**Converting csv files to dhtmlx forms**

***Yanhui Liang***

**Task:**

To convert the dictionary (.csv format) files downloaded from Redcap to a pretty web form that can be nicely edited online using dhtmlxform tools (<http://docs.dhtmlx.com/doku.php?id=dhtmlxform:toc>, http://dhtmlx.com/docs/products/visualDesigner/live/).

**Problems:**

1. There is no description of the csv files.

The syntax of the file should be given before converting a dictionary file into a web form automatically. After getting the descriptive file, we can parse it into a web form. But I just saw lots of messy strings/signs and could not figure out any pattern.

2. Varied content in each entry

The content in each entry is so varied, including strings, signs as well as some html elements that it’s difficult to deal with them.

Take one csv file I downloaded from Redcap as an example, entry (59, L)  looks like an assignment, entry (135,E) is a html element and entry(192,F) is a equation or a cascade string? And entry (372,E) even includes "style="color : red; font-size: 20pt "!

**Conclusions:**

If a clear description about the syntax of the csv files is provided or some columns are ignored to generate a cleaner content in each table entry, we can do it. Otherwise, we should consider other tools.