# SMW Metaproperties: An alternative to Page Schema and XML to facilitate form management

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## **Recipe**

- 1. Create Metaproperties (they are just properties).
- 2. Create a Property template and a Property form.
- **3.** Create a FormField template using {{#show: Property:{{{1}}} | ?Metaproperty#}} "{", "|" & "}" have to be escaped in the {{{field}}} tag with "{" "|" & "}"
- 4. Add a "Create new property" link.

#### For each new form

- 1. Create all the properties required by the form using the Property form.
- 2. Create the template.
- 3. Create the forms using the FormField template (quite easy).

{{FormField   Property1}}	Name of this organization		Help text, bla, bla, bla
{{FormField   Property2}}	Type of this organization	1	Help text, bla, bla, bla
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- Want to change an element of a form which is related to a property? Just edit the metaproperties of the property with the Property form.
- Want to customize the form? Change the form. (Not possible with PageSchema)
- Want to change the template? Change the template. (Not possible with PageSchema)

### Advantages of metaproperties over Page Schema

- No XML: SMW is already a system to define data structures. XML is unnecessary and incongruous. Metaproperties are more natural to SMW.
- Forms inputs properties are all defined close to and at the same time as each property in a centralized form and forms and templates stays completely customizable.
- Users can define their own metaproperties without having to mess with PHP.
- Metaproperties are just normal properties. They can be used for many other purposes.



