

## Image verification

```
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```

*Many, including me are constantly flooded by bots automatically submitting forms hoping to achieve advertising. To reduce this problem it is often beneficial to add some form of authentication token at random that is hard for bots to read. In my case I choose an image to do this.*

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The approach is very simple.

1. You generate a random string
2. You save it in a session variable
3. You show it in an image
4. User read the image and write the string in a form input
5. You match the user input with the session variable

This counter the bot-problem in most cases. To generate the authentication input you can use a number of methods, personally I, fond of using hashes of some sort, the downside of this is that you will only get hexadecimal output. If you want it more random, you can use a generator of your own outputting any char you want.

The page containing the form include this source

```
session_start();
$_SESSION['val_text']=substr(sha1(rand()),0,5);
```

You then include ``

The formvalid\_img.php file look like this

```
session_start();
$font = "/usr/local/ttf/verdana.ttf";
$size = 20;
$text = $_SESSION['val_text'];

$im = imagecreatefrompng("images/noiseimage.png");
$white = imagecolorallocate($im, 255,255,255);
$black = imagecolorallocate($im, 0,0,0);
// Display the image
header("Content-type: image/png");
```

```
imagettftext($im, $size, 0, 35, $size+15, $black, $font, $text);
imagepng($im);
imagedestroy($im);
?>
```

The image file I use for a noisy background can be found at <http://www.kfwebs.net/images/noiseimage.png>, and you will have to modify the script appropriately according to location to your files.

The result is something like:

Read code 

Put code:

In the form-processing file you can do something like

```
if($_SESSION['val_text']!= $_POST['valid'] || !isset($_POST['valid']) || $_POST['valid']== "")
{
echo "Image validation did not match";
}
else
{
// Do whatever you want
}
```

If you don't have FreeType installed you can use `imagestring($im,3,50,25,$text,$black)`; instead

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