

# Recent changes to Semantic Forms (and Cargo)

Yaron Koren  
EMWCon Spring 2016  
May 24, 2016  
New York City

# About me

- Enterprise MediaWiki developer, consultant and author
- Live in New York City
- My company: WikiWorks ([wikiworks.com](http://wikiworks.com))
- My book: *Working with MediaWiki* ([workingwithmediawiki.com](http://workingwithmediawiki.com))



# Semantic Forms

My first, and still most popular, extension.

[https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/  
Extension:Semantic\\_Forms](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Semantic_Forms)

# Change #1: Added “display=spreadsheet”

```
{{{for template|Performance|multiple|
label=Performances|display=spreadsheet}}}
{{{field|Location}}} ← no wikitext!
{{{field|Date}}}
{{{field|Outdoors|input type=checkbox|
label=Outdoors?}}}
{{{field|Cost|values=Free,<$20,$20-
$50,>$50}}}
{{{end template}}}
```

# SF spreadsheet editing

Uses the jsGrid JS library (<http://js-grid.com>)

Demo:

<http://discoursedb.org/wiki/Form:Musician>

# SF spreadsheet editing

Especially useful for pages that will have few columns,  
many rows.

# The new “display=” parameter

This also opens the possibility for other "display=" options, where formatting of fields is done automatically.

Would mean less work for admins, better HTML like  
<label>

## Change #2: input types move

"datepicker", "regexp" inputs moved from the Semantic Forms Inputs extension to Semantic Forms.

SFI is now (mostly) unnecessary - its remaining inputs (like "menuselect", "two listboxes") are rarely used.



# Input types move

This continues a process that started in 2014, when SF gained its own map inputs ("googlemaps", "openlayers") - Semantic Maps no longer required

# Why do this?

- Fewer extensions => less work for admins, less work for developers
- The number of form input types seems to have stabilized at **~20**
  - very little demand for more types

In the last two years, Semantic Forms  
has weakened its ties to Semantic  
MediaWiki, Semantic Forms Inputs and  
Semantic Maps!

Semantic Forms before:



Semantic Forms now:



# Change #3: removed params

Several long-deprecated parameters were removed:

- autocomplete on category, autocomplete on namespace, etc.
- no autocomplete
- remote autocompletion

(These are all done now by setting the input type, and using "values ..." parameters)

Future changes

# Speaking of input types and removal...

I also want to remove the "text with autocomplete" and "textarea with autocomplete" input types.

This will require improving the "combobox" and "tokens" input types.

# I'm also thinking about renaming Semantic Forms!

The name makes everyone think it's part of Semantic MediaWiki, though it is now independent.

Plus, "Semantic Forms" has a few other meanings:

- Web forms that use "semantic HTML"
- A concept in linguistics



# Some possible new names

- Template Forms
- Instant Forms
- Smart Forms (keep the initials)

Any other ideas?

## Recent changes to Cargo

(<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:Cargo>)

# Change #1: Storage of page data

Every page gets its data stored in the table  
“\_pageData”.

Stored data: Date last modified, page creator, etc.

With this addition, Cargo now (basically) matches  
Semantic MediaWiki's functionality.

# Change #2: Full text search

You can do a text search within a Cargo query!

See here:

[http://discoursedb.org/wiki/Search\\_demo](http://discoursedb.org/wiki/Search_demo)

# Change #3: Lua interface

You can query and display Cargo data from within Scribunto/Lua.