



IBM Software

IBM Forms 4.0

FormParts

An IBM Proof of Technology



Agenda

- Overview of FormPart
- Using FormParts in the IBM Forms Designer



Objectives

- Define what is FormPart
- Visualize how FormPart functions



FormPart Overview

- What is it?
 - ▶ FormParts are re-usable XML components that are external to a form
 - ▶ Design parts of a Form once and then re-use multiple times across forms
 - ▶ Update of a FormPart can update all forms using that particular FormPart
- Why?
 - ▶ Reduce cost of common form maintenance tasks
 - ▶ Reduce cost of development through simple object re-use and simplify change management to common Forms component

FormPart Requirements

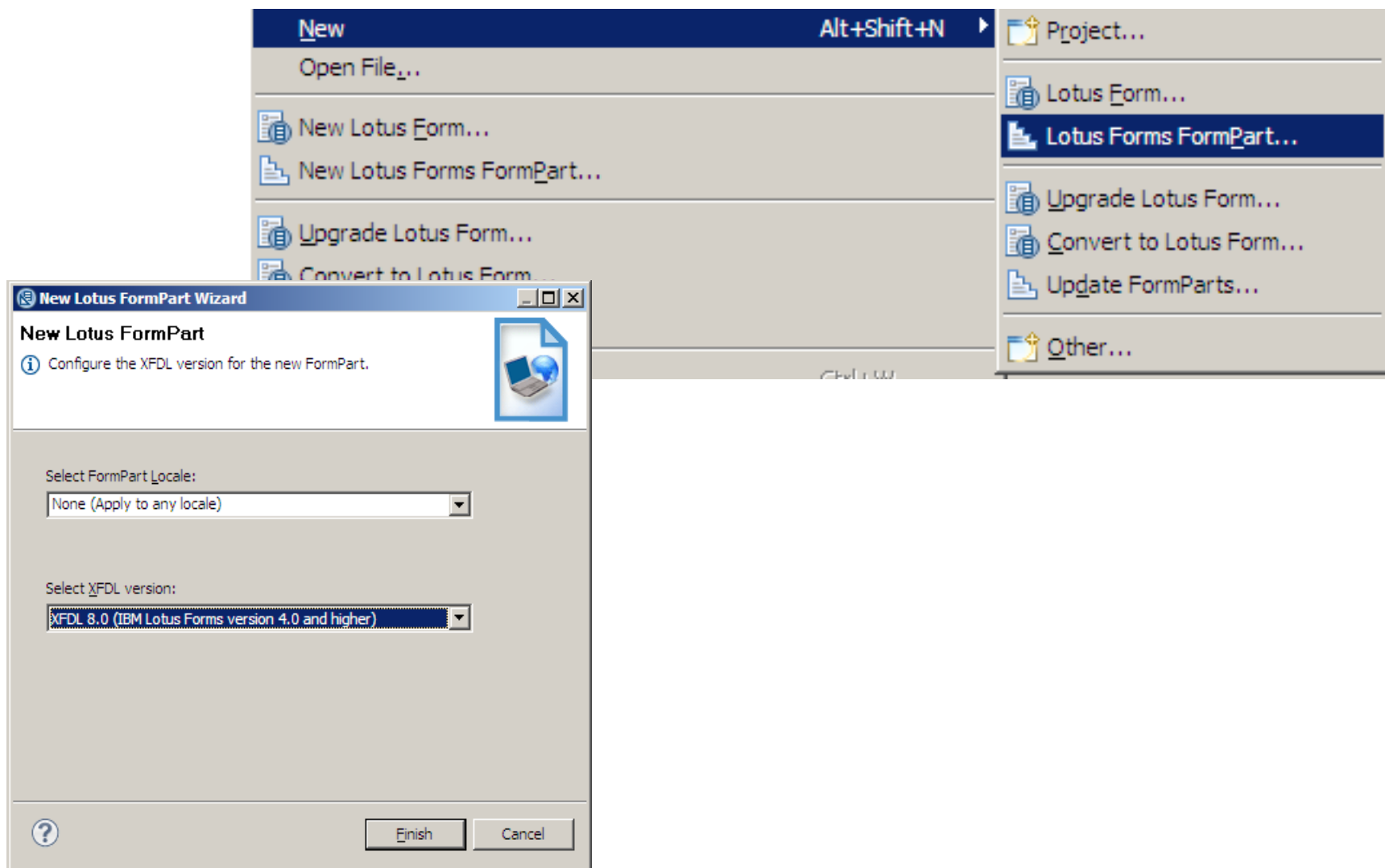
- Support the inclusion of one or more static items into a form.
- Support inclusion of interactive form items (fields, lists).
- Support inclusion of form widgets with input validation and simple logic.
- Allow FormParts to be placed in different locations in each consuming form
- Allow FormParts to be re-used several times on each form
- Allow form help to be included in a FormPart
- Allow FormPart updates to be reflected in instances of a consuming form published by the designer



FormPart Use Cases

- Changing corporate branding across multiple forms
 - ▶ Modify images/logos
- Modify text terms/conditions/instructions in applications or contracts
- Modify static “signature” image block (image and label)
- Create common toolbar for re-use in all forms
 - ▶ Static colors, images, links, etc.
 - ▶ Pagination controls
 - ▶ Status information
- Re-use a block of UI controls (e.g. Address block, etc.)
- Change of business rules on commonly used fields

FormPart Designer Interface



FormPart Creation – Properties Wizard

The screenshot shows the 'Properties' dialog box for a FormPart. The dialog is titled 'FormPart' and contains the following fields and options:

- XFDL Version:** XFDL 8.0 (IBM Lotus Forms version 4.0 and higher)
- Locale:** None (Apply to any locale) [Dropdown]
- Title:** [Empty text field]
- Description:** [Empty text area]
- Static Size:** Lock FormPart size on the form
- Width:** 26 pixels
- Height:** 26 pixels
- Small Icon:** [Empty text field] [Browse...]
- Large Icon:** [Empty text field] [Browse...]
- Library:** User FormParts [Dropdown]
- Auto Inline:** Inline the FormPart automatically when it is imported into a form
- Show more properties
- Do not show this dialog when creating a new FormPart
- Error Message:** [X] Title: Each FormPart must have a descriptive title. Enter the FormPart title here.

Callout annotations (orange speech bubbles) provide additional information:

- Apply Locale to filter availability of FormPart based on Form's locale setting** (points to the Locale dropdown)
- Must fill - Title of FormPart** (points to the Title text field)
- Folder to store the FormParts** (points to the Library dropdown)
- Unchecked - Hide the details/complexity of FormPart (You can still make it inline once you imported the FormPart into any Form.** (points to the Auto Inline checkbox)

Buttons at the bottom: [?] [OK] [Cancel]

Samples of "Out of the Box" FormParts

The screenshot displays a 'FormParts' palette on the left and a sample form layout on the right. Red arrows point from the palette items to their corresponding components in the form.

FormParts Palette:

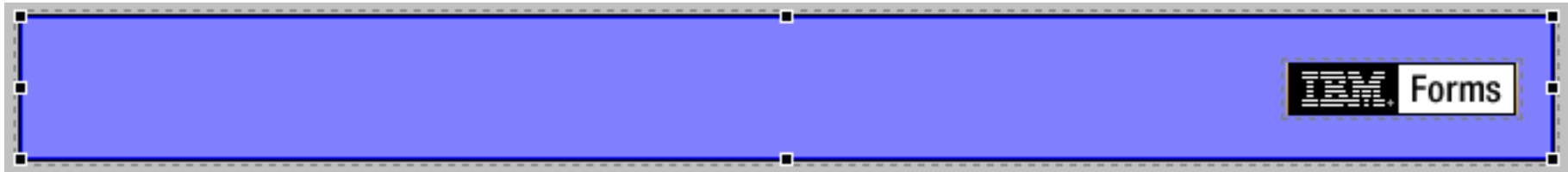
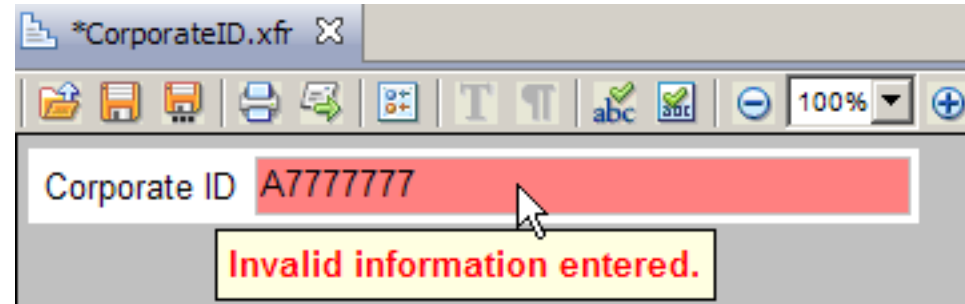
- Duration Long
- Duration Short
- SSN (###-##-####)
- State Popup
- State Popup (Abbreviated)
- US Address Block
- US Phone Number (###) ###-####
- US Phone Number with patterns
- ZIP Code

Form Components:

- Enter Duration: Y M D H M S
- Enter Day-Time Duration: D H M S
- SSN:
- State:
- State:
- First Name: Middle Name: Last Name: S.S.N.:
- Street Address:
- City: State: ZIP:
- Gender: Date of Birth: Work Phone: Home Phone:
- Phone:
- Phone:
- ZIP Code:

Samples of Custom FormParts

- Runtime view of Corporate ID Field
 - ▶ Can apply common business rule, in this case, Corporate ID must conform to a pattern of X000000 (eg: First Alphabet followed by 6 digits)
- Corporate Branding

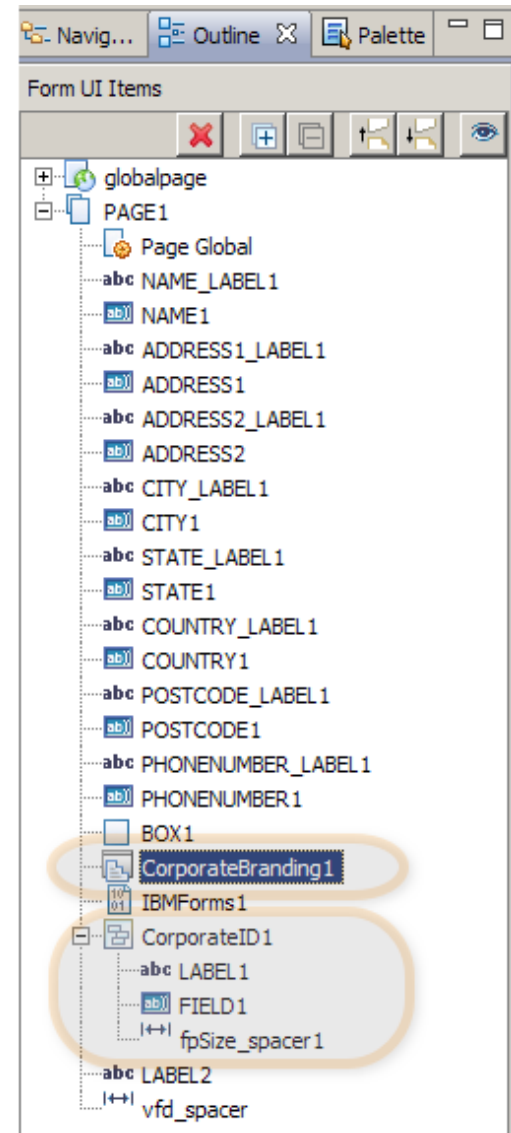


Using FormParts in IBM Form

The screenshot displays the IBM Forms Designer interface. The window title bar shows two open files: `*CorporateID.xfr` and `Sample Forms with FormsPart.xfdl`. The main workspace shows a form design on a dotted grid background. At the top, a yellow header bar contains the text "Personal Details U" and the "IBM Forms" logo. An orange callout bubble points to the header area with the text "CorporateBranding FormPart added to the form". Below the header, a series of form fields are arranged vertically, each with a label and an input box: "Corporate ID", "name", "address1", "address2", "city", "state", "country", "postcode", and "phonenumber". An orange callout bubble points to the "Corporate ID" field with the text "CorporateID FormPart added to the form".

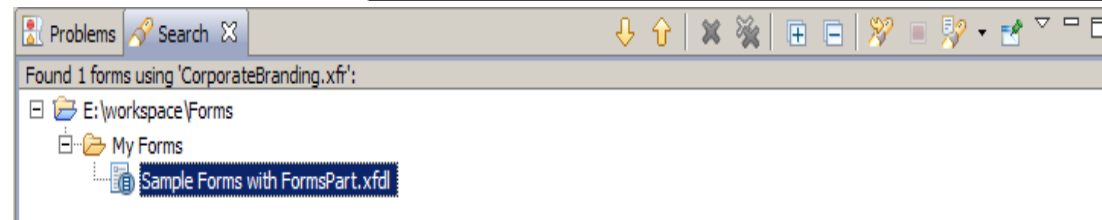
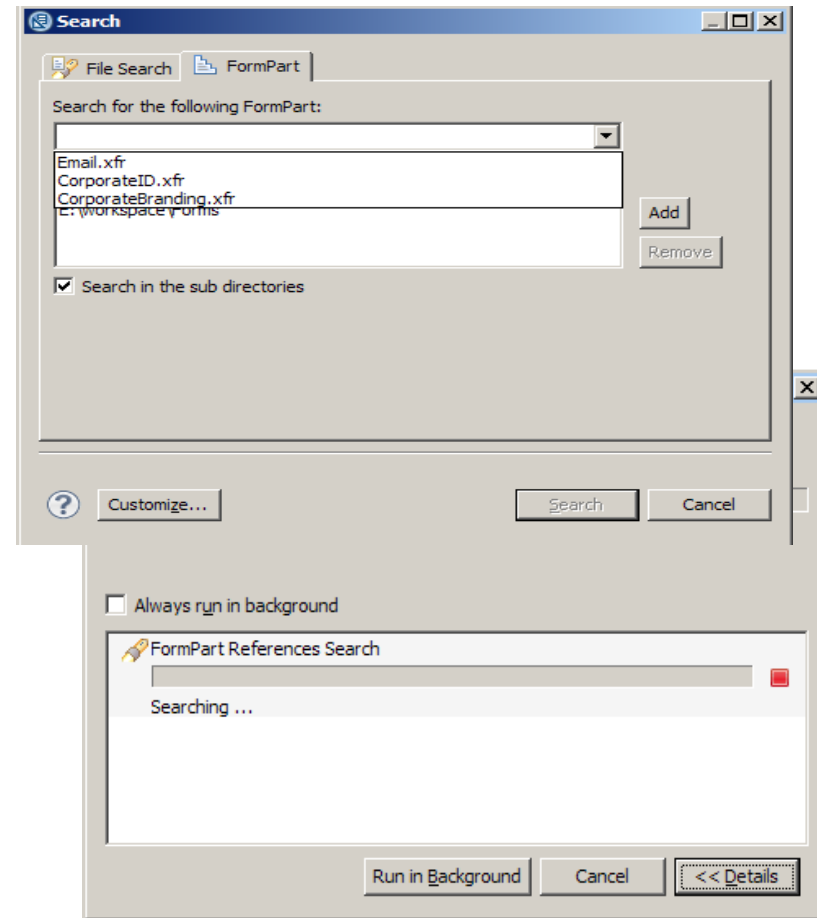
Manage FormParts – Through Outline View

- To see what custom FormParts are in a form:
 - 1. At the bottom of the Outline view, click FormParts. The FormParts section expands and displays the names of the custom FormParts used in the form.
 - 2. Expand the FormPart to see the pages in which it is used, as well as how many times the FormPart is used on a page.



Manage FormParts – Search Form with reference to certain FormPart

- To allow easier management of multiple forms templates that used multiple form part, there is a Search capability provided in IBM Forms Designer.
- To search for forms that use a custom FormPart:
 1. Go to Search -> FormPart. The Search window opens.
 2. Select the FormPart from the dropdown menu.
 3. Select the directory to search by clicking Add and browsing to the desired directory.
 - ▶ If you are searching a main directory, you can select whether to search only the main directory or all sub directories. To search the sub directories, click the check box beside Search in the sub directories.
 4. Click Search.
- When the search is complete, the Search view displays the folders containing the form



Summary

- Define what is FormPart
- Visualize how FormPart functions



Questions





Thank You

We appreciate your feedback.

Please fill out the survey form in order to improve this educational event.

