

# cfUniForm v.4.0 - Leaner, Meaner, More Features - Just Plain Ol' Better

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WOW! It has been a year already since cfUniForm v3.0 was released. I guess it's about time I made some serious upgrades, eh? Well, after a year of a few minor updates, I present to you cfUniForm v4.0, a major release with a number of new features and other updates to make it leaner and meaner.

In all reality, there are so many updates with v4.0 that I don't think I can adequately cover everything in a single post. Well, perhaps I could, but it would end up being "The World's Longest Blog Post Ever", and, well, FRAT! :-) So for now, I will cover a few important highlights.

## No Longer Supported

The 'validate' attribute on the field tag (deprecated since v3.0) has been completely removed. If for some reason you are still using it, your forms will break. ( [how to "fix" it](#) )

## Deprecated in v4.0

The 'config' attribute on the form tag has now been deprecated. When it was [added way back in v2.6](#) , it was intended to be used to provide a struct of paths for the various CSS and JavaScript files. Looking back, I feel that it was a very poorly named attribute in the first place, since it really provided no configuration other than file paths. As a result, it is now deprecated, and support will be removed in a future release.

No need for worry though. Not only is global configuration still supported, but it's actually hellabetter in v4.0 (more on that in a minute). If you are using the 'config' attribute, just do a quick find/replace and **use 'pathConfig'** instead.

## What's New?

In short, A LOT! As I said at the beginning of this post, there really are too many new items to cover in one single post. Here's a brief list, and I will get several more detailed posts published (hopefully) soon.

## Global Configuration

Yes, I know, global configuration has been around for awhile now, but support has been dramatically improved. Like, as in, well, you can now truly have a global config object that contains default configurations for *every single available attribute* ! If so desired, you could even have multiple global config objects; one for each section of your application.

There will definitely be a post on this topic coming soon, but you can get a number of ideas by checking out the [new & improved "Global Config" demo](#) .

A big "Thank You!" goes out to [Byron Raines](#) for his time and assistance in helping make these features a reality. :-)

## Full-on AJAX Application Support

I am currently working on a pet project that is a seriously heavy AJAX application. I've used a little AJAX here and there for quite awhile now, but never to this level. Basically what I have is a one-page AJAX "application". A single page is loaded into the browser, and then everything else - forms included - is loaded via AJAX. Because of this, I found myself having all kinds of problems getting my cfUniForm-powered forms to display properly and also had nightmares hooking the forms into the various jQuery plugins I am using.

This is another topic that will be getting its own post, but for now, take a look at the ["Pre-Loaded CSS/JS Demo"](#) for some insight to some of the new features that helped me solve my AJAX-related problems.

#### **<uform:field type="captcha">**

That's right, thanks to a *major* contribution by [Matt Graf](#) , cfUniForm now includes native support for CAPTCHA fields! You can see a couple of examples in action on the ["Kitchen Sink" demo](#) .

#### **<uform:field type="rating">**

Thanks to yet another idea contribution, this one by [Mary Jo Sminkey](#) , jQuery's Star Rating plugin is now fully integrated into cfUniForm. Be sure to look for a couple of examples on the ["Kitchen Sink" demo](#) .

#### **<uform:states-us-territories />**

You can now add <option>s to your State <select> for all of the U.S. Territories simply by including the line above.

#### **Updated DatePicker Plugin**

When the date picker plugin was first integrated into cfUniForm, there was no such thing as the [jQuery UI](#) . Obviously, that is not the case today. The original date picker has been moved into the jQuery UI, but [Keith Wood](#) , the author, still has his own version, whose name has changed to 'DatePicker'. I like his version a lot better, and so I have stuck with it in cfUniForm.

IMPORTANT! This means that if you are using the old library in a different location (rather than using the cfUniForm-distributed version), you *\*MUST\** update to Keith's [latest version](#) , or your cfUniForm-powered forms will throw JavaScript exceptions on date fields!

#### **Other Plugin Updates**

The prettyComments, validation, masked input, and timeEntry plugins have all been updated to their latest versions.

#### **To Be Continued...**

More posts to come.