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TBS has been engineered so that you can develop your HTML page templates with ease using any visual HTML editors (like Dreamweaver or FrontPage). But if you are used to designing your HTML pages with a text editor, it is nice as well.

TBS also enables you to create JavaScript dynamically.

As the name of it tells, TBS is easy to use, strong and fast. It is completely °~° freeware °~°.

Basic principles:

On the HTML side:  
You design a page which does not necessarily contain any PHP scripts, nor any programming. In this page you place TBS tags in the places where you want to display the dynamic data. This page is called a 'template'.  
There are two types of tags: the 'fields' which are used to display dynamic data items, and the 'blocks' which are used to define an area, mostly in order to display records from a data source.

On the PHP side:  
You use an object TBS variable to manage the merge of your HTML Template with the data. At the end, TBS shows the result of the merge.

Installation:

1. Copy the file tbs\_class.php in a directory of your Web site.
2. At the beginning of your PHP program, add the lines:  
include\_once('tbs\_class.php');  
\$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong ;  
Remark: if the TBS file tbs\_class.php is in a different directory than your application, then you have to precise the directory in front of the TBS file name.

Explanations and technical details:  
TinyButStrong is a library written in PHP, it's a component to be referenced in your own PHP programs. In technical terms, TinyButStrong is a PHP 'class' ; the name of this class is clsTinyButStrong.  
The variable \$TBS that you add at the beginning of your PHP program enables you to execute the merge of your template from your PHP application. In technical terms, the variable \$TBS is an 'instance' of the clsTinyButStrong class.

Mini examples:

Example 1:

Html Template	Php Program	Result
<html> <body> [var.message] </body> </html>	<?  include_once('tbs_class.php'); \$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong ; \$TBS->LoadTemplate('template.htm') ;  \$message = 'Hello' ; \$TBS->Show() ;  ?>	<html> <body> Hello </body> </html>

Example 2:

Html Template	Php Program	Result
<table> <tr><td>[blk.val;block=tr]</td></tr> </table>	<?  include_once('tbs_class.php'); \$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong ; \$TBS->LoadTemplate('template.htm') ;  \$list = array('X','Y','Z') ; \$TBS->MergeBlock('blk',\$list) ; \$TBS->Show() ;  ?>	<table> <tr><td>X</td></tr> <tr><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>Z</td></tr> </table>

PHP side:

The merging of a template is done in a PHP program using an object variable declared as a clsTinyButStrong class.  
Example of statement: \$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong ;  
This object allows you to load a template, to handle the merging of it with data, and then to show the result.

Example of PHP code:

```
include_once('tbs_class.php');
```

```
$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong ;
$TBS->LoadTemplate('template.htm') ;
$TBS->MergeBlock('ctry','mysql','SELECT * FROM t_country') ;
$TBS->Show() ;
```

Here is the list of the TinyButStrong object's properties and methods:

## method LoadTemplate():

Loads a template for the merging process.

The complete contents of the file is stored in the [Source](#) property of the TBS object.

Syntax:

```
$TBS->LoadTemplate(string File{, string HtmlCharSet})
```

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>File</b>	Local or absolute path of the file to load.
<b>HtmlCharSet</b>	Optional. Indicates the character encoding (charset) to use for Html conversion of the data when they will be merged. It should be the same as the charset of the template. The default value is "" (empty string) which is equivalent to 'ISO-8859-1' (Latin 1).  If your template uses a special charset, then indicate the Html value for this charset. In a Html page, the charset is placed at the beginning of the file, in the attribute 'content' of a <Meta> tag. The charsets supported by TBS are the charsets supported by the PHP function <a href="#">htmlentities()</a> . For example: 'BIG5' (Chinese) or 'EUCJP' (Japanese).

No Html conversion:

If you use value **False** as the parameter **HtmlCharSet**, data will not be converted when merged to the model.

User function:

If your charset is not yet supported by PHP, you can indicate a user function that will perform the Html conversion. For this, use the parameter **HtmlCharSet** with the syntax '=myfunction'.

The user function must take a string argument and return the converted string.

Adding the file at the end of the current template:

You can use the keyword '+' instead of the the charset to have the file added to the end of the current template. Charset parameter stay the same as for the first template.

## method MergeBlock():

Merges one or several [TBS blocks](#) with records coming from a data source.

Returns the number of the last displayed record (the first is number 1).

TinyButStrong supports several data source types in native:

**Php data:** an array, a string, a number.

**Databases:** MySQL ; PostgreSQL ; SQLite.

You can also add a new one: [adding a data source type](#)'.

There is a display 'By Page' mode, described [below](#).

Syntax: `int $TBS->MergeBlock(string BlockName, mixed Source{, string Query}{, int PageSize, int PageNum}{, int RecCount})`

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>BlockName</b>	Indicates the name of the TBS <a href="#">block</a> to merge. You can merge several blocks with the same data by indicating their names separated by commas.
<b>Source</b>	Indicates the data source to merge. The table below shows the possible values according to the data source type.
<b>Query</b>	Optional. Indicates the SQL statement which returns the records to merge. The table below shows the possible values according to the data source type.
<b>PageSize</b>	Optional. This argument must be defined if you want to activate the <a href="#">By Page mode</a> . Indicates the number of records on one page.

- PageNum** Optional. This argument must be defined if you want to activate the [By Page mode](#). Indicates the number of the page to display. The first page is number 1. The special value **-1** will display the last page of the record set.
- RecCount** Optional. This argument is useful only with the [By Page mode](#). It allows to adjust the calculation of the number of records returned by the MergeBlock() method.
- RecCount** Value returned by MergeBlock()
- 0 :** It's the default value. The method returns the number of the last record displayed in the required page.
- 1 :** The method reads all the records up to the end and returns the total number of records. However, only records of the required page will be displayed.
- >0 :** The method returns the value of **RecCount**. However, it will return the number of the last record in the required page if it's higher than **RecCount**.

Use this parameter in order to calculate and save the total number of records.

For example:

```
if (isset($_POST['nbr_rec'])) {
    $nbr_rec = $_POST['nbr_rec'] ;
} else {
    $nbr_rec = -1 ;
}
$nbr_rec = $TBS->MergeBlock('blk1',$cnx_id,'select * from
t_country',$p_size,$p_num,$nbr_rec);
```

#### Link between the block and the records:

The MergeBlock() method searches in your template for the specified TBS block name. Then, the block is repeated as many times as there are records in the data source.

To display the data of a record, you have to use a linked TBS Field. A TBS Field is linked when the name of it is composed of the block's name followed by a dot and a column's or a key's name in the record set. A linked field must be inside the block.

Example:

Block's name: **block1**

Columns returned by the query: **field1,field2,field3**

Linked TBS Fields: **[block1.field1], [block1.field2], [block1.field3]**

If no block's definition is found in the template, then the MergeBlock() method will merge the first record with all linked fields found in the template.

You can also define more advanced blocks. For more information, refer to chapter [TBS Blocks](#).

#### Merging several blocks with the same data:

You can merge several blocks with the same data by indicating their names separated by commas in the **BlockName** parameter. In this case, the query is opened only one time, and records are buffered to feed blocks.

Example:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock('block1,block2,block3','mysql','SELECT * FROM MyTable');
```

#### Counting the records:

To display the number of the record, use a TBS Field linked to the virtual column **#**.

If you put this field outside the block, it will display the total number of records.

Example: **[block1.#]**

The virtual column **\$** will display the key of the current record if the data source is a Php array.

Example: **[block1.\$]**

#### Resource and Request arguments according to the data source type:

Data Source Type	Source	Query
Text (*)	The keyword <b>'text'</b>	A text
Number (*)	The keyword <b>'num'</b>	A number or a special array (see below)
Clear (*)	The keyword <b>'clear'</b>	-
Conditional (*)	The keyword <b>'cond'</b>	-
PHP Array (*)	A Php array	-
	The keyword <b>'array'</b>	A Php Array

	The keyword <code>'array'</code>	A string that represents an array contained or nested in a PHP global variable (see below)
MySQL	A MySql connection identifier or the keyword <code>'mysql'</code>	An SQL statement
	A MySql result identifier	-
PostgreSQL	A PostgreSQL connection identifier	An SQL statement
	A PostgreSQL result identifier	-
SQLite	An SQLite connection identifier	An SQLite statement
	An SQLite result identifier	-
custom	A keyword, an object or a resource identifier not mentioned in this table. See the chapter <a href="#">'adding a data source type'</a> .	An SQL statement or something else.

(\*) See explanations in the chapter below.

## Php data sources:

### Text

The argument **Source** has to be equal to `'text'`.

The whole block is replaced by the text (it must be a string) given as the **Query** argument. No linked Fields are processed except `'#'` which returns 1, or 0 if **Query** is an empty string.

### Number

The argument **Source** has to be equal to `'num'`.

The argument **Query** can be either a number or an array.

arg Query     Returned Record Set

Number:        **Query** has to be positive or equal to zero.

The returned Record Set consists of a column `'val'` where the value goes from 1 to **Query**.

Array:          The array has to contain a key `'min'` and a key `'max'` and eventually a key `'step'`.

The returned Record Set consists of a column `'val'` which goes from the `'min'` value to the `'max'` value.

Example: `array('min'=>101,'max'=>150)` will display 50 blocks numbered from 101 to 150.

### Clear

The argument **Source** has to be the keyword `'clear'`.

All blocks and sections are deleted. It is the same thing as merging with an empty array.

### Conditional

The argument **Source** has to be the keyword `'cond'`.

The block is merged like it was a [conditional blocks](#) **onload** and **onshow**. The block is not merged with data, and so it must have no linked TBS field. Each block section needs a parameter **when** or a parameter **default**. See [conditional blocks](#) for more details.

### Array

The argument **Source** has to be a PHP Array or the keyword `'array'`. If you use the keyword `'array'`, then the argument **Query** has to be a Php Array or a string that represents an array contained or nested in a global variable.

String syntax: `'globvar[item1][item2]...'`

`'globvar'` is the name of a global variable `$globvar` which must be an array.

`'item1'` and `'item2'` are the keys of an item or a subitem of `$globvar`.

Example:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock('block1','array','days[mon]');
```

It is possible to represent variable's name without items.

There are two advantages in using a string to represent the array:

- > Items will be read directly in the Array (assigned by reference) instead of reading a copy of the items. This can improve the performance.
- > You can use dynamic queries.

Displaying the key of current record:

You can use the virtual column `'$'` which will display the key of the current record. This can be useful especially for [dynamic queries and sub-blocks](#).

Example: `[block1.$]`

Structure of supported arrays:

Items of the specified Array can be of two kinds: simple values with associated keys (case 1), or array values for whom items are themselves simple values with associated keys (case 2).

Case 1:

Example:     ['key1']=>value1  
              ['key2']=>value2  
              ...

The returned Record Set consists of a column 'key' containing the name of the key, and a column 'val' containing the value of the key.

Case 2:

Example:     [0] => (['column1']=>value1-0 ; ['column2']=>value2-0 ; ...)  
              [1] => (['column1']=>value1-1 ; ['column2']=>value2-1 ; ...)  
              [2] => (['column1']=>value1-2 ; ['column2']=>value2-2 ; ...)  
              ...

The returned Record Set consists of the columns 'column1', 'column2',... with their associated values.

#### By Page mode:

The By Page mode is activated when you place in the **PageSize** argument a value different from zero. The display of the data will then be limited to the page specified with **PageNum**. If **PageNum** has the value **-1**, then the last page will be displayed.

#### **Important remark:**

Although easy and practical, the By Page mode is not optimized for a large number of records. If the display is too slow, or if your database is heavily sought, then it is advised to use the native functions of your Database System (if it has limited queries features).

For example: with MySQL you can use the LIMIT clause.

Explanations: considering the variety of the SQL syntaxes, TinyButStrong is not able to modify a query so that it returns a limited Record Set. For example, it is not able to add the LIMIT clause into a MySQL query. That's why TinyButStrong has to call the original query, and then read the records one by one ignoring all those who are before the required page. This makes the display more slow when the page number to be reached is high. When the page is reached, TinyButStrong releases the query without going to the end of the Record Set.

### method Show():

Terminates the merge.

Syntax: **\$TBS->Show**( {**int** **Render** } )

The Show method will perform the following:

- Merge Var fields,
- Merge [onshow] fields,
- Display the result (can be cancelled by Render property),
- End the script (can be cancelled by Render property).

The **Render** property allows to adjust the behaviour of the Show() method.

Parameter **Render** also allows to adjust the behaviour of the Show() method but only for one call.

### method CacheAction():

Activates the Cache System or starts another operation on cache files.

Syntax: **bool** **\$TBS->CacheAction**(**string** **CacheId** { , **int** **ActTimeOut** } { , **string** **Dir** } )

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CacheId</b>	A string which identifies in a unique way your page in the cache directory.
<b>ActTimeOut</b>	Optional. Must be the time-out expressed in seconds or one of the constants below. The default value is <b>3600</b> , which means one hour.
<b>Dir</b>	Optional. The path of the directory where the cache file is saved. By default, it is the same directory as the script.

Instead of the time-out, you can use one of the constants below in order to start a special action of the Cache System.

<u>Constant</u>	<u>Description</u>
-----------------	--------------------

<b>TBS_DELETE</b>	Delete the cache file. If the parameter <b>CacheId</b> is set to the keyword '*' then all cache files of the directory are deleted.
<b>TBS_CANCEL</b>	Cancel the update of the cache file if it was supposed to be updated at the end of the merge.
<b>TBS_CACHENOW</b>	Save the current result of the merge in the cache file.
<b>TBS_CACHEONSHOW</b>	The result of the merge will be saved in the cache file when Show() method is called.
<b>TBS_CACHELOAD</b>	Load the cache file and continue the script.

The Cache System enables you to speed up the display of HTML pages by proceeding the merge at regular times instead of at each call of the page. For this, you must prepare a unique string identification as part of file name for each page that should be saved (we call it 'cache file'), and also a refresh period (we call it time-out). When you call the CacheAction() method the System will look for an existing cache file and get its creation time. If the creation time is shorter than the time-out then the contents of the cache file are loaded and the merge ends. If the creation time is longer than the time-out then the cache file is ignored but it will be updated at the next call of the Show() method by saving the result of the merge in this cache file.

If the cache file is loaded then the method returns *True*, otherwise it returns *False*.

By default, if the file is loaded then the contents are displayed and the script is ended but you can change this behaviour using the [Render](#) property.

## method GetBlockSource():

Returns the source of the TBS Block.

Only the definition of the first section of block will be returned, unless the **Sections** argument is set to *True*.

If no block is found, the method returns *False*.

Syntax: *string* \$TBS->GetBlockSource(*string* BlockName {, *boolean* Sections})

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>BlockName</b>	The name of the block to search for.
<b>Sections</b>	Optional. The default value is <i>False</i> . If this parameter is set <i>True</i> the method returns an array that contains the definitions for all the sections of the named block. The first section is returned into the item [1] of the array.

This method enables you to get the source of a block in order to manually handle the merging.

After that, if you need to replace the block with text, you can use the [MergeBlock\(\)](#) method with the 'text' parameter.

## method MergeField():

Replaces one or several TBS Fields with a fixed value or a function.

Syntax: \$TBS->MergeField(*string* FieldName, *mixed* ... {, *boolean* FunctionMode})

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>FieldName</b>	The name of the TBS Field. For example 'Title'.
<b>...</b>	The value to display or the name of a user function.
<b>FunctionMode</b>	Indicates that the field must be merged with the value returned by a user function. The default value is <i>false</i> . The user function must have one argument (for example: \$suffix). During the merging, the user function will be called for each TBS field with the indicated name. If the name of the Field has a suffix, this suffix is given as argument to the function.

Example:

```
$TBS->MergeField('ml','m_multilanguage',true);
...
function m_multilanguage($suffix) {
    global $lang_id;
    $rs = mysql_query("SELECT text_$lang_id AS txt FROM t_langue WHERE
cle='$suffix'");
    $rec = mysql_fetch_array($rs);
    return $rec['txt'] ;
}
```



In this example, a field such as `[ml.title]` will be merged with the value returned by `m_multilanguage('title')`.

If several TBS Fields have the same name in the template, they will all be processed.

## method MergeNavigationBar():

Displays a navigation bar based on specific TBS block and TBS fields.

For more details on how to build a navigation bar, please read '[Display a navigation bar](#)'.

**Syntax:** `$TBS->MergeNavigationBar(string NavName, mix Options, int PageNum [, int RecCount, int PageSize])`

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>										
<b>NavName</b>	The name of the navigation bar.										
<b>Options</b>	<p>Enables you to force some options of the navigation bar. Those options can also be defined using block parameters in the template. But if you put them at the MergeNavigationBar() too, they will be forced.</p> <p>This parameter can be blank ('', 0 or null), a numeric value or an array.</p> <p>If it's a numeric value, it indicates the number of pages displayed.</p> <p>If it's an array, it can contain the following items:</p> <table><tr><th><u>Key</u></th><th><u>Value</u></th></tr><tr><td>'navsize'</td><td>Number of pages displayed in the navigation bar. (default = 10).</td></tr><tr><td>'navpos'</td><td>Position of the navigation bar compared to the active page number. Use one of the following keywords:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'step' (by default) to have the bar progressing by step.</li><li>- 'centred' to center the bar on the active page number.</li></ul></td></tr><tr><td>'navdel'</td><td>Name of a TBS block to delete when there is only one page or no page to display. This TBS block must surround the navigation bar. If there are several pages to display then only TBS definition tags of this bloc are deleted.</td></tr><tr><td>'pagemin'</td><td>Number of the first page (default = 1).</td></tr></table>	<u>Key</u>	<u>Value</u>	'navsize'	Number of pages displayed in the navigation bar. (default = 10).	'navpos'	Position of the navigation bar compared to the active page number. Use one of the following keywords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'step' (by default) to have the bar progressing by step.</li><li>- 'centred' to center the bar on the active page number.</li></ul>	'navdel'	Name of a TBS block to delete when there is only one page or no page to display. This TBS block must surround the navigation bar. If there are several pages to display then only TBS definition tags of this bloc are deleted.	'pagemin'	Number of the first page (default = 1).
<u>Key</u>	<u>Value</u>										
'navsize'	Number of pages displayed in the navigation bar. (default = 10).										
'navpos'	Position of the navigation bar compared to the active page number. Use one of the following keywords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'step' (by default) to have the bar progressing by step.</li><li>- 'centred' to center the bar on the active page number.</li></ul>										
'navdel'	Name of a TBS block to delete when there is only one page or no page to display. This TBS block must surround the navigation bar. If there are several pages to display then only TBS definition tags of this bloc are deleted.										
'pagemin'	Number of the first page (default = 1).										
<b>PageNum</b>	<p>Number of the active page.</p> <p>The first page is number 1. To indicate the last page, use the value -1.</p>										
<b>RecCount</b>	<p>Optional. The default value is -1.</p> <p>Indicates the total number of records, if known. If this number is unknown, you have to put the value -1. This argument is used only to calculate the number of the last page of the navigation bar.</p>										
<b>PageSize</b>	<p>Optional. The default value is 1.</p> <p>Indicates the number of records per page. It has to be used together with RecCount. It is used only to calculate the number of the last page of the navigation bar.</p>										

**Example:**

```
$TBS->MergeNavigationBar('nav','', $page,$rec_nbr,$page_size);
```

## method MergeSpecial():

Replaces the special blocks and fields of the specified type. **Syntax:** `$TBS->MergeSpecial(string Type)`

The argument **Type** has to be one of the following values:

<u>Value</u>	<u>Description</u>
'var'	Replaces all <a href="#">Var fields</a> .
'onload'	Replaces all <a href="#">onload</a> fields.
'onshow'	Replaces all <a href="#">onshow</a> fields.

**Remark:**

By default, the [Show\(\)](#) method replaces all the special fields and blocks just before showing the merge result. That's why it is rare to use MergeSpecial() in a program.

## property Render:



Indicates how the merging ends.  
The value must be a combination of the following constants.  
The default value is (**TBS\_OUTPUT** + **TBS\_EXIT**).

Syntax: `int $TBS->Render`

The Render property changes the behaviour the methods [Show\(\)](#) and [CacheAction\(\)](#).

<u>Constant</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>TBS_NOTHING</b>	Indicates that none of the actions below are proceeded at the end of the merge.
<b>TBS_OUTPUT</b>	Indicates that the result of the merge must be displayed. TBS uses the Php command Echo.
<b>TBS_EXIT</b>	Indicates that we have to quit the script just after the end of the merge.

## property Source:

Get or set the HTML source on which the merge process is applied.  
After the call to the [LoadTemplate\(\)](#) method, this property contains the HTML source of the template.  
This property enables you to read or modify the result of the merge, in your code.

Syntax: `string $TBS->Source`

## property TplVars:

Contains the array of template variables corresponding to current template.

Syntax: `array $TBS->TplVars`

You can define template variables using one or several **onload** [automatic fields](#) with parameter **tplvars**.  
All other parameters that follow parameter **tplvars** are added to the TplVars property when the LoadTemplate() method is called.

Example:

```
[onload;tplvars;template_version='1.12.27';template_date='2004-10-26']
```

This TBS tag will create two items equivalent to the PHP code:

```
$TBS->TplVars['template_version'] = '1.12.27';
```

```
$TBS->TplVars['template_date'] = '2004-10-26';
```

Remarks:

- Parameter **tplvars** works only with **onload** [automatic fields](#).
- You can use parameter **tplvars** several times in the same template.

## Adding a data source type:

You can add another data source type not yet supported in native by TinyButStrong.  
For that, you have to code three functions with specific statements, and names corresponding to the type to add.  
Do not add the functions in the TBS source file, code them in your application or in an external Php script.

You can find additional data source types at the TinyButStrong web [site](#).

TBS identifier:

The **\$Source** argument that you pass to the [MergeBlock\(\)](#) method has a specific TBS identifier that you must use for the function naming.

If **\$Source** is an object, then the TBS identifier is the name of Php class.

If **\$Source** is a resource, then the TBS identifier is the resource type.

If **\$Source** is a string, then the TBS identifier is this string.

The type of the **\$Source** argument must not yet be supported by TinyButStrong, otherwise the functions will be ignored.

The TBS identifier may be arranged by TBS to make it fit for a function name.

Example:

If \$Source is a Sybase connection (resource type = **'sybase-db link'**), then the TBS identifier is **'sybase\_db'**.

Statements of the functions:

The three functions to add in your application must have the following syntax:  
Replace the keyword **'customdb'** with the TBS identifier of your data source type.

```
function tbsdb_customdb_open(&$Source,&$Query) {...}
```

This function must open the required query and return a Record Set identifier.

In case of error, the function should return the value *False*, and can display a message.

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$Source	Is the same argument given to the MergeBlock() method.
\$Query	Is the same argument given to the MergeBlock() method.

Example:

```
function tbsdb_sybase_db_open(&$Source,&$Query) {  
    return sybase_query($Query,$Source) ;  
}
```

```
function tbsdb_customdb_fetch(&$Rs{,$RecNum}) {...}
```

This function has to return an associative array corresponding to the current record, with columns' names and values. The function has to return the value *False* when there is no record left.

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$Rs	The Record Set identifier returned by the <code>tbsdb_customdb_open()</code> function.
\$RecNum	Optional. The number of the expected record. First is number 1.

Example:

```
function tbsdb_sybase_db_fetch(&$Rs) {  
    return sybase_fetch_assoc($Rs) ;  
}
```

If your data source needs to know the number of the expected record, you can add the argument \$RecNum to your function's statement. But in other cases, this argument is optional because all records are called in order anyway.

```
function tbsdb_customdb_close(&$Rs) {...}
```

This function has to close or free the Record Set identifier.  
It doesn't have to return a value.

<u>Argument</u>	<u>Description</u>
\$Rs	The Record Set identifier returned by the <code>tbsdb_customdb_open()</code> function.

Example:

```
function tbsdb_sybase_db_close(&$Rs) {  
    return sybase_free_result($Rs) ;  
}
```

## HTML side:

You design your template by placing **TBS tags** in the places where data items should appear.

There are two types of TBS tags: *Fields* and *Blocks*.

A **TBS Field** is a TBS tag which has to be replaced by a single data item. It is possible to specify a display format and also other parameters. The syntax for TBS Fields is described [below](#).

A **TBS Block** is an area which has to be repeated. It is defined using one or two TBS fields.  
Most often, it is the row of an HTML table. The syntax for TBS Blocks is described [below](#).

## TBS Fields:

A TBS Field is a TBS tag which has to be replaced by a single data item.  
It has a name which enables you to identify it and parameters can be supplied in order to change the display behaviour.

Syntax: **HTML ... [FieldName;params] ... HTML**

<u>Element</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>FieldName</b>	The name of the Field. Warning: names that begin with <b>var.</b> , <b>onload</b> and <b>onshow</b> are reserved. They are respectively used for <a href="#">Var fields</a> , and <a href="#">Automatic fields</a> .

## params

Optional. One or more parameters from the list below and separated with ';'.

Some parameters can be set to a value using the equal sign '='.

Example: `frm=0.00`

If the value contains spaces or semicolons, you can use single quotes.

Example: `frm='0 000.00'`.

It is possible to embed TBS fields. It means you can write this: `[var.v1; if [var.v2]=1]`. But:

- for [Var fields](#), you have to make sure that v2 will be merged before v1.

- for [block fields](#), you have to make sure that column v2 is before column v1.

## Parameter

## Description

`htmlconv= val`

Enables you to force or prevent the conversion of the data item to Html text.

The value `val` can be one of the following keywords:

`yes`: (default value) force the conversion to Html including new lines.

`nobr`: force the conversion to Html but new lines (useful for `<pre>` tags for example).

`wsp`: preserve white spaces (useful for spaces at the beginning of lines).

`no`: prevent the conversion to Html. Useful to modify Javascript code or to modify the Html source.

`look`: convert the data item to Html only if no Html entities are found inside the data item.

`esc`: no Html conversion and double the single quote characters (').

`.` (dot)

If the data item is empty, then an unbreakable space is displayed. Useful for cells in tables.

`ifempty= val`

If the data item is empty, then it is replaced with the specified value.

`magnet= tag`

Assign a magnet Html tag to the TBS field. A magnet tag is kept as is when the field has a value, and is deleted when the field is null or empty string.

Example:

`(<a href="[var.link;magnet=a]">click here</a>)`

Result for `$link='www.tbs.com'`: `(<a href="www.tbs.com">click here</a>)`

Result for `$link=''`: `()`

By default, the magnet Html tag should be a of pair of opening-closing tags (like `<a></a>`) which first tag is placed before the TBS fields. But this can be changed using parameter `mtype` (see below).

Remark: the parameters `if then else` are processed before parameter `magnet`.

`mtype= val`

To be used with parameter `magnet`. Define the magnet type.

### Value

### Magnet behavior when field is null or empty string

`m*m`

That's the default value. Delete the pair of tags that surrounds the TBS field. Everything that is between them is deleted also. The field can be put inside one of the tags.

Example:

`(<a href="[var.link;magnet=a]">click here</a>)`

Result for `$link='www.tbs.com'`: `(<a href="www.tbs.com">click here</a>)`

Result for `$link=''`: `()`

`m+m`

Delete the pair of tags that surrounds the TBS field, but keeping everything else that is between the tags.

Example:

`(<a href="mailto:[blk.email;magnet=a;mtype=m+m]">[blk.name]</a>)`

Result for `$email='me@tbs.com'`: `(<a`

`href="mailto:me@tbs.com">MyName</a>)`

Result for `$email=''`: `(MyName)`

`m*`

Delete the single tag that is before the field, and everything that is between the tag and the field.

Example 1: `<img href="[var.link;magnet=img;mtype=m*]">`

Example 2: `<br> [var.address;magnet=br]`

`*m`

Delete the single tag that is after the field, and everything that is between the tag and the field.

Example: `[var.address;magnet=br;mtype=*m]<br>`

## selected

This parameter enables you to select an item for a List, Radio buttons or Checkboxes placed into a Html form. You have to ensure that items are created (merged) before the merge.

### Html List:

Use the parameter **selected** without setting a value to it. The TBS Field has to be placed within the list of values. When the TBS field is merged it is deleted, but the item which has the same value as the field will be selected. If the value is not found, a new item is added.

Example:

which will be after the merge:

### Radio buttons and Checkboxes:

Use the parameter **selected** with setting a value to it which is the name of the Radio buttons or Checkboxes to process. The TBS Field has to be placed within the form. When the TBS field is merged it is deleted, but the item which has the same value as the field will be selected.

Example:

Boston [town_id;selected=r_test]	Boston
Washington	Washington
New York	New York

which will be after the merge:

In this example, the Radio button captioned 'Washington ' has been selected because the name of the Radio button tag is 'r\_test' and its value is 2, and the TBS tag named 'town\_id' has been merged with the value 2.

### Multi-selection:

For Lists, Radio buttons or Checkboxes, you can make a multi-selection by giving a Php array as the value of the TBS field.

### Bounds:

By default the bounds for searching items to select are html tags **<select>** for List , and **<form>** for Radio buttons and Checkboxes. But you can change them using parameter **selbounds** (see below).

## selbounds=tag

To be used with parameter **selected**. It enables you to change the search zone for items to select by indicating a Html tag type. By default, this value is **select** for a List, and **form** for Radio buttons and Checkboxes.

Example: [town\_id;selected=r\_test;selbounds=div]

In this example, items to select will be searched between **<div>** and **</div>** tags that surround the TBS field.

## comm

This parameter enables you to widen the bounds of the TBS Field up to the bounds of the commentary Html tag which surround it.

**<!-- [myfield;comm] this is an example-->** is strictly identical to **[myfield]**

This is particularly useful for the template designing when you are using a Visual HTML Editor (such as Dreamweaver or FrontPage).

## noerr

Avoid some of the TBS Error messages. When a message can be cancelled, it is mentioned in the message.

## file=filename

Replace the field with the contents of the file. **Filename** can be a string or an expression built with **Var fields** that returns the file path.

How to use this parameter is detailed in the chapter [include a sub-template](#).

## script=filename

Execute the Php script just before replacing the locator. From this script, you can read and write the value of the field using the global variable **\$tbs\_CurrVal**.

**Filename** can be a string or an expression built with **Var fields** that returns the file path.

### Remark:

- The script will be executed as if it was coded into a function. Therefore, **global variables will not be recognized** in the script except if you declare them using the Php instruction **global** or if you use **\$GLOBALS**.

- The execution of the script is cancelled if the TBS field has the parameter **if** with a false condition.

For more information, please refer to the chapter ['include the result of another PHP script'](#).

## getob

To be used with the parameter **script**.

Indicates that the text displayed using the **echo()** command in the Php script replaces the value of the TBS Field.

<b>once</b>	To be used with the parameter <b>script</b> . Cancel the script execution if it has previously been called.										
<b>if expr1 = expr2</b>	Display the data item only if the condition is verified. Supported operators are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>= or ==</b> equal</li> <li><b>!=</b> not equal</li> <li><b>+-</b> greater than</li> <li><b>+= -</b> greater than or equal to</li> <li><b>-+</b> less than</li> <li><b>-= +</b> less than or equal to</li> </ul> Both <b>expr1</b> and <b>expr2</b> must be string or numerical expressions. You can use the keyword <b>[val]</b> inside the expressions to represent the data item. The expressions may contain TBS fields, but you have to make sure that they are merged before the containing field.										
<b>then val1</b>	If the parameter <b>if</b> is defined and its condition is verified, then the data item is replaced with <b>val1</b> . You can use the keyword <b>[val]</b> inside the expression to represent the data item.										
<b>else val2</b>	If the parameter <b>if</b> is defined and its condition is not verified, then the data item is replaced with <b>val2</b> . You can use the keyword <b>[val]</b> inside the expression to represent the data item.										
<b>onformat=fct_name</b>	Indicates the name of a user Php function that will be executed before the merge of the field. The function <b>fct_name</b> must have the following syntax: <pre>function fct_name(\$FieldName,&amp;\$CurrVal) { ... }</pre> <table> <tr> <th>Parameter</th><th>Description</th></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$FieldName</b></td><td>Returns the name of the field that is calling the function (read only).</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$CurrVal</b></td><td>Return the current value (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; character in the statement</i>).</td></tr> </table>	Parameter	Description	<b>\$FieldName</b>	Returns the name of the field that is calling the function (read only).	<b>\$CurrVal</b>	Return the current value (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; character in the statement</i> ).				
Parameter	Description										
<b>\$FieldName</b>	Returns the name of the field that is calling the function (read only).										
<b>\$CurrVal</b>	Return the current value (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; character in the statement</i> ).										
<b>protect=val</b>	Enables you to protect or unprotect the data item to be merged by replacing the characters '[' with their corresponding Html code '&#91;'. The value <b>val</b> can be one of the following keywords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>yes</b>: (default value) data item is protected.</li> <li><b>no</b>: data item is not protected.</li> </ul> By default, all data merged with a template is protected except if it's a file inclusion. It is strongly recommended to protect data when it comes from free enter like on a forum for example.										
<b>max=val</b>	Indicates the maximum number of characters to display. Beyond this limit, the data item is cut and an ellipsis (...) is added at the bottom.										
<b>frm=format</b>	Specify a format to display a data item of type date/time or numeric. For a numeric item, it is possible to use a conditional format which changes depending on the sign of the value.  <b>Date-time format:</b>  It is a VisualBasic like format. The following keywords are recognized: <table> <tr> <td><b>d, dd, ddd, dddd:</b></td><td>number of the day, number of the day in two digits, short name of the day, full name of the day. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>xx</b></td><td>displays <b>st</b>, <b>nd</b>, <b>rd</b> or <b>th</b> depending to the number of the day.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>m, mm, mmm, mmmm:</b></td><td>number of the month, number of the month in two digits, short name of the month, full name of the month. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>yy, yyyy:</b></td><td>year in two digits, full year.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>hh, nn, ss:</b></td><td>hour, minutes, seconds in two digits.</td></tr> </table> Other characters are kept. It is possible to protect the strings inside by putting them between single or double quotes.  Examples: <b>[fld;frm=mm/dd/yyyy]</b> will display <b>12/21/2002</b> <b>[fld;frm='yyyy-mm-dd hh:nn:ss']</b> will display <b>2002-12-21 15:45:03</b>  <b>Numeric format:</b>  To define the decimal part, use an expression like ' <b>0x0...</b> ' where ' <b>x</b> ' is the decimal separator , and ' <b>0...</b> ' is a continuation of zeros corresponding to the number of decimals. If there is no decimal, use the format ' <b>0.</b> ' (with a dot).  To define a thousand separator, use an expression like ' <b>0z000x...</b> ' where ' <b>z</b> ' is the	<b>d, dd, ddd, dddd:</b>	number of the day, number of the day in two digits, short name of the day, full name of the day. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.	<b>xx</b>	displays <b>st</b> , <b>nd</b> , <b>rd</b> or <b>th</b> depending to the number of the day.	<b>m, mm, mmm, mmmm:</b>	number of the month, number of the month in two digits, short name of the month, full name of the month. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.	<b>yy, yyyy:</b>	year in two digits, full year.	<b>hh, nn, ss:</b>	hour, minutes, seconds in two digits.
<b>d, dd, ddd, dddd:</b>	number of the day, number of the day in two digits, short name of the day, full name of the day. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.										
<b>xx</b>	displays <b>st</b> , <b>nd</b> , <b>rd</b> or <b>th</b> depending to the number of the day.										
<b>m, mm, mmm, mmmm:</b>	number of the month, number of the month in two digits, short name of the month, full name of the month. Use parameter <b>locale</b> to display locale names.										
<b>yy, yyyy:</b>	year in two digits, full year.										
<b>hh, nn, ss:</b>	hour, minutes, seconds in two digits.										

thousand separator. If there is no decimal, use the format '0z000.' (with a dot).

If the format contains the character '%', then the value to display will be multiplied by 100. The character '%' is displayed too.

The numerical format may contain other strings. But only the expression with one or more zeroes placed to the right will be taken as a format, other characters will be kept.

Examples:

Value	Field	Display
2456.1426	[fld;frm='0.000']	2456.143
	[fld;frm='\$ 0,000.00']	\$ 2,456.14
	[fld;frm='\$ 0,000.']	2,456
0.2537	[fld;frm='0.00 %']	25.37%
	[fld;frm='coef 0.00']	coef 0.25

### Conditional formats:

You have the possibility to define up to 4 conditional formats when the value is respectively positive, negative, zero or null (or empty string). Conditional formats must be separated by a '|' character. Each conditional format is optional.

Examples:

Value	Field	Display
2456.1426	[chp;frm='+0.00 -(0.00) * empty']	+2456.14
-156.333	[chp;frm='+0.00 -(0.00) * empty']	-(156.33)
0	[chp;frm='+0.00 -(0.00) * empty']	*
null	[chp;frm='+0.00 -(0.00) * empty']	empty
-8.75	[chp;frm='+0.00 -(0.00)']	-(8.75)

#### locale

To be used with the parameter **frm**.

Indicates that the format specified with **frm** must display locale day and month's names. Locale informations can be set using the PHP function [setlocale\(\)](#).

#### tplvars

Enables you to define variables in the template that you can retrieve in the Php programm using [TplVars property](#). Works only with **onload** [automatic fields](#).

## Var fields:

A Var field is a TBS Field which displays a Php variable.

The name of it must be composed by the keyword '**var**.' followed by the name of the Php variable.

The parameters for standard TBS Fields are available for Var fields.

For example [var.php\_version] will be replaced by "4.2.3".

The user variables and the predefined variables can be merged but they must be global variables. **Resource** variables are ignored.

It is possible to merge an **Array** variable by indicating the item with a dot.

For example: [var.myarray.item]

It is possible to merge an **Object** variable by indicating a property (or a method which doesn't need any arguments) with a dot.

For example: [var.myobject.property]

### When are Var fields merged?

Var fields are merged in the [Show\(\)](#) method, this means just before displaying the merge result. But you can force the merge at any time with the [MergeSpecial\(\)](#) method.

### Security: how to limit Var fields usage in templates?

You can limit the Var fields usage by defining an Allowed Variable Prefix when you create the TinyButStrong object.

Example :

```
$TBS = new clsTinyButStrong('', 'x1_');
```

In this example, only PHP global variables prefixed by 'x1\_' are allowed in the template. Other Var fields will produce an explicit error message when merging.

[var.x1\_title] will be merged if the global variable \$x1\_title exists.

[var.x2\_title] will produce an explicit error message.

NB: the first parameter '' de clsTinyButStrong() in the example above is used to define TBS tag delimiters. But this is not described in this manual.



## Special Var fields:

A Special Var field is a TBS Field which displays data provided by the TinyButStrong system. The name of a Special Var field has to begin with '**var..**', followed by a keyword in the list below. The parameters for standard TBS Fields are available for Special Var fields.

Example: **Date of the day** : [**var..now**;frm='mm-dd-yyyy']

<u>Name</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>var..now</b>	Date and hour of the server.
<b>var..version</b>	The version of TinyButStrong.
<b>var..script_name</b>	The name of the PHP file currently executing.
<b>var..template_name</b>	The name of the last loaded template file. It is the name given to the <a href="#">LoadTemplate()</a> method.
<b>var..template_date</b>	The creation date of the last loaded template file.
<b>var..template_path</b>	The directory of the last loaded template file. It is the directory given to the <a href="#">LoadTemplate()</a> method.
<b>var..tplvars.*</b>	The value of an item set in the <a href="#">TplVars</a> property. ('*' must be the key of an existing item in the array)

### When are Special Var fields merged?

Special Var fields are merged with normal Var fields. That is in the [Show\(\)](#) method, this means just before the display of the merge result. But you can force the merge at any time with the [MergeSpecial\(\)](#) method.

## TBS Blocks:

A TBS block enables you to display data from a record source. The merging between the block and the data is done using the [MergeBlock\(\)](#) method.

During the merge, the TBS block is repeated as many times as there are records; and the associated TBS fields are replaced by the value of the columns.  
A TBS field associated to **Block1** and displaying the value of the column **ColumnA** must be named **Block1.ColumnA**  
Example: [**Block1.ColumnA**;frm='mm-dd-yyyy']

Two blocks with the same name will be regarded as two sections of the same block (see [sections of blocks](#)).

### **Block syntaxes:**

There are three possible syntaxes to define a TBS block:

#### Explicit Syntax:

Two TBS tags are used. One for the beginning of the block and another for the end of the block.

Example:

**HTML...[BlockName;block=begin;params]...HTML...[BlockName;block=end]...HTML**

The TBS tags for the block definition will be deleted during the merging.

#### Relative Syntax:

The block is defined by a pair of opening-closing Html tags. Only one TBS tag is required.

Example:

**HTML...<tag\_name...>...[BlockName;block=tag\_name;params]...</tag\_name...>...HTML**

The TBS tag for the block definition must be placed between the pair of Html tags.

This TBS tag will be deleted during the merging.

#### Simplified Syntax:

An associated TBS field is used to define the block in a relative way (see the relative syntax above).

Example:

**HTML...<tag\_name...>...[BlockName.ColumnName;block=tag\_name;params]...</tag\_name...>...HTML**

The TBS tag for the block definition must be placed between the pair of Html tags.

But it is not necessarily the first TBS field in the block.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>BlockName</b>	The name of the TBS block.
<b>block=begin</b>	Indicates the beginning of the block.



- block=end** Indicates the end of the block.
- block=tag\_name** Indicates a block which is between the opening Html tag `<tag_name...>` and the closing Html tag `</tag_name...>` that are surrounding the TBS tag. Both the opening and closing Html tags are part of the block.
- **row** can be used as an alias in order to indicate the row of a table.  
**block=row** is the same as **block=tr**.
  - **opt** can be used as an alias in order to indicate the item of an HTML list.  
**block=opt** is the same as **block=option**.
- params** Optional. One or several parameters from the list below. Separated with ';'.

#### Which syntax to use?

The 'absolute' syntax is rarely used with Visual Editors because TBS tags have often to be placed between two Html tags. On the other hand, it is convenient for textual editors.

The 'relative' syntax enables you to indicate a block using only one TBS tag. Furthermore, there is no need to hide the TBS tag because it will be deleted during the displaying. This syntax is quite practical.

The 'simplified' syntax is really simple. It enables you to define a TBS block and a TBS Field with only one TBS tag. This syntax is the most current and the most practical.


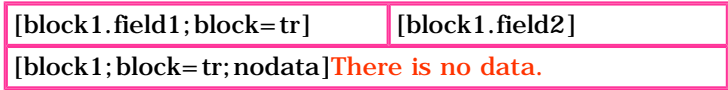
#### Tip:

You can use the 'relative' or the 'absolute' syntax with custom tags using the Html standard.

Example:

`<custom_tag>Hello [blk1.column1;block=custom_tag], how are you?</custom_tag>`

#### **Block's parameters:**

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>extend=n</b>	Can be used only with the relative syntax or the simplified syntax. Extend the block definition upon the <b>n</b> next pairs of tags that follow. This enables you, for example, to define a block on two rows of a table. The value <b>n</b> must be an integer different from 0. If <b>n</b> is negative, then the block is extended upon the previous pairs of tags.
<b>encaps=num</b>	Indicates encapsulation level of the TBS tags compared to the HTML tags specified with the parameter <b>block</b> . The default value is <b>1</b> .  Example: 
<b>comm</b>	This parameter enables you to widen the bounds of the TBS tag up to the bounds of the commentary tag (HTML) surrounding it. <code>&lt;!-- [block1;block=tr;comm] this is an example--&gt;</code> is strictly identical to <code>[block1;block=tr]</code> This parameter is particularly useful for designing the template when using a visual HTML editor (such as Dreamweaver or FrontPage).
<b>nodata</b>	Indicates a section that is displayed only if there is no data to merge.  Example: 
<b>headergrp=colname</b>	Indicates a block that is displayed each time the column <b>colname</b> gets a value different from the previous one. <b>colname</b> must be a valid column name returned by the data source. You can define several <b>headergrp</b> sections with different columns.  For more information about sections, see the chapter ' <a href="#">Sections of blocks</a> '.

<b>serial</b>	Indicates that the block is a main block which contains serial secondary blocks. For more information, see the chapter ' <a href="#">serial display (in columns)</a> '.												
<b>p1=val1</b>	Indicates the use of a dynamic query. All the occurrences of the string '%p1%' found in the query given to the MergeBlock() method are replaced by the value <b>val1</b> . For more information, see the chapter ' <a href="#">dynamic queries / sub-blocks</a> '.												
<b>onsection=fct_name</b>	Indicates the name of a user PHP function that will be executed during the block merging. The function is called each time a record is displayed. The function <b>fct_name</b> must have the following syntax: <pre>function fct_name(\$BlockName,&amp;\$CurrRec,&amp;\$DetailSrc,\$RecNum) { ... }</pre> <table> <tr> <th>Parameter</th><th>Description</th></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$BlockName</b></td><td>Returns the name of the block calling the function (read only).</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$CurrRec</b></td><td>Returns an associative PHP array containing the current record (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; in the function header</i>). If you set this variable to <b>False</b>, it ends the merging like it was the end of the record set.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$DetailSrc</b></td><td>Returns the source of the current section (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; in the function header</i>). If you set this variable to "", it cancels the displaying of this record.</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>\$RecNum</b></td><td>Returns the number of the current record (read only, first record is number 1).</td></tr> </table>	Parameter	Description	<b>\$BlockName</b>	Returns the name of the block calling the function (read only).	<b>\$CurrRec</b>	Returns an associative PHP array containing the current record (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; in the function header</i> ). If you set this variable to <b>False</b> , it ends the merging like it was the end of the record set.	<b>\$DetailSrc</b>	Returns the source of the current section (read/write ; <i>don't forget the &amp; in the function header</i> ). If you set this variable to "", it cancels the displaying of this record.	<b>\$RecNum</b>	Returns the number of the current record (read only, first record is number 1).		
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<b>\$RecNum</b>	Returns the number of the current record (read only, first record is number 1).												
<b>when expr1=expr2</b>	Use only with <a href="#">conditional blocks</a> . Display the section of the block only if the condition is verified. Supported operators are: <table> <tr><td><b>= or ==</b></td><td>equal</td></tr> <tr><td><b>!=</b></td><td>not equal</td></tr> <tr><td><b>+ -</b></td><td>greater than</td></tr> <tr><td><b>+ = -</b></td><td>greater than or equal to</td></tr> <tr><td><b>- +</b></td><td>less than</td></tr> <tr><td><b>- = +</b></td><td>less than or equal to</td></tr> </table> Both <b>expr1</b> and <b>expr2</b> must be string or numerical expressions. The expressions may contain <a href="#">Var fields</a> .	<b>= or ==</b>	equal	<b>!=</b>	not equal	<b>+ -</b>	greater than	<b>+ = -</b>	greater than or equal to	<b>- +</b>	less than	<b>- = +</b>	less than or equal to
<b>= or ==</b>	equal												
<b>!=</b>	not equal												
<b>+ -</b>	greater than												
<b>+ = -</b>	greater than or equal to												
<b>- +</b>	less than												
<b>- = +</b>	less than or equal to												
<b>default</b>	Use only with <a href="#">conditional blocks</a> . Indicates a section of block that must be displayed only if no section of the same block (name) has been displayed.												
<b>several</b>	Use only with <a href="#">conditional blocks</a> . Indicates that several sections of the block can be displayed if several conditions are true. By default, sections are exclusive.												

## Sections of block:

Different blocks having the same name will be regarded as sections of the same block.

Sections can be used to:

- alternate the display (normal sections),
- display something if there is no data (NoData section),
- display a header each time the value of a column changes (HeaderGrp section).

### Normal sections:

When you define several normal sections, they will be used alternatively for each record.

Example:

```
[b1.caption; block= tr]
```

```
[b1.caption; block= tr]
```

In this example, the block named 'b1' contains two normal sections. Records will be displayed alternatively with a green background and with a blue background.

### NoData section:

Display the section if the data source has no records.

The NoData section is defined by adding the parameter **nodata**.

Example:

```
[b1.caption; block= tr]
```

```
There is nothing[b1; block= tr; nodata]
```

### HeaderGrp section:

Display a header section every time a column's value in the record set changes.  
A Header is defined by adding the parameter **headergrp=column\_name**.

Example:

Year [b1.year; block=tr; headergrp=year]
[b1.caption]
[b1.amount; block=tr]

### Serial display (in columns):

The serial display enables you to display several records inside a block. For this, you have to use a main block and secondary blocks.

Example:

Rec 1	Rec 2	Rec 3	Rec 4
Rec 5	Rec 6	Rec 7	Rec 8
Rec 9	...	...	...

In this example, main blocks are the blue lines of the table, the secondary blocks are the pink cells.

#### Syntax:

The main block and its secondary blocks are merged using only one call to the MergeBlock() method. The main block must be defined using the parameter **serial**. The secondary blocks must be nested into the main block. The secondary block's names must be the name of the main block followed by "\_" and a number indicating display order.

Example:

[bx; block=tr; serial]	[bx_1.txt; block=td]	[bx_2.txt; block=td]	[bx_3.txt; block=td]	[bx_4.txt; block=td]
------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

The corresponding PHP is:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock('bx', $cnx_id, 'SELECT txt FROM t_info ORDER BY txt')
```

#### Empty secondary block:

You can specify a special secondary block that will be used to replace unused secondary blocks (without records). This "Empty" secondary block must have the index 0. It can either be placed inside the main block with the normal secondary block, or alone inside another **serial** block. The "empty" secondary block is optional.

Example:

[bx; block=tr; serial]	[bx_1.txt; block=td]	[bx_2.txt; block=td]	[bx_3.txt; block=td]	[bx_4.txt; block=td]
[bx; block=tr; serial]	[bx_0; block=td] <b>No records found.</b>			

Remark:

The serial display also works with [sections of block](#) and [dynamic queries](#).

### Dynamic queries / sub-blocks:

#### Principles of the dynamic queries:

It is possible to use the MergeBlock() method with a dynamic query.

In your template, you have to define a block by adding the parameters **p1**, **p2**, **p3**,... with their values.

The query given to the MergeBlock() method has to contain marks such as **%p1%**, **%p2%**, **%p3%**, ... in order to welcome the values of the parameters **p1**, **p2**, **p3**,... .

Each section of the block to be merged that contains a parameter **p1** will be computed as a separate block for which the dynamic query is re-executed. The sections of the block that have no parameter **p1** are combined with the previous section with a parameter **p1**.

Example:

[blk.town; block=tr; p1='france'] [blk.country]

[blk.town; block=tr; p1='us'] [blk.country]

Corresponding PHP code:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock('blk',$cnx_id,"SELECT town,country FROM t_geo WHERE (country='%p1%')")
```

Result of the merge:

Paris	france
Toulouse	france

Washington	us
Boston	us

### Use with sub-blocks:

Dynamic queries enable you to easily build a system of a main-block with sub-blocks. Here is how you can do it:

- Create a main block, and then a sub-block inside the main block.
- Link them by adding to the sub-block a parameter **p1** whose value is a field from the main block.
- At the PHP side, merge the main block first, and then the sub-block.

Example:

Country: [main.country; block=table]  
[sub.town; block=tr; p1=[main.cntr\_id]]

Corresponding PHP code:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock('main',$cnx_id,'SELECT country,cntr_id FROM t_country')  
$TBS->MergeBlock('sub',$cnx_id,'SELECT town FROM t_town WHERE (cntr_id=%p1%)')
```

Result of the merge:

Country: France
Paris
Toulouse
Country: Germany
Berlin
Munich
Country: Spain
Madrid
Barcelona

Remarks:

- The parameter **htmlconv=esc** enables you to pass protected string values to the query.
- The dynamic queries also work with [sections of block](#) and [serial display](#).

## Display a navigation bar:

TinyButStrong is able to display a navigation bar using the [MergeNavigationBar\(\)](#) method.

It is quite similar to merging a block using MergeBlock() except that there are page numbers instead of data, and you can use specific fields to display extra info, and options to arrange the navigation bar.

### Blocks and fields:

Use a normal TBS block to display the page numbers.

This block will be merged with a virtual data source having as much records as pages to display, and with the following columns:

Name	Description
<b>page</b>	Returns the number of a common page, reachable from the navigation bar.
<b>curr</b>	Returns the number of the active page.
<b>first</b>	Returns the number of the first page (1 by default).
<b>prev</b>	Returns the number of the previous page.
<b>next</b>	Returns the number of the next page.
<b>last</b>	Returns the number of the last page if it's known, otherwise returns -1.

**page** is the only value that changes and its linked field must be placed inside the block. Others columns have always the same value and can be placed inside the block as well as outside the block. Those fields support the parameter **endpoint**. It will replace the value of the field with an empty string (") when the active page is equal to first page or last page. This enables you to manage display exceptions with parameter [magnet](#) for example.

Example:

```
<a href="script.php?page=[nav.first;endpoint;magnet=a;mtype=m+m]">Beginning</a>
```

In this example, the link will be deleted when the active page is the first page.

The block can contain a special section to display the active page differently. This section is defined using parameter **currpage** on the block definition.

Example:

Template:

```
|< < [nav.page;block=td] [nav.page;block=td;currpage] > >|
```

Php code used:

```
$TBS->MergeNavigationBar('nav',10,17) ;
```

Result of the merge:

```
|< < 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 > >|
```

Remark: this example doesn't display links.

## Options

The block definition can contain parameters that are specific to the navigation bar. Those options can also be defined as a parameter of the [MergeNavigationBar\(\)](#) method.

Parameter	Description
<b>navsize=</b> num	Number of pages displayed in the navigation bar. (default = 10).
<b>navpos=</b> keyword	Position of the navigation bar compared to the active page number. Use one of the following keywords: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 'step' (by default) to have the bar progressing by step.</li><li>- 'centred' to center the bar on the active page number.</li></ul>
<b>navdel=</b> blockname	Name of a TBS block to delete when there is only one page or no page to display. This TBS block must surround the navigation bar. If there are several pages to display then only TBS definition tags of this bloc are deleted.
<b>pagemin=</b> num	Number of the first page (default = 1).

## Automatic fields and blocks:

**onload** and **onshow** are reserved names for TBS fields and blocks that are automatically merged when the template is loaded by the LoadTemplate() method and when the result is shown by the Show() method.

Automatic fields are merged with an empty value. They accept all TBS field's parameters. They are useful for [sub-template](#) and [template variables](#).

Example:

```
[onload;file=header.htm]
```

Automatic blocks are merged as [conditional blocks](#). They accept only conditional block's parameters.

Examples:

```
[onload;block=tr;when [var.status]==1] Status 1
[onload;block=tr;when [var.status]==2] Status 2
```

See [conditional blocks](#) for more details.

## Include a sub-template:

If a TBS field has the parameter **file**, then this field will be replaced by the contents of the indicated file during the merging of this file. The value of the parameter **file** can be a string value or an expression made by Var fields ([var.\*]) and keywords [val] (see definition of TBS fields).

TinyButStrong retrieves the contents of the file as is. **If it's a Php script, then this script won't be executed.** To insert the result of a Php script, see [Include the result of another PHP script](#).

If the file to include is an Html file, then TinyButStrong will keep only the body (delimited by a pair of tags <body> and </body>).

The parameter **htmlconv** (optional) enables you to precise if the contents of the file have to be converted to Html or not. By default, it is not converted to Html.

Examples:

```
[var.page_header;file=[val]]
```

```
[var.page_footer;file=foot.htm;htmlconv=yes]
```

How to precise when the sub-template is included:

Use the [automatic fields](#) **onload** and **onshow** to precise when the field is merged.

- A field named **onload** is automatically merged when the [LoadTemplate\(\)](#) method is called, just after the template is loaded.

- A field named **onshow** is automatically merged when the [Show\(\)](#) method is called.

Examples:

```
[onload;file=[var.article]]
```

```
[onshow;file=foot.htm]
```

## Include the result of another PHP script:

If a TBS field has the parameter **script**, then the script will be executed at the field merging. The value of the parameter **script** can be a string value or an expression made by Var fields ([var.\*]) and keywords [val] (see definition of TBS fields).

Examples:

```
[var.special_process;script=[val];getob]
```

```
[onshow;script=end.php;once]
```

Variable scope:

The script will be executed as if it was coded into a function. Therefore, **global variables will not be recognized** in the script except if you declare them using the Php instruction [global](#) or if you use \$GLOBALS.

Redirecting the display statements:

If your Php script contains display statements (such as echo), then the text will be displayed normally; that is instantly and thus without waiting for the result of the template merging. To avoid this behaviour, you can use the parameter **getob** which enables you to redirect the text to replace the TBS field.

With **getob**: texts passed to echo statements will be displayed at the place of the TBS fields.

Without **getob**: texts passed to echo statements will be displayed normally, that is instantly before the result of the merge.

Prevent the script from being executed several times:

If the name of the script appears several times in your TBS fields, you can use the parameter **once** in order to limit the script to one execution.

How to precise when the script is executed:

You can use [automatic fields](#) **onload** and **onshow** to precise when the script is executed. For more details on those special fields, see '[Include a sub-template](#)'.

## Conditional display overview:

TinyButStrong offers several tools for conditional display of fields and blocks.

### **Conditional fields**

For any TBS fields you can use parameters for conditional display, repeated below.

Parameter

. (dot)

**ifempty**=value2

**magnet**=tag

**if condition**

**then** value1

**else** value2

**frm**=format1|format2|format3|format4

Description

Display an Html unbreakable space if the field value is empty.

Display **value2** if the field value is empty.

Delete a tag or a pair of tags if the field value is empty.

Display **value1** or **value2** depending on whether the condition is verified or not.

Changes the numeric format or date/time format depending on whether the value is positive, negative, zero or empty.

### **Conditional blocks**

Conditional blocks are defined like normal blocks except that:

- block definitions must have a parameter **when** or a parameter **default**,
- they cannot be merged with data,
- they cannot have linked fields.

You can merge a conditional block using the MergeBlock() method with keyword '**cond**', or more usually using automatic blocks **onload** and **onshow** (see more details below).

When you merge a conditional block, each **when** condition of its sections are evaluated until one is verified. As soon as one **when** condition is verified, the section is kept and other sections are deleted. If no **when** condition is verified, then the **default** section is displayed if it exists.

By default sections of a conditional block are exclusives, only one section of a block can be displayed.

Note: the condition defined by parameter **when** can use Var fields.

Example:

```
[block1; block=tr; when [var.light]= 1 ] Light is set to 1.  
[block1; block=tr; when [var.light]=0] Light is set to 0.  
[block1; block=tr; default] Light is not 1 or 0.
```

This conditional block can be merged using the following code:

```
$TBS->MergeBlock( 'block1', 'cond' );
```

### Using automatic blocks:

You can create conditional blocks named **onload** and **onshow** (or **onload\_** and **onshow\_** with a suffix). Those blocks will be automatically merged when the template is loaded (onload) or when the result is shown (onshow). Using suffix for block names enables you to have several blocks.

Example:

```
[onload_ligth; block=tr; when [var.light]= 1 ] Light is set to 1.  
[onload_ligth; block=tr; when [var.light]=0] Light is set to 0.  
[onload_ligth; block=tr; default] Light is not 1 or 0.
```

This conditional block will be automatically merged when the template is loaded.

### Non-exclusive sections:

If you want a block to have non-exclusive sections, you can use parameter **several** on the first section. With this parameter, all conditions are evaluated and each true condition makes its section to be displayed.

Example:

```
[onload_err; block=tr; when [var.email]=""; several] Your email is empty.  
[onload_err; block=tr; when [var.name]=0] Your name is empty.  
[onload_err; block=tr; default] All is ok.
```

## Summary:

### TBS Field's parameters:

Parameter	Summary
<b>htmlconv</b>	Html conversion Mode for the field's value.
<b>.</b> (dot)	If the value is empty, then display an unbreakable space.
<b>ifempty</b>	If the value is empty, then display another value.
<b>magnet</b>	If the value is empty, then delete surrounding tags.
<b>mtype</b>	Use with <b>magnet</b> .
<b>if</b>	If the condition is verified, then change the value.
<b>then</b>	Use with <b>if</b> .
<b>else</b>	Use with <b>if</b> .



<b>onformat</b>	Executes a Php user function to modify the field merging.
<b>max</b>	Limits the number of characters.
<b>frm</b>	Apply a date-time or a numeric format.
<b>locale</b>	Use with <b>frm</b> . Display locale day and month's names.
<b>protect</b>	Protection mode for characters '['.
<b>selected</b>	Selects items in an Html list.
<b>selbounds</b>	Use with <b>selected</b> . Change the default bounds for searching items.
<b>comm</b>	Extends the field's bounds up to the Commentary tag that surround it.
<b>noerr</b>	Avoid some TBS error messages.
<b>file</b>	Includes the contents of the file.
<b>script</b>	Executes the Php script.
<b>getob</b>	Use with <b>script</b> . Retrieves texts passed to <code>echo</code> and puts them to the field's place.
<b>once</b>	Use with <b>script</b> . Prevent the script from several executions.

### TBS Block's parameters:

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<b>block</b>	Defines the block's bounds.
<b>extend</b>	Extends the block's bounds upon several successive Html tags.
<b>encaps</b>	Extends the block's bounds upon several encapsulated Html tags.
<b>comm</b>	Extends the block's bounds up to the Commentary tag that surround it.
<b>nodata</b>	Indicates the section that is displayed when there is no data in the data source.
<b>headergrp</b>	Indicates a section that is displayed only when the value of a column changes.
<b>serial</b>	Indicates a section that contains a series of several records.
<b>p1</b>	Sends a parameter to the dynamic query for the data source.
<b>onsection</b>	Executes a Php user function to modify the section merging.
<b>tplvars</b>	Use with <b>onload</b> fields only. Define template variables.
<b>when</b>	Use with <b>onload</b> or <b>onshow</b> . Displays the section when the condition is verified.
<b>default</b>	Use with <b>onload</b> or <b>onshow</b> . Displays the section when no section is displayed.
<b>several</b>	Use with <b>when</b> . Indicate that several blocks of the group can be displayed.

### Fields and parameters for Navigation bar:

<u>Fields</u>	<u>Summary</u>
<b>nav.page</b>	Displays the number of a page.
<b>nav.curr</b>	Displays the number of the current page.
<b>nav.first</b>	Displays the number of the first page (allways 1).
<b>nav.prev</b>	Displays the number of the previous page.
<b>nav.next</b>	Displays the number of the next page.
<b>nav.last</b>	Displays the number of the last page (-1 if unknown).

