

# NextStep... Restrict What Users Can Enter Into Form Fields: Validation Strings

Last Modified on 02/07/2024 10:33 am EST

## About

If your users are entering the word "five" instead of the number 5, or they accidentally enter a number incorrectly (\$2011 instead of just \$201), a feature called **validation strings** might help.

## Setting Up Validation in NextStep Fields

Validation Strings have the following format:

```
validation||message
```

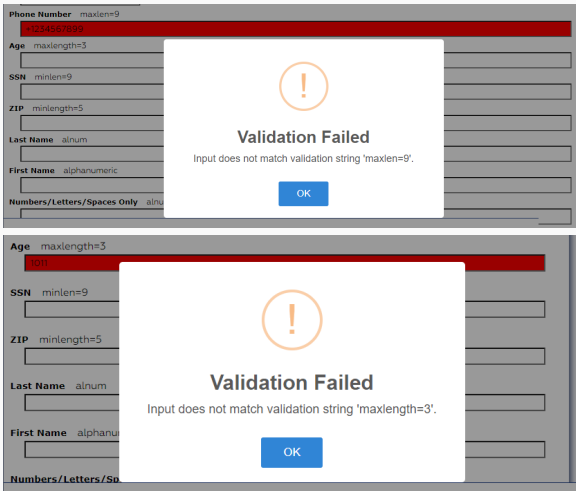
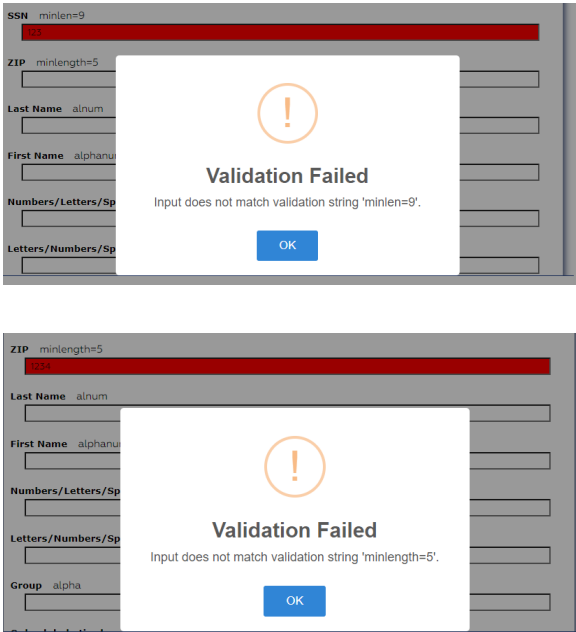
- **validation** is the rule you are setting for the given field.
- **||message** is where you explain to users in a "Validation Failed" popup screen what the rule is.
  - Include the two || pipes, with no space between the pipes and the message.
  - This is **optional**. If you do not use a message, a default one will be displayed for you.

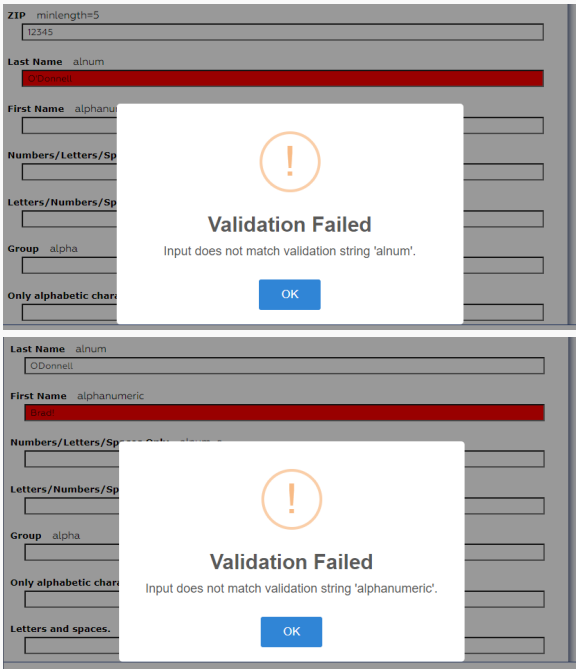
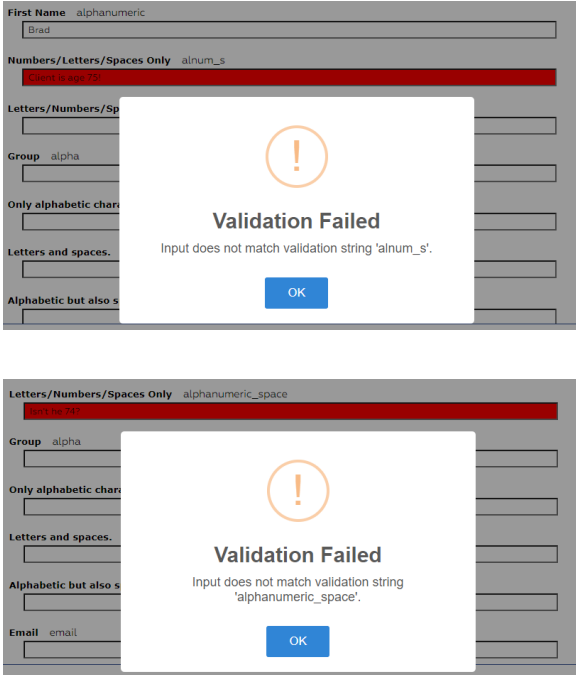
The screenshot shows the 'USER DEFINED FORMS - EDIT FIELD' configuration page. The 'Validation String' field is highlighted with a red box and contains the text 'maxlen=9||The maximum length is 9.' Other fields include 'Field Name' (Phone Number), 'Internal Notes Only', 'Hide Field Name', 'Alias Field Name', 'Prompt', 'Print Prompt', 'Type' (Text), 'Location' (8 - Phone Number), 'Required', 'Show for Medicare Only', 'Show for Medicare Replacement', 'Reference Previous Iteration', 'Fill From Previous Iteration', 'Show Most Recent Reference Only', and 'Disable Print'.

This table lists the various types of validation you can set for a field, and which field types allow each validation type.

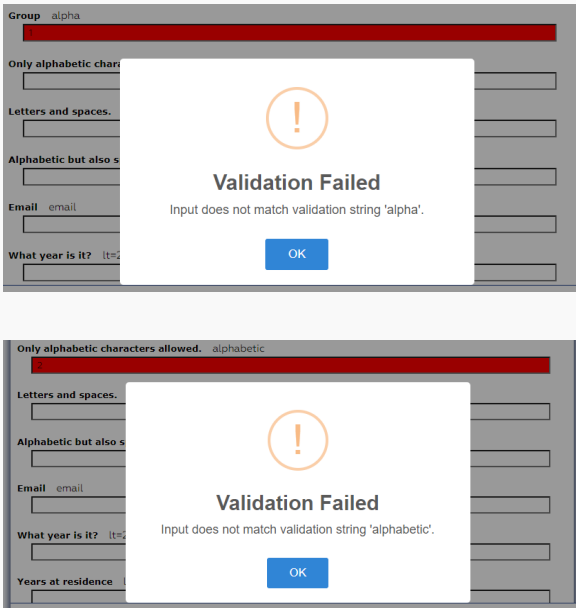
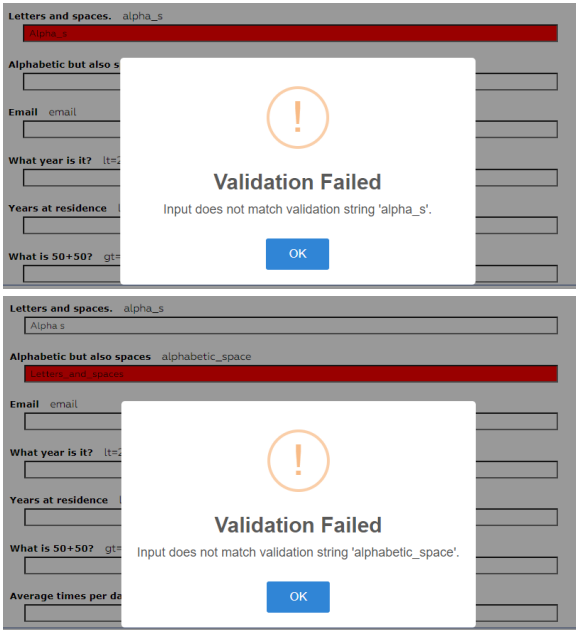
Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types



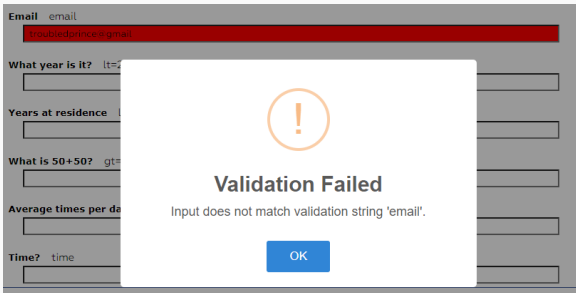
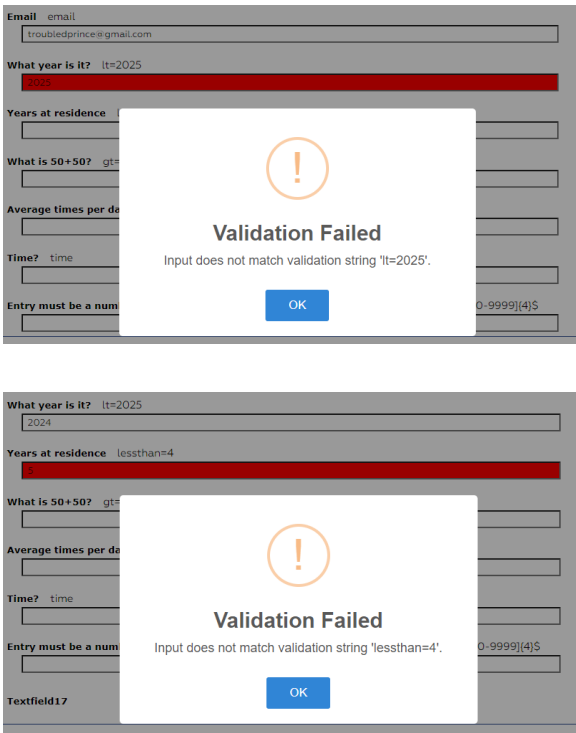
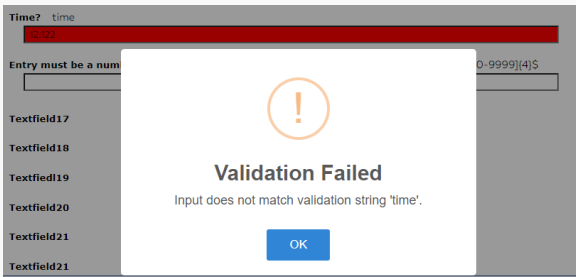
Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types
<p>Validation fails when the length of the value is greater than the specified <b>maximum length</b>.</p> <p>For example, if the maximum size permitted is 25, set the Validation String to: maxlen=25</p>	<p>maxlen=x OR maxlength=x</p>		Text Memo
<p>Validation fails when the length of the value is less than the specified <b>minimum length</b>.</p>	<p>minlen=x OR minlength=x</p>		Text Memo

Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types
<p>Validation fails when the value contains any characters other than <b>alphabetic or numeric</b> characters.</p>	<p>alnum OR alphanumeric</p>	 <p>The first screenshot shows a form with a 'Last Name' field containing 'O'Donnell'. A red error bar is visible below the field. A popup message reads: 'Validation Failed. Input does not match validation string 'alnum''. An 'OK' button is at the bottom of the popup.</p> <p>The second screenshot shows a form with a 'First Name' field containing 'Brad'. A red error bar is visible below the field. A popup message reads: 'Validation Failed. Input does not match validation string 'alphanumeric''. An 'OK' button is at the bottom of the popup.</p>	<p>Text</p>
<p>Validation fails when the value contains any characters other than <b>alphabetic, numeric and space</b> characters</p>	<p>alnum_s OR alphanumeric_space</p>	 <p>The first screenshot shows a form with a 'Numbers/Letters/Spaces Only' field containing 'Client is age 75'. A red error bar is visible below the field. A popup message reads: 'Validation Failed. Input does not match validation string 'alnum_s''. An 'OK' button is at the bottom of the popup.</p> <p>The second screenshot shows a form with a 'Letters/Numbers/Spaces Only' field containing 'John Doe 75'. A red error bar is visible below the field. A popup message reads: 'Validation Failed. Input does not match validation string 'alphanumeric_space''. An 'OK' button is at the bottom of the popup.</p>	<p>Text</p>

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Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types
<p>Validation fails when the value contains any characters other than <b>alphabetic</b>.</p>	<p>alpha OR alphabetic</p>		<p>Text</p>
<p>Validation fails when the value contains any characters <b>other than alphabetic or space</b> characters.</p>	<p>alpha_s OR alphabetic_space</p>		<p>Text</p>



Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types
<p>Validation fails when the value does not conform to the standard <b>email address format</b> (i.e. name@something.tld).</p>	<p>email</p>		<p>Text</p>
<p>The user-inputted value must be <b>less than</b> the value specified for x; it cannot be equal to or greater than that number.</p> <p>For example, if the value should be less than 1000 give the Validation String as: lt=1000</p>	<p>lt=x OR lessthan=x</p>		<p>Integer Double</p>
<p>Validates <b>time</b></p>	<p>time</p>		<p>Text</p>

# Next Step

Description	Validation	Popup Message	Form Field Types
Entry must be a number between 0-9999, and must be exactly 4 characters.	<code>regex=^[0-9999]{4}\$</code> Please enter the 4-digit code.		Text Memo
<p><b>Custom regex:</b> Validation fails when the value doesn't match the specified regex.</p> <p>For example, if you need to allow up to 20 alphabetic characters, specify the Validation String as: <code>regex=^[A-Za-z]{1,20}\$</code></p>	<p>Note that regex, or regular expressions, are complex validation rules, that are supported in the Validation String.</p> <p><a href="#">Learn more about RegEx/Regular Expressions.</a></p>		Text Memo Integer Double

Sample Validation String	Passing Value Examples	Failing Value Examples	Notes
maxlen=6	Brenda John	Catherine I am a long name that will fail	
minlen=5	3-TNJ 2-TNJ-22	3TNJ Amy	
alnum	BP124 679Q	BP-124 679 Q	
alnum_s	Frank has 2 children 679 Q	BP-124 This won't pass	
alpha	Frank Fran	Frank2 Frank & Fran	
alpha_s	Frank and Fran Frank has two children	Frank2 Frank & Fran	



Sample Validation String	Passing Value Examples	Failing Value Examples	Notes
Email	something@else.com another@thing.net	something something@else something.else.com	
lt=10	2 9	10 672	
gt=99	100 999	99 2	
regexp=[0-9]{4}\$  This field requires 4 digits only	1234 3456	123 12344 CCCC	Anything after the "  " is an error message. So if the user does not enter 4 digits, they get the validation message "This field requires 4 digits only"
regexp=[a-z]+[0-9]+  This field requires lower case letters followed by numbers	abc123 a23 aaa5	abc 123 AbC43	
regexp=[A-Z][A-Z*][A-Z][A-Z*]\$  Only uppercase letters and * are valid. String must start with a letter. 4 characters required.	ABC* RSLN F*C*	ACB ABCDE *ACB	It has to be 4 characters. Only upper case letters. Second and forth character can be an *
regexp=[0-9a-zA-Z]{8}\$	A2345678 ABc4SD78	A23456789 ABC4SD78c	
regexp=[0-9][0-9]?[0-9]?\$	1 23 567	c 1234	Up to 3 digits, and at least 1

**Have you created a useful custom validation string?** Please let us know and we will add it to our library!

