

Breaking a text field across a page

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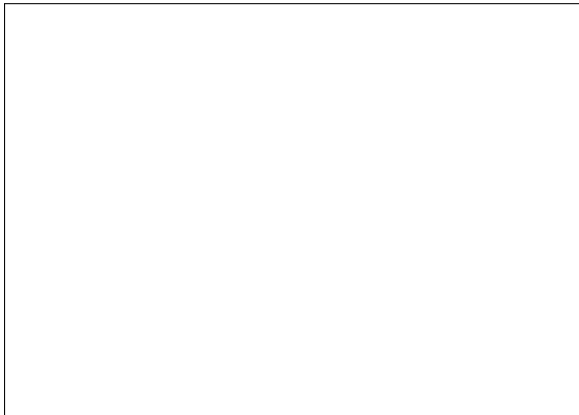
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In this article file, we develop techniques for breaking a form field across page boundaries using the L^AT_EX authoring system. We define a command, `\getSpaceLeftOnPage`,

```
\makeatletter
\newcommand{\getSpaceLeftOnPage}{\par\bgroup
  \@tempdima \pagegoal \advance \@tempdima -\pagetotal
  \xdef\amtSpaceLeftOnPage{\the\@tempdima}\egroup}
\makeatother
```

in the preamble that measures the amount of space left on the page. If there is too little space to insert a 3 inch high text field, we create the field using the remaining height, break the page, and create a continuation of the field on the next page.

Begin entering content into the text field below. Fill the field fully, at some point the page should change and you can continue to enter more content into the “continuation” field.



The traditional way of handling multi-line field is to allow the field to scroll. But some text may not be visible. Using this technique, you can have the document consumer enter text and continue to the next page.

Now, if you want to submit this data to a server-side script, there are a couple of options:

- **Client-side:** Create a hidden text field, when user submits, create some JavaScript to transfer the content of the two fields into the hidden one, then submit the hidden one, but not the visible ones.
- **Server-side:** Customize your server-side script to combine the results of `'fieldname'` and `'fieldname-cont'`, if the latter exists.

Details are left to the interested reader. dps