



Associated Files

[How Associated Files Work](#)

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Step 1

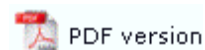
Step 2

Step 3

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Step 1 - Create Associated File fields in FTDesign



Text objects of the form **##A#name#data#** generate one line in the output Associated File (suffix **.af**, txt format in UTF-8,) and do not print. **name** may be a reserved word used for delivery or may be your own name for your own purposes, **data** may be constant or taken from input data. We recommend placing Associated File fields in an "impossible" area such as in the detail area and in color and all together.

The examples below assume operation on a single document file produced via the Splitter.

[More information on Associated File Reserved Names](#)

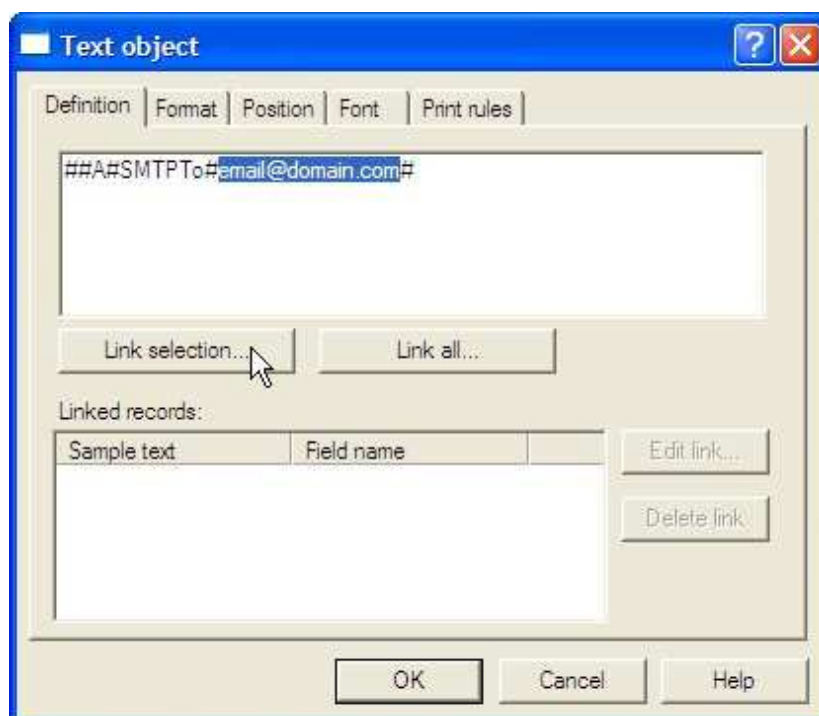
Example 1: Emailing the Document using Email Address from Input Data

A client email address within the input data can be used to email a form. At run time, an Associated File entry is created that directs the Spooler to email. The reserved name **SMTPTo** (there is a MAPI equivalent) directs the spooler to email via SMTP.

To Create an Associated File Field in FTDesign:

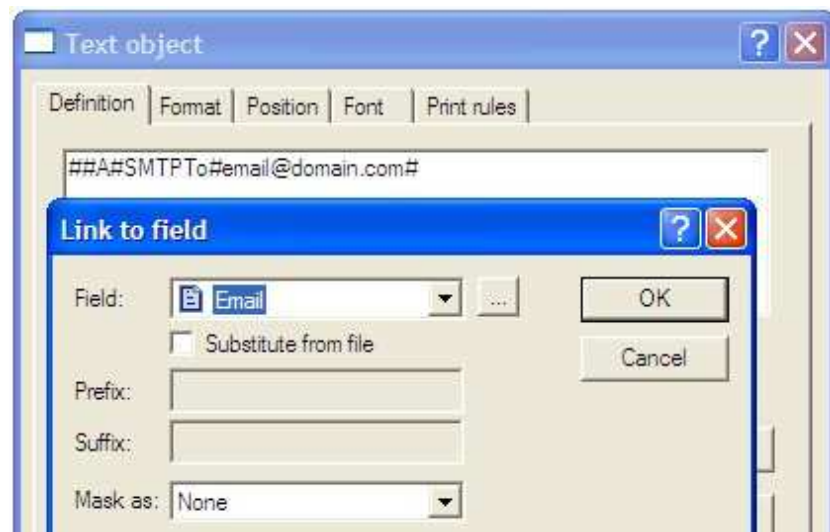
- Choose **Text** from the **Draw** menu or click the **Text** button in the tool bar.
- Click and drag diagonally to add the text frame.
- Release the mouse and the **Text** dialog box will open.
- On the **Definition** tab, type the associated file command and a sample email address in the **Text** box.

##A#SMTPTo#email@domain.com#

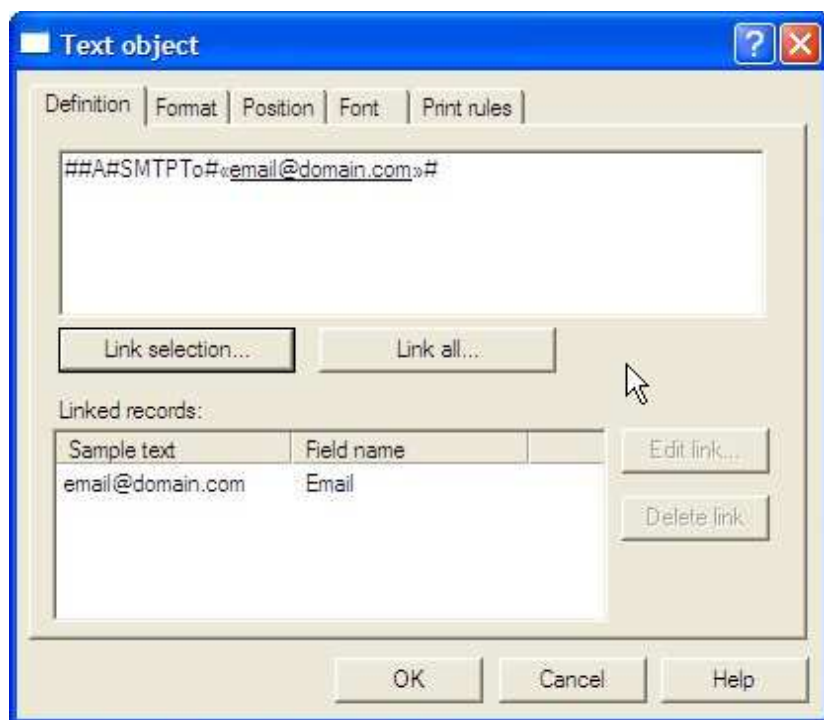


- Highlight the sample email address and click the **Link Selection** button.

- The **Link to Field** dialog box will appear. On the field dropdown menu, select a field name or click the **Browse** button to create a new field. This link field should map the corresponding email address in the input data file.



- Click **OK**.



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Example 2: Using Substitution

This builds on the previous example, except in this case the client's fax number is not in the data file. The client's fax number is saved (once only) in a text file where the client number replaces "xxxx" as part of the file name – for example Fax-xxxx.txt becomes Fax-TCG01.txt. The content of the file "substitutes" into the Associated File field at run time.

One substitution file (.txt format, stored as UTF-8) containing their fax number should exist for each client requiring fax delivery where the file name includes their client number (TCG01 in the examples).

To create a substitution file:

- Open **Notepad**. (You may use other text editor such as Word)
- Type in the Associated File commands in the **Notepad**. In our example, the formatted statement will be emailed to support@formtrap.com or (second example) faxed to +61293105172.

Where substitution files contain characters above hex 127 (examples: currencies ¢ £ € ¥, symbols © ™ ®, foreign letters é Ö ß etc. or smiley faces) substitution files MUST be saved in UTF-8 format (**Notepad > File > Save as window, Encoding prompt, UTF-8** from the drop down list).

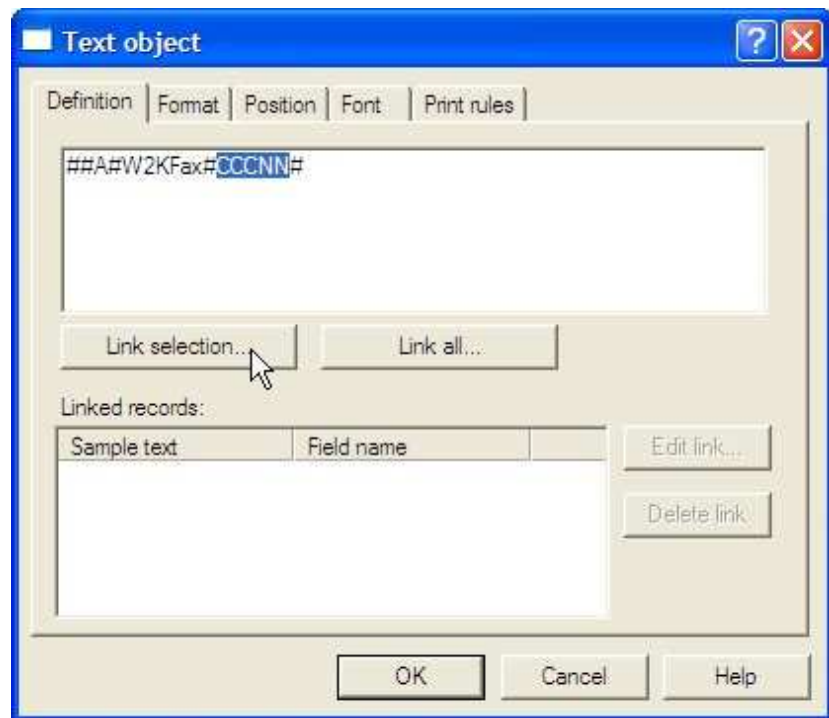


- Save the file(s) into the Substitution Directory (**Data folders, Add substitutions files ...** from the menu bar).
- The text file name must include client identifier (e.g. include customer number in the substitution file name). TCG01 in this example.

This is the Associated File text object to notify FTSpooler to deliver a fax to the client.

To create a variable substitution field:

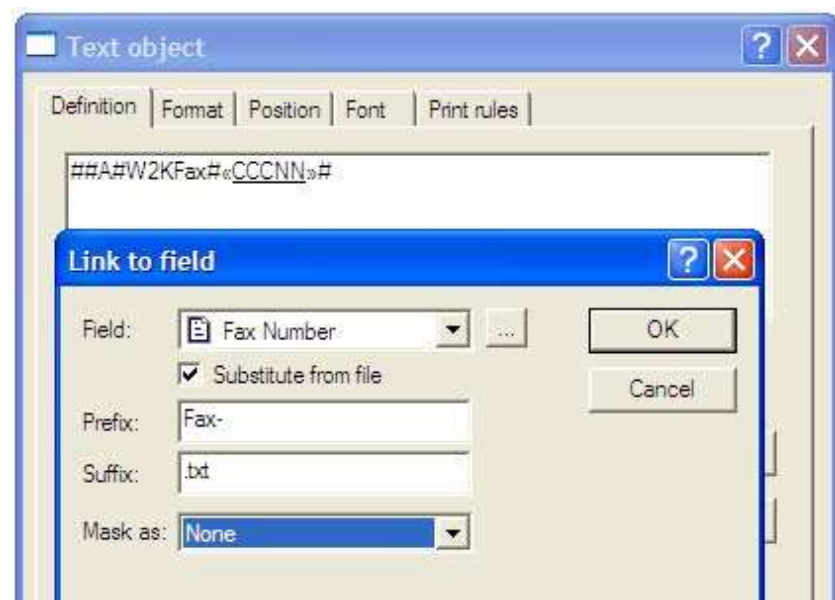
- Choose **Text** from the **Draw** menu or click the **Text** in tool bar.
- Click and drag diagonally to add the text frame.
- Release the mouse button and the **Text** dialog box will open.
- On the **Definition** tab, type a sample customer number in the **Text** box.



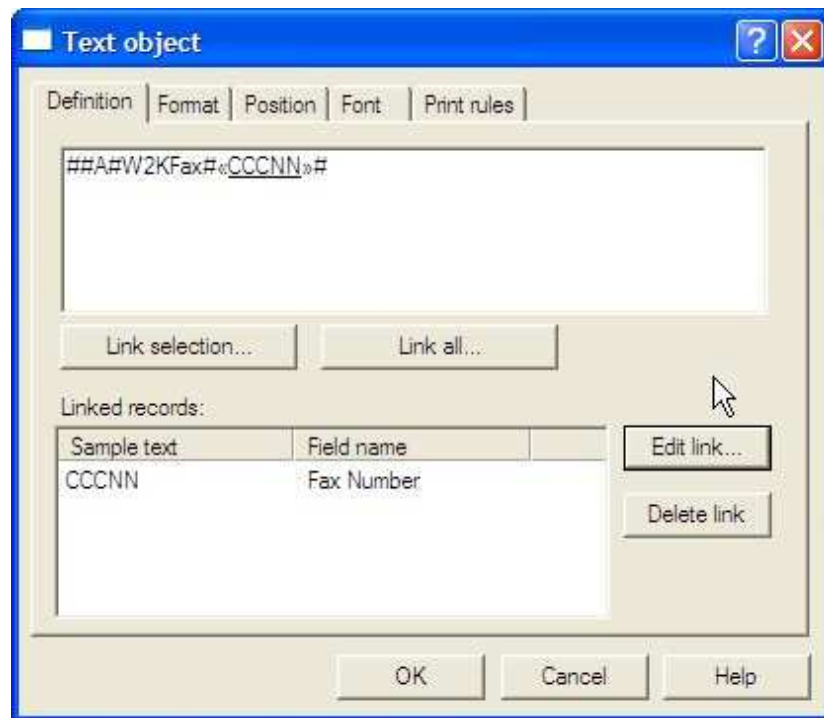
- Highlight the sample customer number and click **Link Selection** button.
- The **Link to field** dialog box will pop up. On the field dropdown menu, select the customer number field name or click the **Browse** button to create a new field.
- Check the **Substitute from file** checkbox, **Prefix** is **Fax-** and **Suffix** is **.txt** in our example. The full file name is then **Fax-CCCNN.txt**.



Suffix, defining the file type, can be any file extension and is normally .txt. Neither prefix nor suffix is mandatory.



- Click **OK**.



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Example 3: Using Multiple Associated Fields

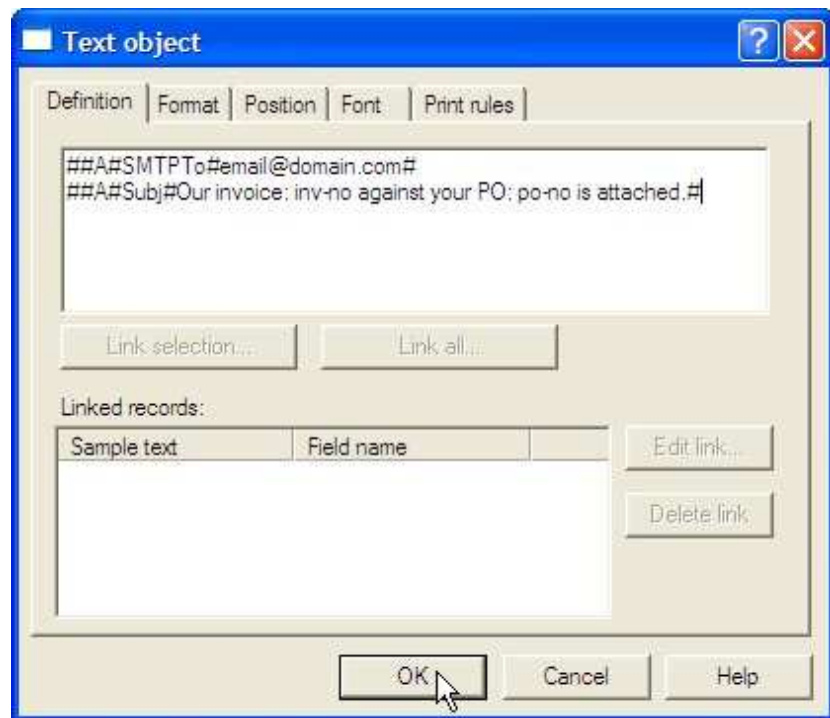
The Associated file may contain many fields. Furthermore, multiple identical reserved names will either concatenate (for recipients) or subsequent same-named entries are ignored (non-recipients). In the following example, two Associated File entries are created.

To add both the Associated File fields:

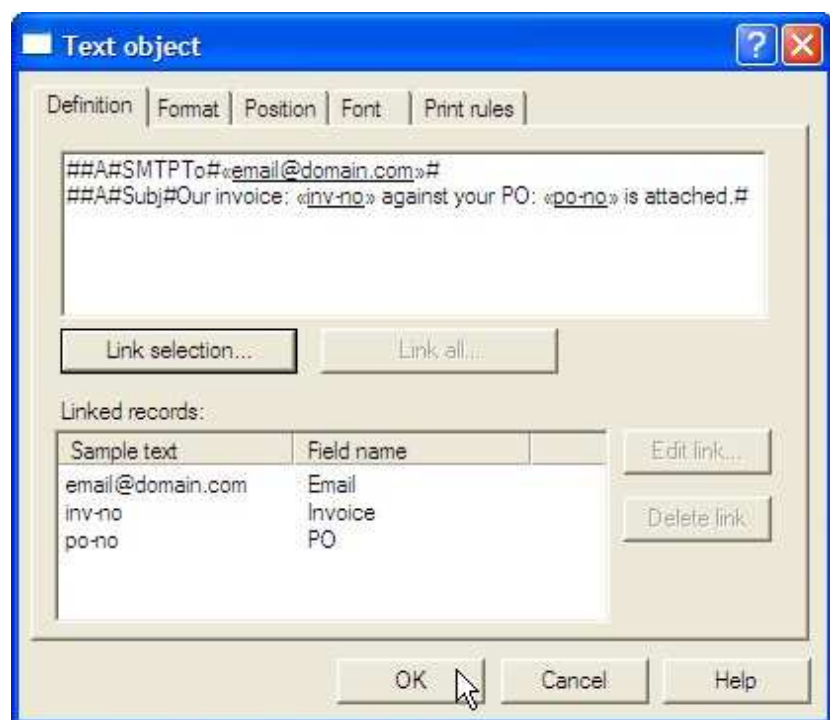
- Choose **Text** from the **Draw** menu or click the **Text** in tool bar.
- Click and drag diagonally to add the text frame.
- Release the mouse button and the **Text** dialog box will open.
- On the **Definition** tab, type the associated file commands for email address and subject line, with provision to link to data..

##A#SMTPTo#email@domain.com#

##A#Subj#Our invoice: inv-no against your PO: po-num is attached.#



- Email address is included as shown in Example 1 or 2.



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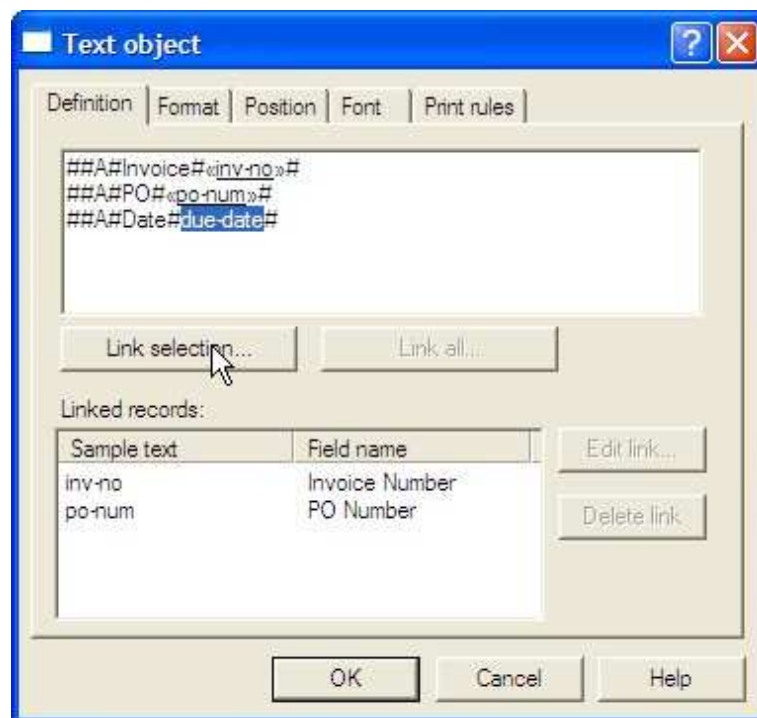
Example 4: User-Named Associated File entries

This generates three sample entries, one each for Invoice and PO Number so their use by the Spooler can be shown. Refer to Step 3 for usage.

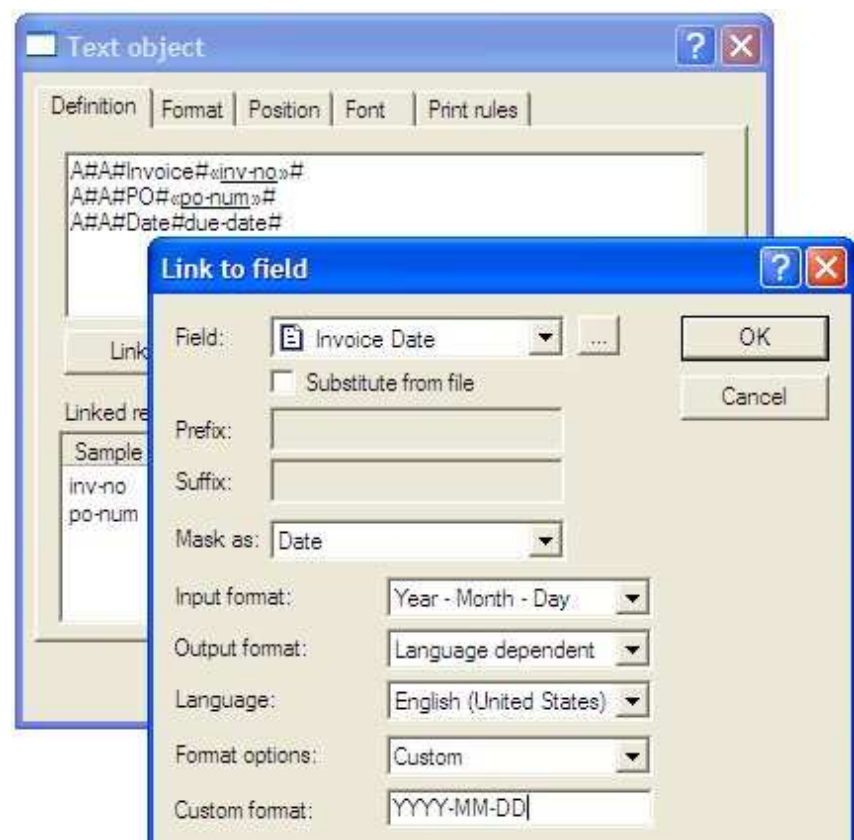
To Create an Associated File Field in FTDesign:

- Choose **Text** from the **Draw** menu or click the **Text** button in the tool bar.
- Click and drag diagonally to add the text frame.
- Release the mouse and the **Text** dialog box will open.
- On the **Definition** tab, type the associated file commands for Invoice and PO Number in the **Text** box.

##A#Invoice#invoice#
 ##A#PO Num#po-num#
 ##A#Date#doc-date#



- Link the field to data as shown. **do-date** shows custom masking to produce **2010-05-14** as output.



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