

Amgraf, Inc. OneForm Designer Plus PDF Forms Generator Module

Getting Started Documentation

The PDF Forms Generator Module is a software option that extends the functionality of the Internet Forms generation features in the standard OneForm Designer Plus package. Before you begin creating PDF Fillable Forms, study and practice the procedures to create Internet (HTML) forms as described in Chapter 14 – Creating Internet Forms of the OneForm Designer Plus User’s Guide.

NOTE: A new sample OneForm “.elf” file (named req04.elf) is included with the PDF Forms Generator Module for use with this documentation.

NOTE: You will need to install the full Adobe Acrobat 5.0 software on your PC before proceeding.

NOTE: You will need to copy the 18 “.afm” and “.pm” files located in your *OneFormInstallpath*\OneForm\PerlModules\UtilityPackages\OOES folder to a folder on your I-forms server at the exact location named: *serverpath*/UtilityPackages/OOES.

Working with the Sample Form File

Start by creating a folder to store the sample OneForm “.elf” file. The recommended location is C:\Program Files\Amgraf\OneForm\Form_Lib\requisition\req04. As we go through the steps to create a PDF Fillable Form, several new files will be generated into that folder.

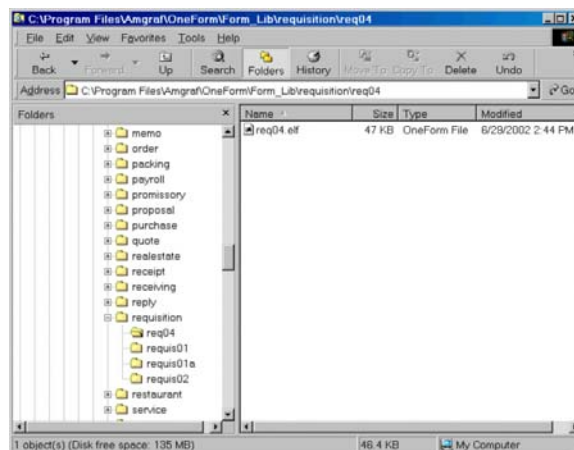


Figure 1 – Create a Working Folder

Start OneForm Designer Plus and open “.elf” file. The sample is a Requisition Form that is already fielded.

The screenshot shows the OneForm Designer Plus interface with a sample requisition form. The form includes the following fields and sections:

- Header:** "SAMPLE REQUISITION FORM" with a logo on the left and a "DATE" field on the right.
- Form Fields:** "FROM", "CHARGE TO", "DELIVERTO", "JOB NUMBER", and "ATTENTION".
- Table:** A table with columns: QUANTITY, ITEM NUMBER, DESCRIPTION, UNIT OF MEASURE, QTY REQUIRED, UNIT PRICE, and COST.
- Footer Fields:** "TAXIDEMP" (YES/NO), "TOTAL COST", "SPECIFYING", "RECOMMENDED SUPPLIERS", "REQUISITIONED BY", and "DATE".

Figure 2 – Our Sample Form

We begin the process of creating a PDF Fillable Form by inserting the control buttons and necessary hidden fields. To do this, click the Options menu, then the Eform/Iform Options/Add Iform Buttons and Fields choice.

The screenshot shows the OneForm Designer Plus interface with the "Options" menu open. The "EForm/Iform Options" sub-menu is expanded, and "Add Form Buttons and Fields" is highlighted. The background shows the same requisition form as in Figure 2.

Figure 3 – Add Control Buttons and Fields

This menu show a list of possible buttons and fields that can be added to the sample form. For this example, we will select the “SubmitData”, “SaveDraft”, “ClearForm”, and “CancelBack” button options, and the “ServerName”, “Home”, “FormStatus”, and PDFsource” hidden fields. It is not important at this moment for you to understand why we are picking these options. Click the “Add Fields” button, then OK to exit this step.

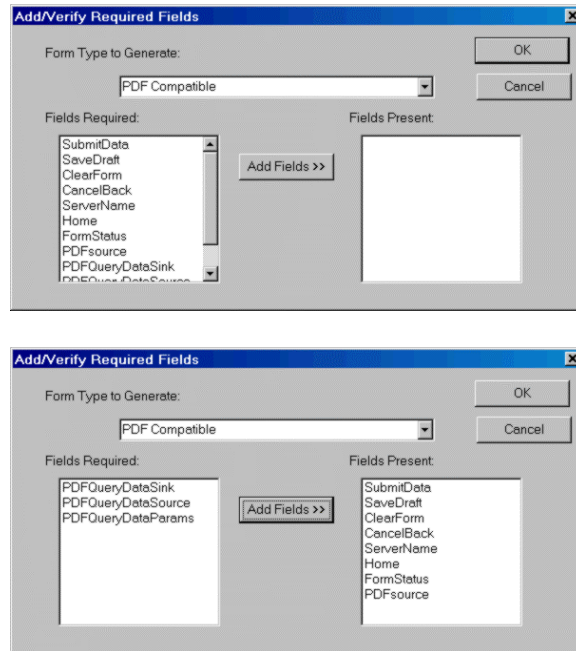


Figure 4 – Selecting Control Buttons and Hidden Fields

The software automatically adds the selected buttons and hidden fields to your form.

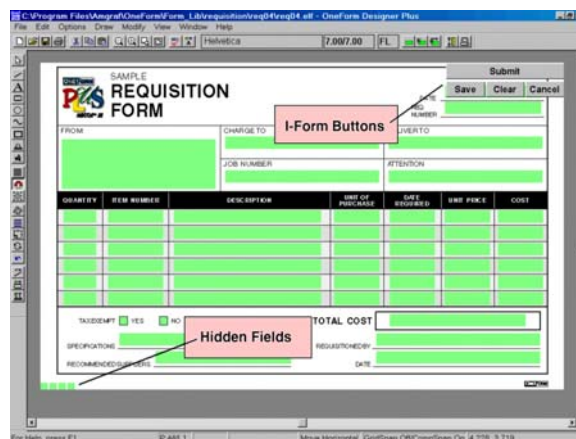


Figure 5 – Buttons and Fields are Automatically Added

Now move the buttons to a more suitable location on the form.

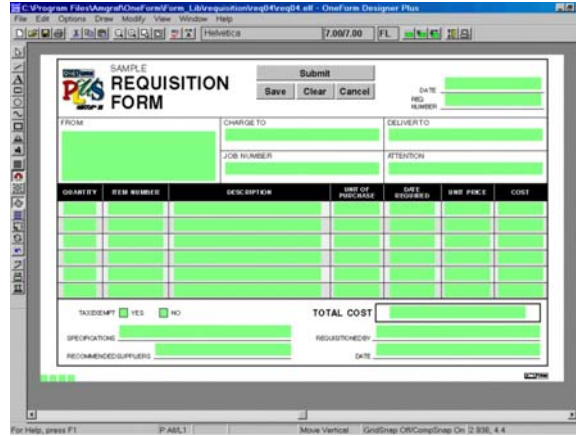


Figure 6 – Re-Position the Control Buttons

Notice that there is a large button for submitting the fill data to the server. In addition, there are smaller buttons to save the data in “draft” format on the server, and to clear the form, and to cancel the form filling operation altogether.

Generating the Server Side Scripts

I-Form server scripts are generated as described in Chapter 14 of the OneForm Designer Plus User's Guide. Please refer to that chapter for more information. Here we will only cover the steps that are critical for creating PDF Fillable Forms.

Start by clicking the Options menu, then the Iform Server Preferences option.

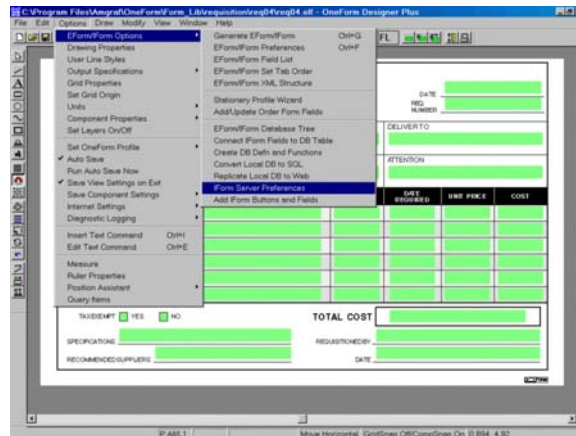


Figure 7 – I-Form Server Preferences

The next three steps are identical to those required to create Internet (HTML) forms as described starting in Chapter 14 , Step 5 of the OneForm Designer Plus user guide. The objective is to generate all the server scripts to host the PDF form, and to connect the fill fields to a server database.

Start by specifying the database characteristics for the I-form. Be sure to set the primary key to be the field named “reqnum”.

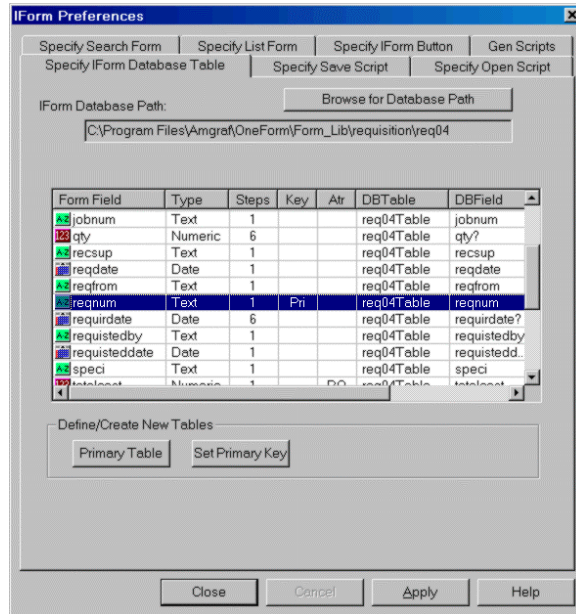


Figure 8 – The Primary Key is the field named “reqnum”

Go through each tab of the Iform Preferences panel as described in Chapter 14 of the OneForm Designer Plus user guide. When you get to the “Specify Iform Button” tab, be sure to indicate that the SubmitData button is to *Submit All Data on Form* by clicking the checkbox as shown in the following illustration.

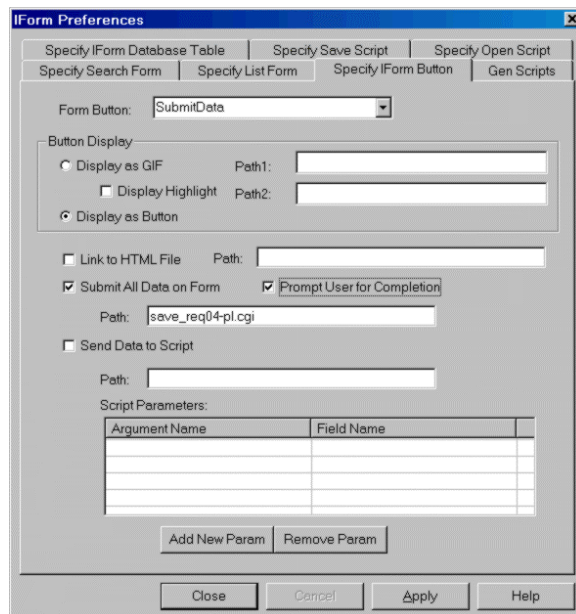


Figure 9 – SubmitData Button Settings

Create the server scripts and administrative HTML pages by clicking on the “Gen Scripts” tab. Make sure to indicate that you want the PDF Open Option by checking the appropriate box. You may also wish to check the XML option. Click the “Generate Scripts” button to generate the server scripts as shown in the following illustration. A pop-up message will confirm that your scripts have been created.

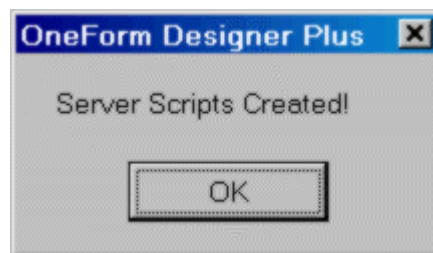
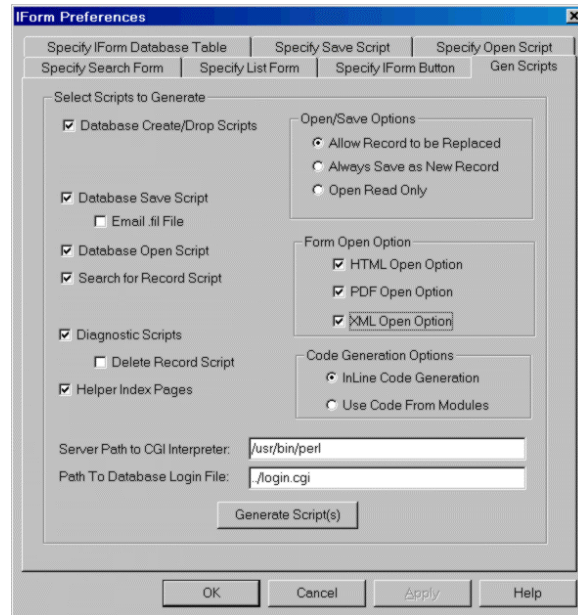


Figure 10 – Generate the Server Scripts

If you open your working folder you will see that there are a number of “.cgi” and “.html” files that have been created. You should also now use the Options menu, then Eform/Iform Options, then Generate Eform/Iform, to generate a standard Internet (HTML) version of your form as described in Chapter 14 – Step 12.

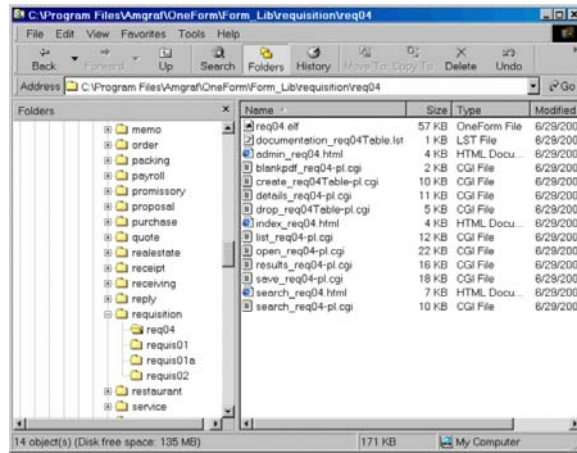


Figure 11 – Many Files are Automatically Created by the “Generate Scripts” Function

Creating a Fillable PDF Form

Now it is time to make the PDF version of the sample I-form.

Click the File menu, Save As and Save Form Fields as PDF option.

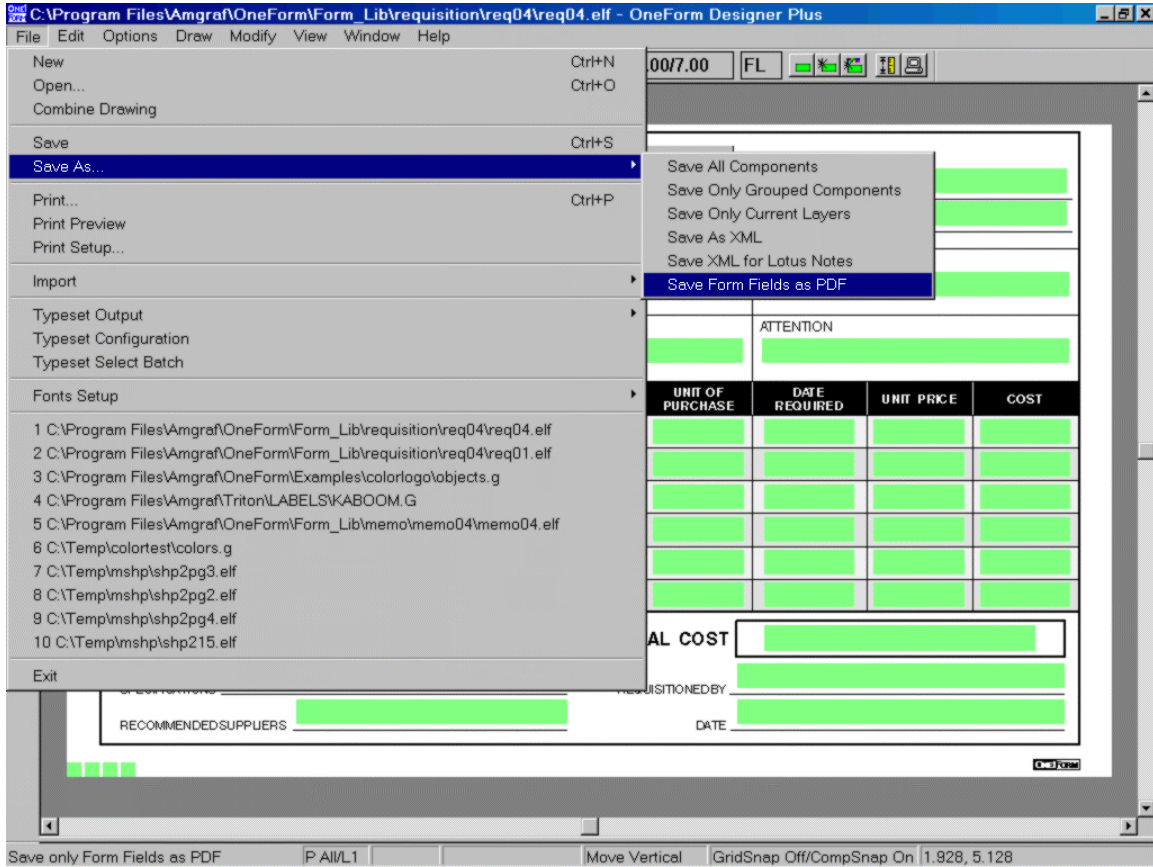


Figure 12 – Save the I-Form Fields as a PDF file

Since we are *only* saving the fill fields, make sure to name the PDF file appropriately.

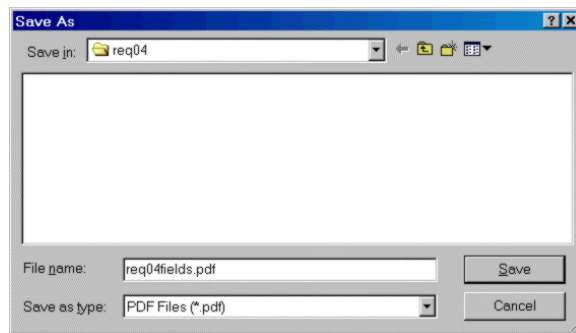


Figure 13 – Name the PDF file using the Convention “namefields.pdf”

To make the background image of the I-form, turn off the display of the fill fields as shown in the following illustration.

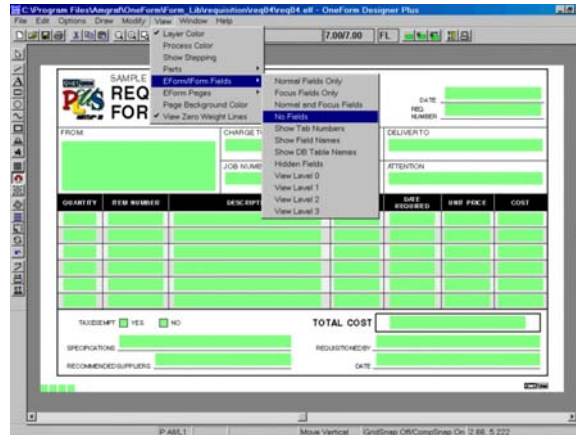


Figure 14 – Hide the Fill Fields

Adobe Acrobat Distiller can be used to produce the background image of the I-form. Because the fill fields are hidden, only the background image of a blank form will be processed by Distiller. An optional method to produce the background is to print the form image to a PostScript file using a printer driver of your choice, then opening the PostScript file within the Acrobat Distiller program.

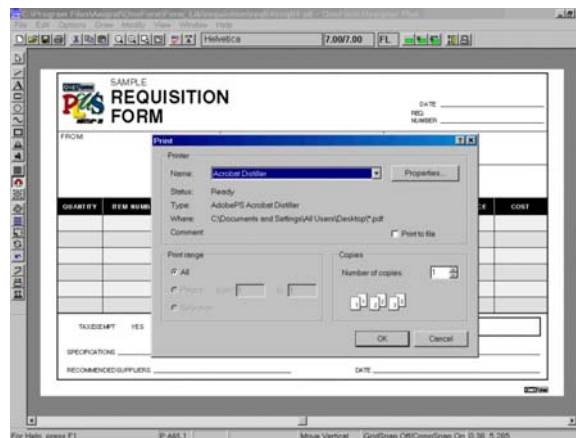


Figure 15 – Use Adobe Acrobat Distiller to Produce the Blank Form Image PDF file

Since we are *only* saving the background image of the blank form, make sure to name the PDF file appropriately.

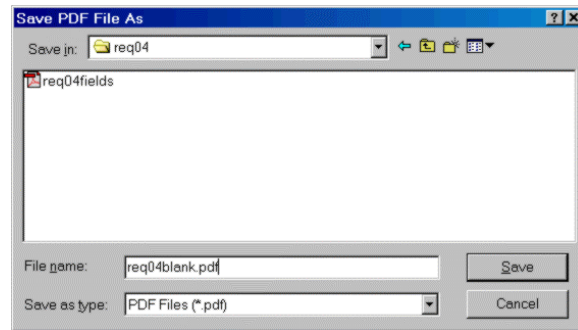


Figure 16 – Name the PDF file using the Convention “nameblank.pdf”

Open the Files with Adobe Acrobat 5.0

Now minimize the OneForm Designer Plus program. Launch the Adobe Acrobat 5.0 software and open the file named “req04fields.pdf” as shown in the illustration below. Click the “Form Tool” button to show the fill fields.

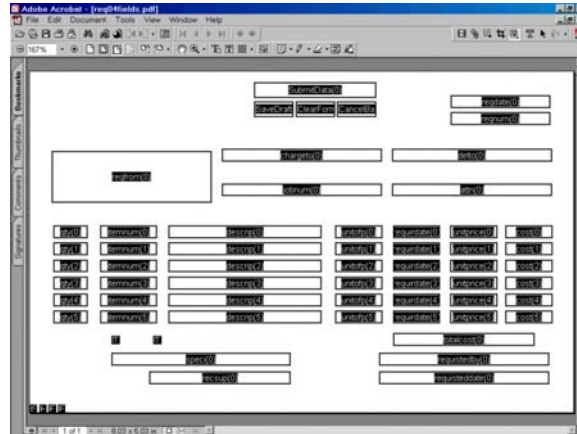


Figure 17 – Open the Fill Fields PDF File in Adobe Acrobat 5.0

Click the Document menu then Replace Pages to select the background image PDF file.

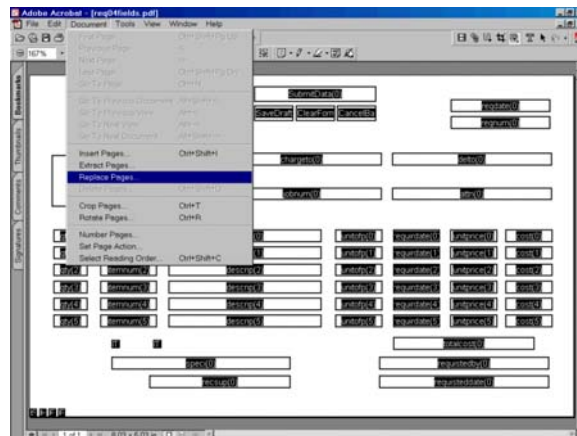


Figure 18 – Use the “Replace Page” Function to Combine the Fill Fields with the Form Image

The Replace Pages control panel looks like the illustration below. Click OK to combine the two PDF files together.

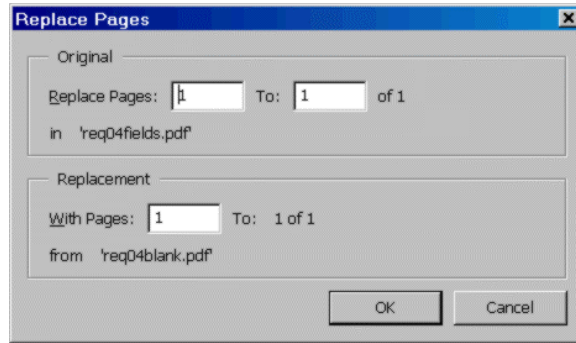


Figure 19 – Acrobat “Replace Pages” Control Panel

The background image of the I-form will appear as shown below. The fill fields will not be in the correct position, however, they will be relatively positioned so that they can be selected by pressing the “Ctrl-A” keys and then moved where they belong.

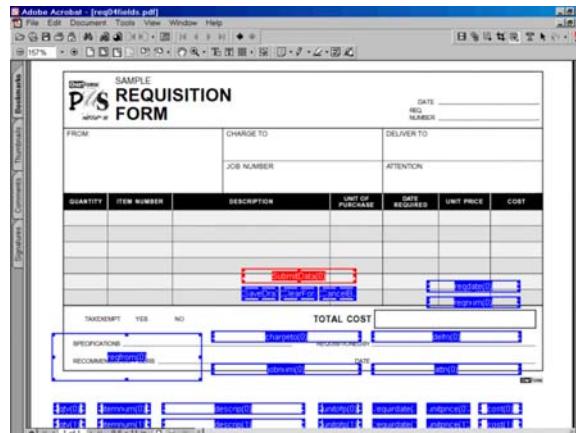


Figure 20 – Select All the Fill Fields for Repositioning

Use the Click and Drag method of repositioning the selected fields as shown in the following illustration.

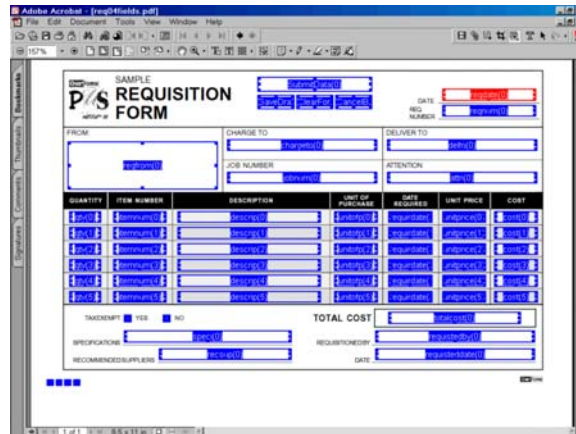


Figure 21 – Fill Fields Positioned on Top of the Form Image

Click the “Hand” tool to see the normal view of the PDF Fillable Form.

DO NOT TEST THE FORM BEFORE SAVING.

Save the form first, then test for tab order, fill field attributes, etc.

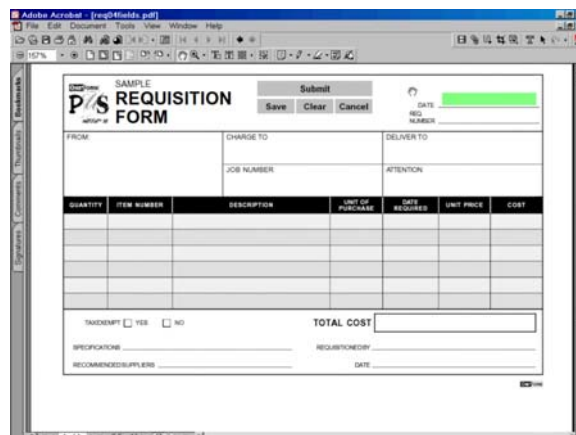


Figure 22 – A PDF Fillable Form

Since the PDF form has turned out to be letter-size, you may wish to crop the image using the Document menu then Crop Pages option with Adobe Acrobat.

NOTE: You may modify your PDF form and add custom JavaScript programming using the toolset in Adobe Acrobat. Keep in mind, however, that your OneForm Designer source files will not be updated with any of the changes made in Acrobat.

Click the File menu, then Save As to save the PDF Fillable Form.

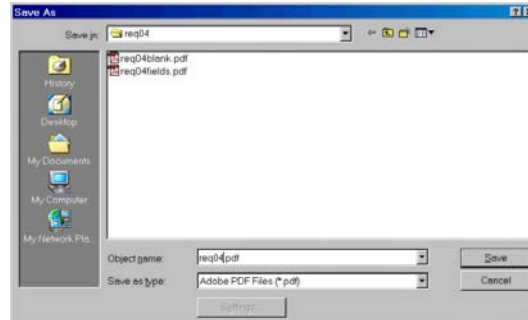


Figure 23 - Name the PDF Fillable Form file using the Convention “name.pdf”

The files in your working folder are now ready to copy to your Internet server.

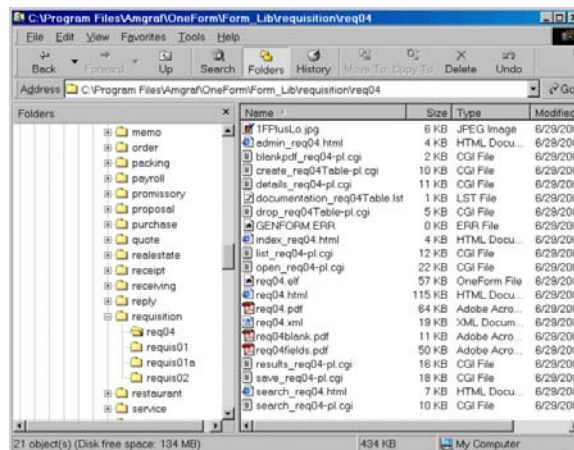


Figure 24 – Working Folder Contents

Test the hosting of the PDF Fillable Form by locating the Administrative Page on your Internet server. The URL is “*serverpath/req04/admin_req04.html*”.

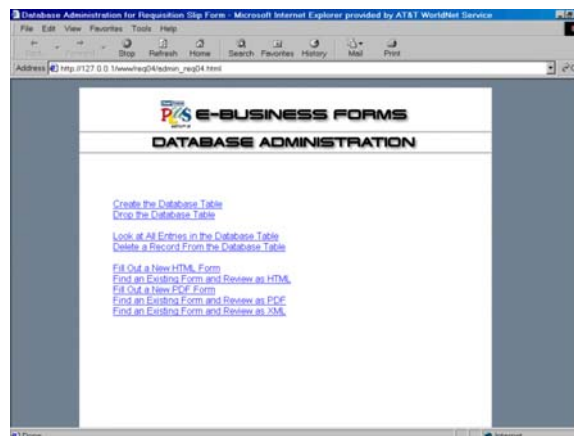


Figure 25 – Administrative Page for Testing the PDF Fillable Form