

Populate Form Fields From XML file – AcrobatUsers.com Example

By Thom Parker (Developer/Adventurer), WindJack Solutions, Inc.

Requires Acrobat/Reader X

Example file for the article Getting External Data into Acrobat X JavaScript at www.acrobatusers.com

Form Fields for testing the populate fields from XML file script:		Script can be run from the tool button or from this form field Button
Customer Name:		
Company:		
Email:		

How it works:

There are three parts to this example:

- **PopulateFieldsFromXML_Sample.pdf** This AcroForm PDF file
- Customer Data.xml An XML file container customer data; name, company, and email
- **PopulateFieldsFromXML_Tool.js.txt** A folder level JavaScript file.

The XML file and the Folder Level script are included as <u>attachments</u> to this PDF. The Folder Level script Reads and Parses the XML file data using the new "util.readFileIntoStream()" function in the Acrobat X JavaScript SDK.

When the script is executed it presents the user with a menu of names acquired from the XML data. When an item from the menu is selected the script populates the **Name**, **Company**, and **Email** fields on the form with data from the XML file. This script will work with any AcroForm that has one or more fields with these names.

The folder level script places a toolbar button into the "Plug-in Add-on" Tools Panel in both Acrobat X and Reader X. However, Reader X only displays the tools panel if the PDF has been Reader Enabled, which has not been done to this AcroForm PDF. The main function of the folder level script can be run from any scripting context in Acrobat, not just the toolbar button. An example is provided in the button above labeled "Populate Customer Data".

Installation:

- **1. PopulateFieldsFromXML_Tool.js.txt** Extract this file into one of the two <u>Acrobat JavaScript</u> Folders and then remove the ".txt" extension. Close and restart Acrobat.
- 2. CustomerData.xml Copy this file into the Acrobat User's JavaScript folder. The location of this folder varies with the operating system but can be found by running the following code in the Acrobat JavaScript Console: app.getPath("user", "javascript");

