

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: http://www.mccran.co.uk/examples/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.

```
<select name="locations" id="locations" size="5">
  <cfloop query="qGetLocations">
    <option value="#qGetLocations.id#">
      #qGetLocations.varLocation#
    </option>
  </cfloop>
</select>

<label for="filterText">
  Filter the select field using this string:
</label><br>
<input type="text"
  name="filterText"
  id="filterText"
  size="10"
  value="">
```

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.

```
is" access="remote" returnformat="json" hint="populates a select field with location  
<cfargument name="varLocation" type="string" required="false" hint="job ref to  
  
        <cfquery datasource="ds" name="qLocations">  
            SELECT [id], [varCode], [varLocation]  
            FROM dbo.ukLocationCodes  
            WHERE varLocation LIKE '%#arguments.varLocation#%'  
            ORDER BY varLocation  
        </cfquery>  
  
tions.varLocation,1))##lcase(right(qLocations.varLocation,len(qLocations.varLocati  
        </cffunction>
```

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