Filtering a SELECT field using AJAX and JQuery

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I've got a select form field, and I want it to change based on a search string that someone enters. Luckily for me the select field is dynamically driven from a database, so the most obvious way for me to do this is to make an AJAX post request using the string entered to amend the SQL query building the field.

This article shows you how to do this, there is a demo of the select field using AJAX here: <u>http://www.mccran.co.uk/examples</u> /jquery_textfilter_selectfield/

Firstly create a form with a select field in it. I have populated mine with a query, like this. I've also added the text field below to allow a user to enter a filter string.

This is populated from a very simple SQL query.

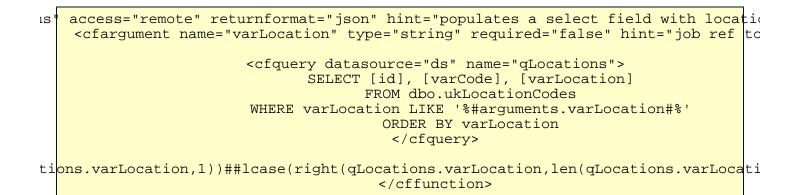
SELECT [id], [varCode], [varLocation] FROM dbo.ukLocationCodes ORDER BY varLocation

The interesting bit is where someone starts to enter text into the 'filterText' element. I've created a JQuery selector that watches for a keyup event. This then runs a function that makes an AJAX request to a cfc, which delivers a filtered query object back to the page.

```
// watcher for the client ref field
       $("#filterText").keyup(getSelectField);
     // function to manage drop down from the filter box
                 function getSelectField() {
                var thisValue = $(this).attr("value");
               // search on the clients for this number
$.post("ajax.cfc?method=filterLocations", { varLocation: thisValue
                   function (data) {
jsonResponse = eval( "(" + data + ")" );
                             // set the select box
                       var selector = $('#locations');
                        // remove the existing options
                   var options = selector.attr('options');
                        $('option', selector).remove();
                              // add the new ones
                  $.each(jsonResponse, function(val, text) {
               options[options.length] = new Option(text, val);
                                           });
                                      });
                                   }
                                 //end
```

This function then removes all the select options, and repopulates it with the returned AJAX query.

The CFC that performs the query is here, note that I'm building a formatted json response myself because this is running on ColdFusion server 7 and 8, so the returnformat value doesn't always work.



There is a demo of the select field using AJAX here: <u>http://www.mccran.</u> <u>co.uk/examples/jquery_textfilter_selectfield/</u>