AcroTEX.Net

Countdown Maximum Length Input

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This problem was posed to me by Dale S. He wanted to create a text field with a maximum character limit and to provide a countdown that shows the user the number of characters still available to enter into the field. This article contains my solution to this problem. 𝔇𝔓𝔖

AcroTEX PDF Blog #26

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Countdown Maximum Length Input

The JavaScript countdown the number of characters left as
the user enter string into field.

The text field uses **keystroke** and **on focus** script

On focus:

```
1  var maxlim=event.target.charLimit;
2  if (event.target.value.length==0)
3  this.getField("cntdwn").value=maxlim;
```

The max number of characters is obtained in line (1), if there is nothing in the text field, line (2), insert the maximum characters in the companion text field, "cntdwn", line (3)

Keystroke:

```
1  var value = custmMergeChange(event);
2  var L = value.length;
3  this.getField("cntdwn").value=(maxlim-L);
```

The user enters characters (including pasting in characters), for each change in the field, the current change is merged with the string that has already been entered, line (1). The document JavaScript function custmMergeChange() is used to merge the old string with the new. The length of the combined string, line (2), is assigned to variable L, and finally, the companion field is updated to the new length, line (3).

The script is executed as the user enters text, and after the user commits the text to the field. In the latter case, the script catches the use of Ctrl+Z keystroke (that would return earlier deleted text).

The function custmMergeChange() is a document-level JavaScript function, is verbatim definition appears below.

```
1  function custmMergeChange(event) {
2      return AFMergeChange(event);
3  }
```

The function custmMergeChange() is a "wrapper-function" for the built in Acrobat JavaScript function AFMergeChange(), this latter function is undocumented, but has been around since version 4 of Acrobat/Adobe Reader. AFMergeChange() merges the string already entered by the user with the character(s) just entered by the user, and returns this merged string. In the **keystroke** script above, we use this returned value to get the current length string being input by the user. 𝔇𝒮