

TEXT INPUT

View online: <https://www.construct.net/en/make-games/manuals/construct-3/plugin-reference/text-input>

The **Text input** object is a form control providing a text field the user can type text in to. This is used for getting data from the user; don't confuse it with the **Text** object, which is for displaying text.

Scripting

When using JavaScript or TypeScript coding, the features of this object can be accessed via the `ITextInputInstance` script interface.

Layering HTML objects

This object displays using a HTML element rather than drawing in to the canvas. This means its layering works differently to other objects. To learn more about how to layer HTML objects, see [HTML layers](#).

Styling text inputs

As Text Input objects are HTML elements, their appearance can be customised using CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). The `ID` and `Class` properties can be used to identify the HTML element, and a CSS [project file](#) added to apply some styles to it.

Text Input properties

Text

The initial text entered in to the field.

Placeholder

Some text that appears faintly when the field is empty. This can be used for hints for what the field is for, e.g. *Username*.

Tooltip

A tooltip that appears if the user hovers the mouse over the text box and waits. Leave blank for no tooltip.

Initially visible

Whether or not the text box is shown on startup. If invisible, the field must be shown with the *Set visible* action.

Enabled

Whether the text box is initially enabled. If disabled, the field will be greyed out and cannot be modified.

Read-only

Set whether the field is read-only, which means the text cannot be modified but can still be selected. This is different to disabling the field, which changes the appearance of the input.

Spell check

Enable spell-checking on the text entered in to the field, if the browser supports it. If enabled, spelling errors are underlined with a squiggly red line.

Type

Set the type of content being entered in to the text field, which can be:

- **Text:** any text content
- **Password:** any content but characters hidden
- **Email:** intended for strings in the format of an email, e.g. `joe@bloggs.com`
- **Number:** numerical digits only
- **Telephone number:** telephone number characters only
- **URL:** web addresses in the general format `https://example.com`
- **Textarea:** a multi-line text input, usually displayed with a monospace font
- **Search:** text content intended as a search query

The `email`, `number`, `telephone number` and `URL` types are generally most useful for mobile devices, since they change which type of on-screen keyboard appears when the field is focused. For example, `Text` will show a general purpose on-screen keyboard, whereas `Number` may show a simple number pad, making it more convenient for the user to enter the content.

Auto font size

Automatically set the *font-size* property of the element according to the layout and layer scale. This will prevent the *font-size* CSS property being manually set with the *Set CSS style* action. Disable if you intend to use *Set CSS style* to adjust the *font-size* property.

ID Optional

An optional *id* attribute for the element in the DOM (Document Object Model). This can be useful for accessing the element's value from external scripts, or styling with CSS in the HTML page.

Text input conditions

See [common conditions](#) for features shared between form control objects.

Compare text

Compare the text currently entered in to the field. The comparison can either be case sensitive ("TEXT" is different to "text") or case insensitive ("TEXT" is the same as "text").

On clicked

Triggered when the user clicks the field.

On double-clicked

Triggered when the user double-clicks the field.

On text changed

Triggered whenever the text in the field is modified, by typing, backspace/delete, cut/paste etc.

Text input actions

See [common actions](#) for features shared between form control objects.

Append text

Add some text to the end of the current text. For example, if the text object contains *Hello* and has *World* appended, the text object then contains *HelloWorld*.

Scroll to bottom

Scroll to the bottom of the control. Only has an effect when set to the *textarea* type, since it is the only multiline mode. This is useful for chat or log style textareas.

Set max length

Set the maximum number of characters allowed to be entered in the field. Set to -1 to disable any limit and allow an unlimited number of characters (which is the default).

Set placeholder

Set the text that appears faintly when the field is empty. This can be used for hints for what the field is for, e.g. *Username*.

Set read-only

Set whether the field is read-only, which means the text cannot be modified but can still be selected. This is different to disabling the field, where text cannot be selected.

Set text

Set the text currently entered in to the field.

Set tooltip

Set the text that appears for the field tooltip. Leave blank for no tooltip.

Text Input expressions

MaxLength

Return the maximum number of characters allowed to be entered in to the field, as set by the *Set max length* action. If there is no maximum length (the default), this returns -1.

Text

Get a string containing the text currently entered in to the field.