file saved to DB:

В	С	D		Е
Email address	Name	Your message		
test@w2business.pl	Test form name	Test form message		
test_from_postman@w2b	Test form name from Post	Test form message from F	ostman	
test from our html@w2b	Test form name from Our	Test form message from (Our HTML	
test_from_FE_JS1@w2bu	Test form name from JS	Test form message from J	IS	

Update form.js file with validation:

```
document.getElementById('formErrors').innerHTML= "";
var errors = [];
var emailInForm = document.getElementsByName("emailAddress")[0].value;
var nameInForm = document.getElementsByName("entry.1224778685")[0].value;
var messageInForm = document.getElementsByName("entry.512804397")[0].value;
if(emailInForm == ""){errors.push("Fill field Email");}
else{
if(!validateEmail(emailInForm)){errors.push("Please enter valid Email");}
if(nameInForm == ""){errors.push("Fill field Name");}
if(messageInForm == ""){errors.push("Fill field Message");}
```

Update form.js with email validation function:

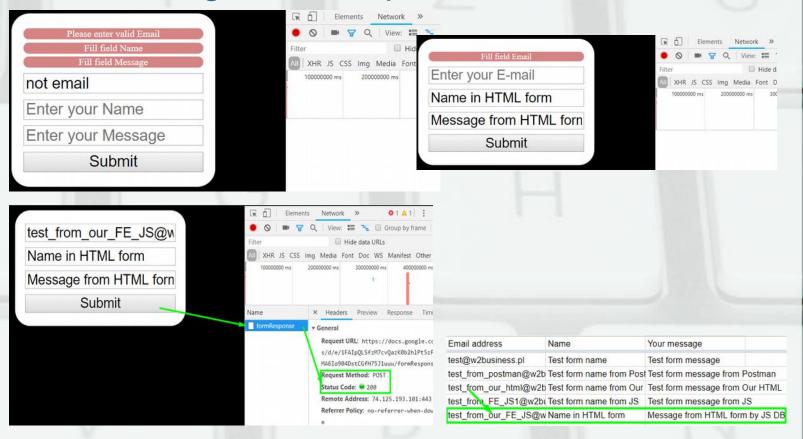
```
function validateEmail(email) { var re = /^(([^<>()\[]\],;:\s@"]+(\.[^<>()\[]\],;:\s@"]+)*)|(".+"))@((\[[0-9] {1,3}\.[0-9]{1,3}\.[0-9]{1,3}\])|(([a-zA-Z\-0-9]+\.)+[a-zA-Z]{2,}))$/; return re.test(String(email).toLowerCase()); }
```

Update style.css for errors:

Update form.js to show errors or send data:

```
if (errors.length > 0){
errors.forEach(function(element) {
 console.log("Show error - " + element);
 let errorBlock = document.createElement("div");
 errorBlock.appendChild(document.createTextNode(element));
 document.getElementById('formErrors').appendChild(errorBlock);
else{//form validation end
var data = new FormData();
data.append("emailAddress", emailInForm);
data.append("entry.1224778685", nameInForm);
data.append("entry.512804397", messageInForm);
... etc var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest(); ...
```

Let's test negative and positive data sets:



SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

Let's analyze our current solution layers:

Request

JS

Request

Front end

OUR
WEBSITE
Front end

G. FORM

Client browser

WSET (

Our HTML form POST data by JS to Google form

Back end GOOGLE FORM REST API

Google API



REST API endpoint receive POST request, validate and save to DB

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse

DB





CORS?

Access to XMLHttpRequest at 'https://doc form.html:1
s.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFj
MncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse' from origin
'null' has been blocked by CORS policy: No 'AccessControl-Allow-Origin' header is present on the
requested resource.

form.js:45

▲ Cross-Origin Read Blocking (CORB) form.js:50 blocked cross-origin response https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6Io904DstCGfH75J1uuw/formResponse with MIME typetext/html. See https://www.chromestatus.com/feature/5629709824032768 for more details.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/20035101/why-does-my-javascript-get-a-no-access-control-allow-origin-header-is-present

Use web hosting or install XAMPP and start

Apache server

[State of the control Panel v3.2.2 [Compiled: Nov 12th 2015]]



According to HOW-TO Guides -

http://localhost/dashboard/docs/configure-vhosts.html add virtual hosted domain. Add in file \apache\conf\extra\httpd-vhosts.conf:

<VirtualHost *:80>

DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs/"

ServerName localhost

</VirtualHost>

<VirtualHost *:80>

DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs/demo/htdocs"

ServerName demo.localhost

</VirtualHost>

... restart Apache and open demo.localhost in browser

At your website create file index.php

```
<?php
echo "PHP here, version: ".phpversion();
?>
```


https://www.

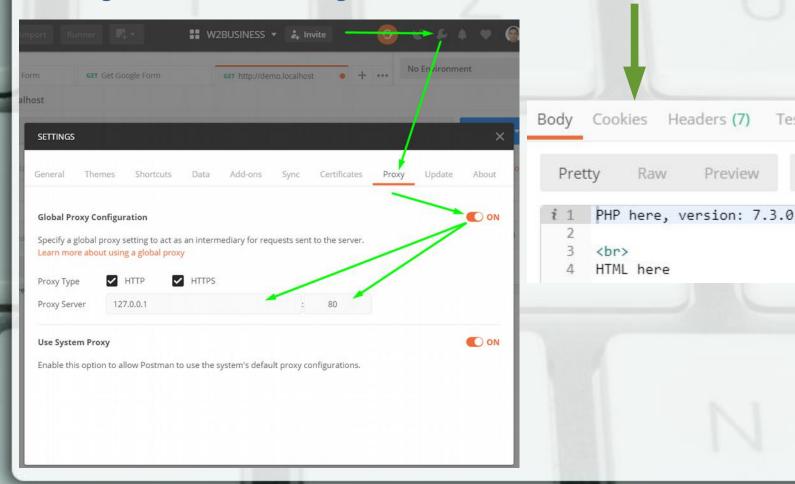
Note for XAMPP – create folders \demo\htdocs in \xampp\htdocs and put this file inside.

Refresh website in browser:





Change Postman settings and call GET demo.localhost

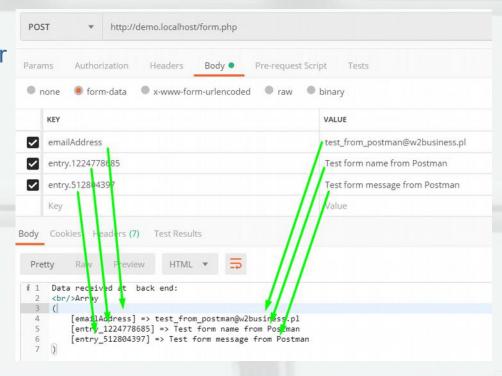


Test R

At your website create file form.php

```
<?php
  echo "Data received at back end:"."<br/>";
  print_r($_POST);
```

Call this form from browser (GET request) and from Postman as POST and change Google form endpoint url to demo.localhost/form.php:



Lets update form.php

```
<?php
if($ SERVER['REQUEST METHOD'] == 'POST' &&
isset($ POST['postEmail']) &&
isset($ POST['postName']) &&
isset($ POST['postMessage'])){
  $email = $ POST['postEmail'];
  $name = $ POST['postName'];
  $message = $ POST['postMessage'];
  if ($name == "" || $email == "" || $message == ""){
   http response code(400);
   echo "Fill all required fields!";
  else{ // All form data looks good, so:
   http response code(200);
   echo "Data valid":
else{
 http response code(406);
  echo "Provide all required data: postEmail,
postName, postMessage";
```

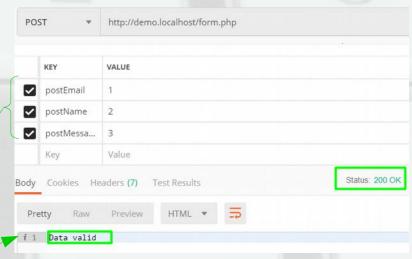
Call updated BE form.php: http://demo.localhost/form.php Headers Body Pre-request Script Tests none form-data x-www-form-urlencoded raw binary KEY emailAddre... test_from_postman@w2business.pl entry.1224... Test form name from Postman entry.5128... Test form message from Postman Body Cookies Headers (7) Test Results 1 1 Provide all required data: postEmail, postName, postMessage Change postman POST requests keys and call again: ✓ postEmail postName postMessage Key Value Status: 400 Bad Request Body Cookies Headers (6) Test Results Preview HTML *

i 1 Fill all required fields!

Lets update form.php

```
<?php
if($ SERVER['REQUEST METHOD'] == 'POST' &&
isset($ POST['postEmail']) &&
isset($ POST['postName']) &&
isset($ POST['postMessage'])){
 $email = $ POST['postEmail'];
 $name = $ POST['postName'];
  $message = $ POST['postMessage'];
 if ($name == "" || $email == "" || $message /== ""){
   http response code(400);
   echo "Fill all required fields!";
  else{ // All form data looks good, so;/
   http response code(200);
   echo "Data valid";
else{
 http response code(406);
 echo "Provide all required data: postEmail,
postName, postMessage";
```

Call updated BE form.php with proper data:



Lets increase BE validation in form.php

```
<?php
if($ SERVER['REQUEST METHOD'] == 'POST' &&
isset($ POST['postEmail']) &&
isset($ POST['postName']) &&
isset($ POST['postMessage'])){
  $email = strtolower($ POST['postEmail']);
  $name = $ POST['postName'];
  $message = $ POST['postMessage'];
 if ($name == "" || $email == "" || $message == ""){
   http response code(400);
   echo "Fill all required fields!";
 else{ // All form data looks good, so:
   http response code(200);
   echo "Data valid";
else{
 http response code(406);
 echo "Provide all required data: postEmail,
postName, postMessage";
```

Add errors for invalid cases:

```
elseif (strlen($name) < 3) {
 http response code(400);
 echo "Name must be not less than 2 characters";
elseif (strlen($name) > 25) {
 http response code(400);
 echo "Name must be less than 26 characters":
elseif(!preg_match("^[ a-z0-9-]+(\.[ a-z0-9-]+)*@[a-z0-
9-]+(\.[a-z0-9-]+)*(\.[a-z0-9-]{2,20})$^",$email)){
 http response code(400);
 echo "Enter the correct e-mail";
elseif (strlen($message) < 5) {
 http response code(400);
 echo "Message must be not less than 5 characters";
elseif (strlen($message) > 300) {
 http response code(400);
 echo "Message must be less than 300 characters";
```

If data proper according to our back end validation let's send this to Google form

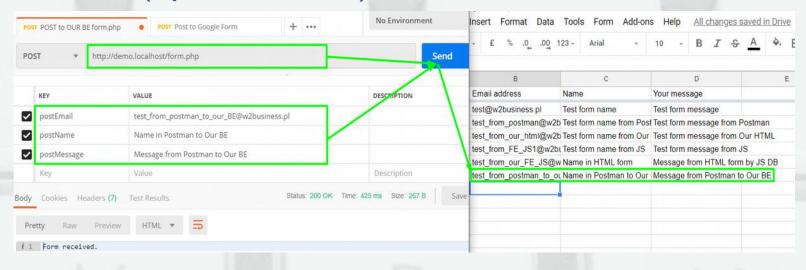
Replace code: With request which send data to Google API:

// All form data looks good, so lets start curl to Google form:

// All form data looks good, so: http_response_code (200); echo "Data valid";

```
$url =
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfzM7cvQazK0b2hlPt5zFFjMncvMA6lo904DstCGf
H75J1uuw/formResponse';
// Fix for cyrillic variables with urlencode:
$myvars = 'emailAddress=' . urlencode($email) . '&entry.1224778685=' .
urlencode($name).'&entry.512804397=' . urlencode($message);
$ch = curl init( $url );
curl setopt($ch, CURLOPT POST, 1);
curl setopt($ch, CURLOPT POSTFIELDS, $myvars);
curl setopt($ch, CURLOPT FOLLOWLOCATION, 1);
curl setopt($ch, CURLOPT HEADER, 1);
curl setopt($ch, CURLOPT RETURNTRANSFER, 1);
// grab URL and pass it to the browser
$response = curl exec( $ch );
$responseinfo = curl getinfo($ch);
// close cURL resource, and free up system resources
curl close($ch);
if($responseinfo["http_code"] == 200){
 http response code(200);
 echo "Form received.":
else{
 http response code(421);
 echo "Form not received, please try again or contact with us by phone";
```

Let's test it. Positive data set send from Postman to OUR back end must be forwarded to Google Form API and saved in our DB (spreadsheet):



Final solution (integration FE-MW)

- 1. Copy code from form.html to index.php (also You can rename this file to index.html)
- 2. Place files form.js and style.css in website root directory
- 3. In form.js replace line 49 with this call to our back end: xhr.open("POST", "form.php");

Back end become a middleware now.

Final solution (update FE)

Open our FE (http://demo.localhost/) in browser and try submit form



FE send to BE incorrect POST form keys values, so need update html form code:

```
<input type="email" name="postEmail" placeholder="Enter your E-mail">
```

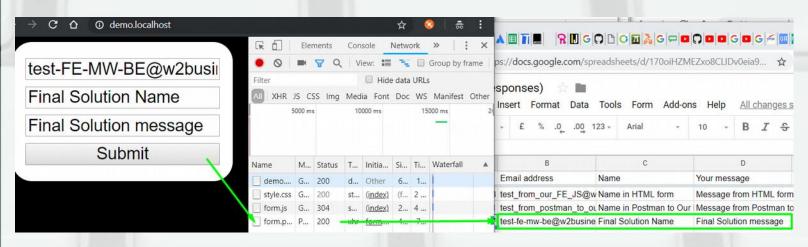
<input type="text" name="postName" placeholder="Enter your Name">

<input type="text" name="postMessage" placeholder="Enter your Message">

FE form.js code also need update. Replace all emailAddress for postEmail entry.1224778685 for postName entry.512804397 for postMessage

Final solution (test)

Let's try submit correct data to OUR website form and check data saved in DB:



Now it works without redirect to Google forms!

Final solution (update FE)

Let's update our FE in form.js

Disable submit while wait for response (for test use sleep(5); at form.php), show errors from middleware hide form if success and :

```
xhr.addEventListener("readystatechange", function () {
 if (this.readyState !== 4) {
           console.log("while wait for response result, block form");
           document.getElementsByName("submit")[0].disabled = true;
 if (this.readyState === 4) {
   console.log(this.responseText);
   if (this.responseText == "Form received."){
           document.getElementsByTagName("form")[0].innerHTML = this.responseText;
   else{
     document.getElementsByName("submit")[0].disabled = false;
     let errorBlock = document.createElement("div");
     errorBlock.appendChild(document.createTextNode(this.responseText));
     document.getElementById('formErrors').appendChild(errorBlock);
});
```

FINAL SOLUTION ARCHITECTURE

Let's analyze our final solution layers:

Front end

OUR WEBSITE HTML+JS

DOM (HTML) Request Response

JS update Client browser show our HTML form, validate and send data to middleware

Server side validation,

communication with BE

and return results to FE

REST API endpoint

Middle ware

Back

end

Our server side BE

GOOGLE

REST API

FORM

PHP



Google API



receive POST request, validate and save to DB

DB

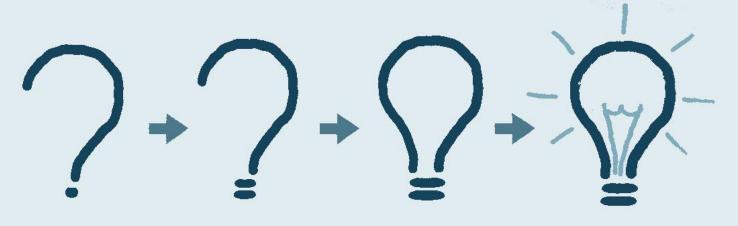
spreadsheet

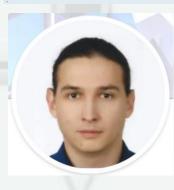
Stores data

В	C	D
Email address	Name	Your message
test@w2business.pl	Test form name	Test form message

THANK YOU...

Do you have any questions?



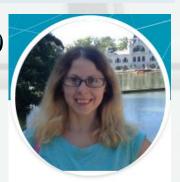


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