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Understanding the Execute function in
Adobe® LiveCycle™ Designer

Description

Using Adobe® LiveCycle™ Designer software, you can create three types of buttons:

Regular — Can be used to run a script or calculation, for navigation, or to
play a sound or movie

Submit — Used to submit data (including optional attachments) and/or
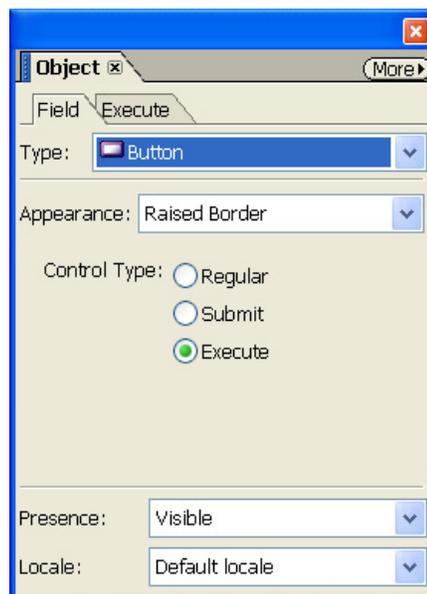client requests to a server

Execute — Used to call a Web service

This tip discusses the Execute control — how it works and what happens when you implement it on a button.

Using an Execute button

The tabs in the Object palette vary according to the object you have selected. When you drag a Button object on to the form design, its default Control Type is Regular. For buttons with a Control Type of Regular, the Object palette displays one tab, the Field tab. However, when you change the Control Type to Submit or Execute, the Object palette displays an additional tab.

For a button object with a Control Type of Execute, the Object palette displays a Field tab and an Execute tab as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Object palette for a button with a Control Type of Execute

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The Execute tab (figure 2) allows you to connect to a Web Service.

When you first create a button of type Execute, you need to associate it with a Web Service connection. If you have already created a connection via the 'New Data Connection' wizard, it will be available in the drop-down; otherwise, you will see 'New Data Connection...' which will launch the 'New Data Connection' wizard. See Creating a Web Service connection for details.
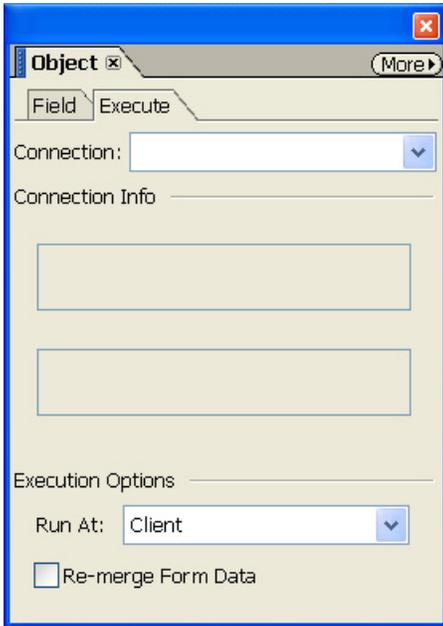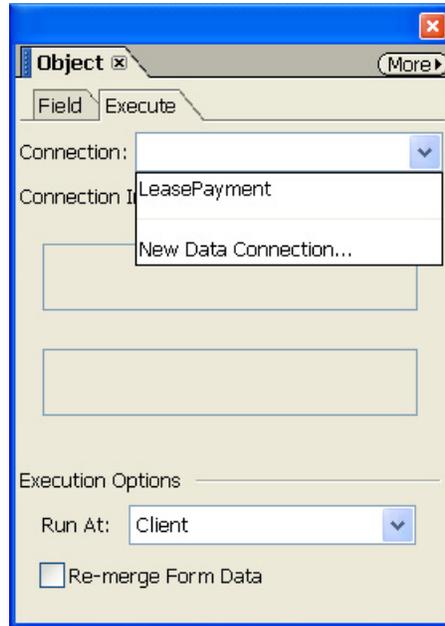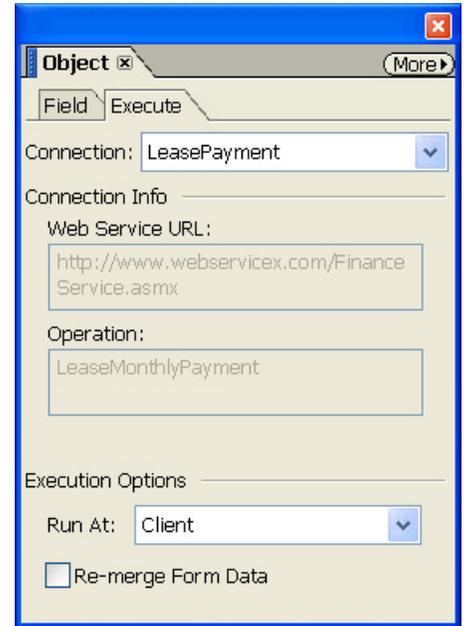
Figure 2. Execute Tab

Figure 3 – select a connection

Figure 4 – The web service URL & Operation are automatically populated

The connection info displays the Web Service URL that is the WSDL (Web Service Description Language). The connection info displays the Operation selected from the Web Service.

Execution Operations: you can select whether to run on the client, server, or both. Also, you have the option to decide whether you want the data to be remerged with the form, generating new fields and/or subforms.

Alternatively, if you do not want to create a button to execute a call to a Web Service, you can do it via Script.

Assuming your Data Connection is named 'LeasePayment'

For JavaScript:

```
xfa.connectionSet.LeasePayment.execute(0);
```

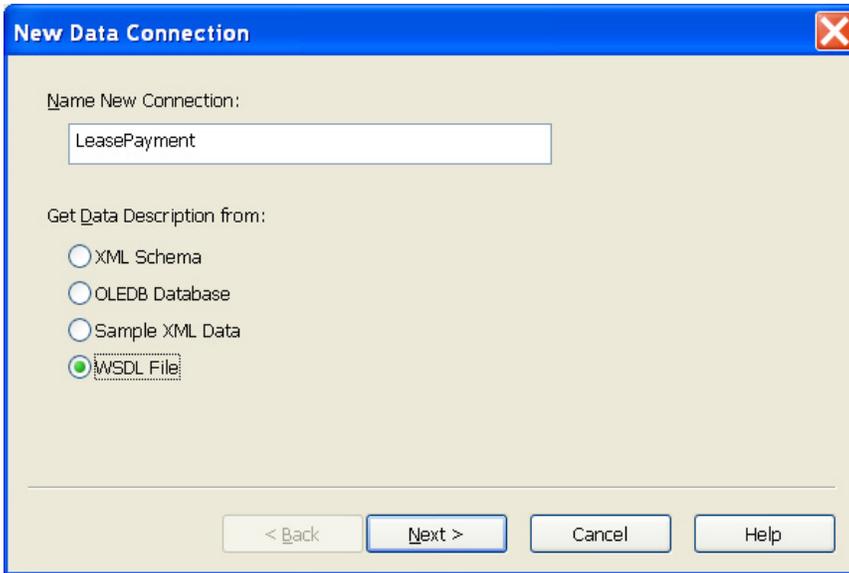For Form Calc:

```
$connectionSet.LeasePayment.execute(0);
```

execute(0) indicates no data merging

execute(1) indicates all the data in the data DOM will be remerged.

Creating a Web Service connection

To connect to a web service, select File > New Data Connection. Select Next.
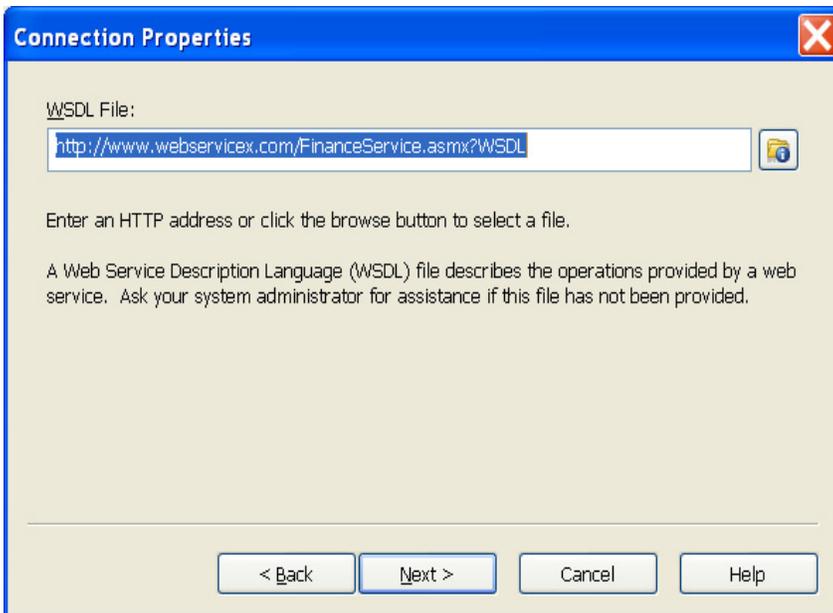
Figure 5

Select a name for your connection and select WSDL File. Select Next.

Enter the URL to the WSDL File. (We've used a public webservice in the example).

Select Next.

Figure 6

Select an Operation available from the web service. Designer can only support SOAP bindings and will only enable the 'Finish' button if a SOAP service is selected. (See Figure 6)
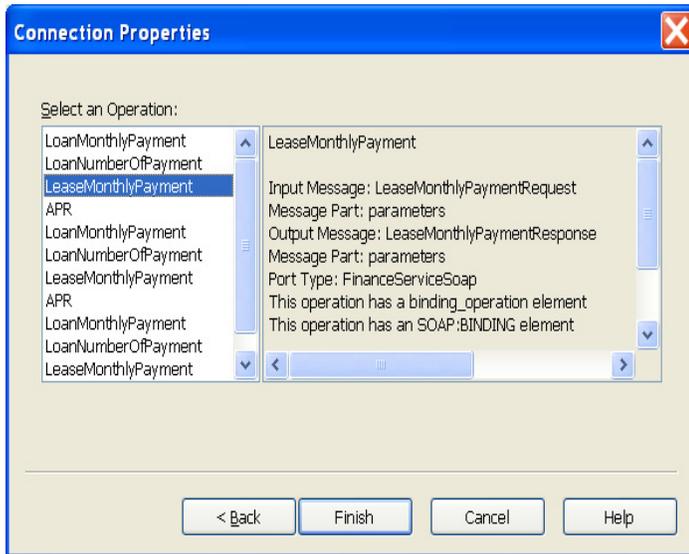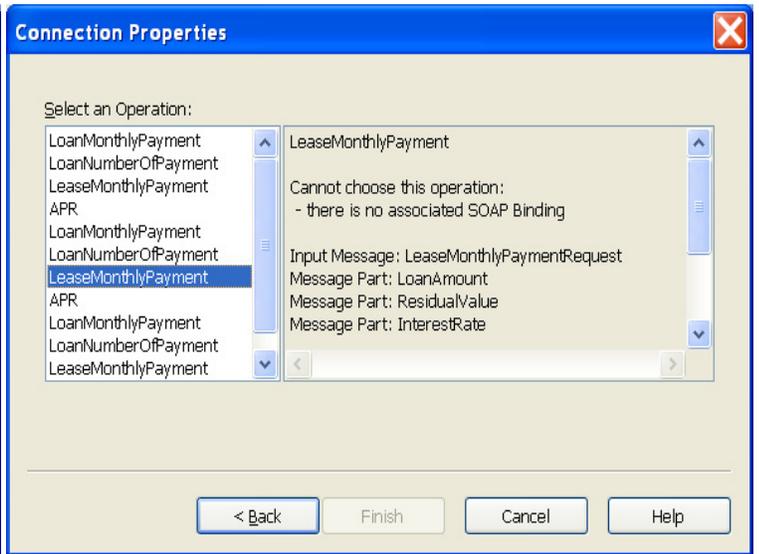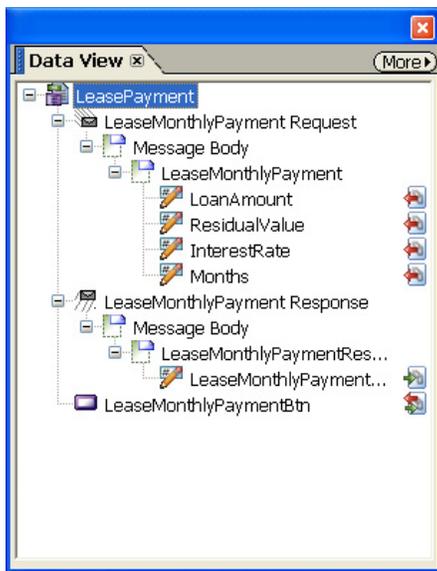
Figure 6a) shows a Web Service Operation that is SOAP, therefore Finish is activated.
Figure 6b) shows a Web Service Operation that is not SOAP therefore Finish is not activated.

Figure 7 – Data View showing Web Service Objects

Once you have made the connection to the Web Service, you will see three primary objects in the Data View:

Request: these are the elements/objects required by the web services

Response: these are the elements/objects which will be returned from the web service

Button: this is an Execute button automatically created (See Figure 4)

Now you can attach these objects to the fields on your form, or just drag and drop to your form to create fields.

To see a sample form, open "Web Service Example" on the Developer tips and tricks page of the Adobe website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you'd like to provide feedback on this tip or if you have questions, send e-mail to *Lori DeFurio*, Developer Evangelist.