

Cascade Menu Action 1.0

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This action will let you have a selection in one form menu determine the options that show up in another menu. For instance, if you have one menu with choices of "mammal" and "amphibian", choosing mammal will cause your defined list of mammals to appear in the second menu.

To download a new copy of this script or to see a working example, visit our website at this link:

http://www.mindpalette.com/actions/natebaldwin/cascade_menu

Here's how to install the action:

Decompress the ZIP or SIT file (use Stuffit Expander on Mac) and put it into a new folder named "MindPalette" (if you don't already have a MindPalette folder in your GoLive actions). Put the MindPalette folder into your GoLive actions folder, which you can find here on your computer:

(Main GoLive Folder) / Modules / JScripts / Actions

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Here's how to use the action on your page:

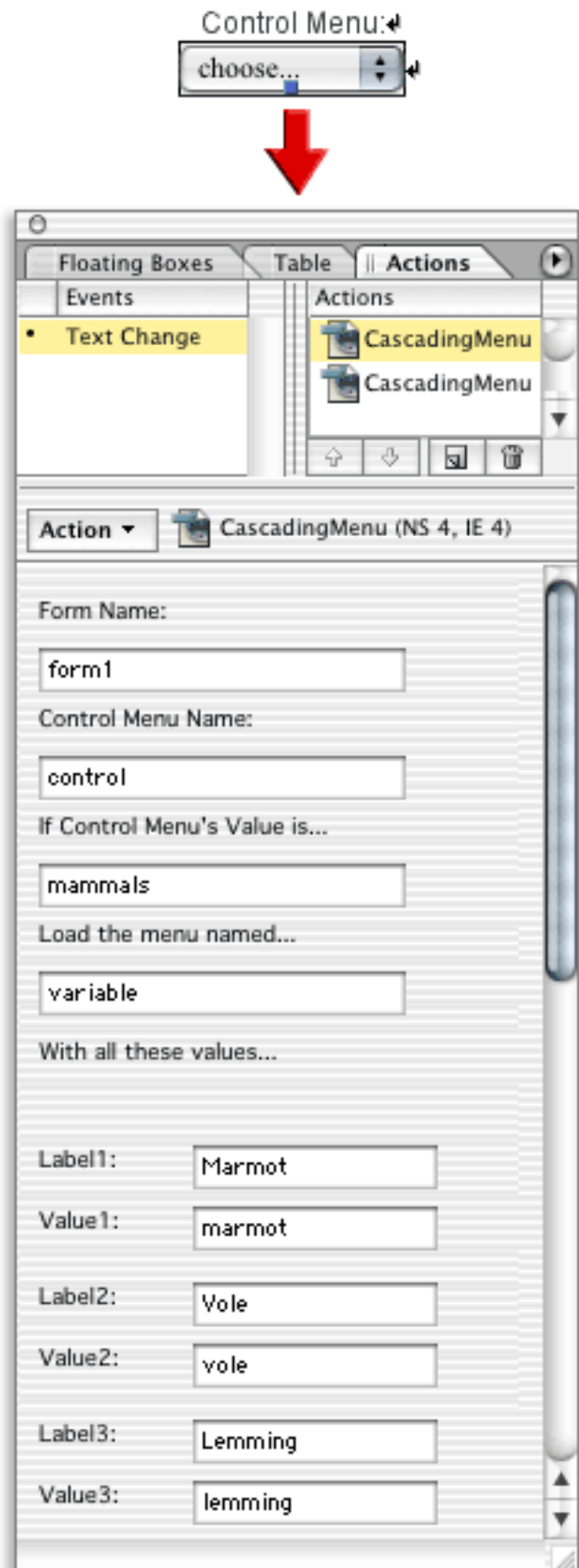
First you'll need to set up your form with your 2 drop-down menus. They need to be in the same form. Put your main options in the first drop-down menu (the "Control Menu" in my example). Next, select the menu and go to the Actions palette and add a new "Text Change" action (see image to right). Choose the CascadingMenu Action from the list of actions.

Next enter the value to look for in the main control menu. For instance, if you want it to load all these options when the control menu is set on "mammals", then enter the word "mammals". Make sure you enter the VALUE of the form option, and not the LABEL. Then just enter the name of the form menu that will be changing, and all the new labels and values to enter.

IMPORTANT NOTE: None of the form values or labels entered into the action settings can have a single quote or an apostrophe unless it is "escaped" with a backslash character (not a forward slash). For instance, if you have an option named "sam's newt", then you'd have to enter "sam\'s newt" or you'll get a script error. That's just the way GoLive's actions work.

Also, none of your form or menu names should have spaces or any other character other than normal letters, numbers, or underscores. They are all case-sensitive.

From here we just need to get the second menu ready. Just make sure the second, or "variable" menu has the same name as is specified in the action. There are a few more steps involved if you want this action to be compatible with older browsers, particularly Netscape 4. Those steps are described on the next page.



Aside from the special steps needed for Netscape 4, that about does it. You just attach as many different actions as you need for each group of menu options. In my example, I attached 3 actions to the "control" menu - one for mammals, one for reptiles, and one for amphibians.

Netscape 4 NOTES: to be compatible with NN4, there are a few more steps for the second, or "variable" menu. Because NN4 isn't good about re-writing or re-sizing items on the page after they've already loaded, it's important to make sure that the Label in your second form is longer than any of the new labels you plan to load later.

For instance, in my example, the default label for the second menu is simply... "Choose first from list above". This works with my form because none of the new values that I'm loading are longer than that string of text. Not even "Marmot". If one of my new options were "Marmots enjoy quiet walks through the woods", then I'd have a problem - not all of the label would show up in NN4 browsers.

The other thing to take into account with Netscape 4 is that only the number of menu options in the second list by default will show up. They're still there, the visitor will just have to scroll. For instance, if all I have in that second menu is the one label...

"Choose first from list above", then only one of the new options will show up in the menu when a visitor clicks on it without scrolling, and this looks a little funny.

If you put in a couple extra options in the menu (in my example, I just added two new menu options with just a space as the label, and no value (just blank). That's enough to have at least a few options show up in NN4, which is more what people are used to seeing.

That should do it!

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