

## Spry AutoSuggest With Multiple Parameters

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When loading datasets from the server for the Spry AutoSuggest widget, Spry passes the value of the search field as a parameter to the dataset URL. This works fine, but what if the suggestions you want to provide are based on a combination of form fields?

To give you a better of idea of what I mean, here is an example of a search form I was working on earlier today: *(Note: this form doesn't work.)*

I wanted to provide suggestions for the search term, but I wanted to limit those suggestions to only the country (U.S. or Canada) and type (City or Postal Code) selected. So if a user selects U.S. Cities they should only get U.S. cities as suggestions, no Canadian cities or postal codes of any kind. This turned out to be fairly easy but I thought I'd share my approach in case others are interested.

Basically what I needed to do is append multiple parameters to the dataset URL. To accomplish this I added a new function to the Spry AutoSuggest widget named `addReplaceParams`:

```
Spry.Widget.AutoSuggest.prototype.addReplaceParams = function(params)
{
    var ds = this.dataset;
    ds.cancelLoadData();
    ds.useCache = false;

    this.setValue('');
    this.showSuggestions(false);

    var url = ds.url;

    for(var i=0; i < params.length; i++) {
        url = Spry.Widget.Util.addReplaceParam(url, params[i].param, params[i].value);
    }

    ds.setURL(url);
    ds.loadData();
};
```

In a nutshell this function clears the search term, hides suggestions and updates the AutoSuggest's dataset URL using an array of parameters passed to the function. The parameters are defined as simple JavaScript objects with two keys: `param` which is the name of the URL parameter, and `value` which is the value of the URL parameter. It does the actual parameter addition/replacement using the `Spry.Widget.Util.addReplaceParam()` function. To update the URL using this function I wrote another function which I use as the `onChange` event handler for the country and type select elements.

```
function updateDsURL(f) {

    var country = f.radiusCountry[f.radiusCountry.selectedIndex].value;
    var type = f.radiusType[f.radiusType.selectedIndex].value;

    var params = [];
    params[0] = {param:'radiusCountry',value:country};
    params[1] = {param:'radiusType',value:type};

    theSuggest.addReplaceParams(params);
};
```

Putting it all together this is what it looks like:

```
<html>
<head>
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript" src="includes/xpath.js"></script>
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript" src="includes/SpryData.js"></script>
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript" src="includes/SpryAutoSuggest.js"></script>
<link href="includes/SpryAutoSuggest.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<script language="JavaScript" type="text/javascript">
    var ds1 = new Spry.Data.XMLDataSet("/suggestions.cfm","radiusvalues/radiusvalue");

    function updateDsURL(f) {

        var country = f.cboRadiusCountry[f.cboRadiusCountry.selectedIndex].value;
        var type = f.cboRadiusType[f.cboRadiusType.selectedIndex].value;

        var params = [];
        params[0] = {param:'radiusCountry',value:country};
        params[1] = {param:'radiusType',value:type};

        theSuggest.addReplaceParams(params);
    };

Spry.Widget.AutoSuggest.prototype.addReplaceParams = function(params)
{
```

```

var ds = this.dataset;
ds.cancelLoadData();
ds.useCache = false;

this.setValue('');
this.showSuggestions(false);

var url = ds.url;

for(var i=0; i < params.length; i++) {
    url = Spry.Widget.Utils.addReplaceParam(url, params[i].param, params[i].value);
}

ds.setURL(url);
ds.loadData();

};
</script>
</head>

<body>
<form>
<p>
Find candidates within
<select name="radius">
    <option value="0" selected>Any Distance</option>
    <option value="1">1 mile</option>
    <option value="2">2 miles</option>
    <option value="3">3 miles</option>
    <option value="4">4 miles</option>
    <option value="5">5 miles</option>
    <option value="10">10 miles</option>
</select>
of the following
<select name="radiusCountry" onChange="updateDsURL(this.form);">
    <option value="U" selected>U.S.</option>
    <option value="C">Canadian</option>
    <option value="B">U.S. or Canadian</option>
</select>
<select name="radiusType" onChange="updateDsURL(this.form);">
    <option value="City" selected>City</option>
    <option value="Zip">Postal Code</option>
</select>:
</p>

<div id="mySuggest">
<input type="text" name="radiusValue"/>
<div id="resultsDIV" spry:region="ds1">
    <ul>
        <li spry:repeat="ds1" spry:suggest="{radiusvalue}">{radiusvalue}</li>
    </ul>
</div>
</div>
<script type="text/javascript">
    var theSuggest = new Spry.Widget.AutoSuggest("mySuggest", "resultsDIV", "ds1", "name", {minCharsType:3, loadFromServer:true, urlParam:'filter'});
</script>

</form>
</body>
</html>

```

You may ask why two functions? Well, I thought this is something I may want to use again so I made the `Spry.Widget.AutoSuggest.addReplaceParams()` function fairly generic. For this example I included the function in the inline script block, but if I use it enough I'll probably end up putting it in my `AutoSuggest.js` file.

OK, that's one down...