

## Using the IssueNet Masked Edit Box Control

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This article applies to the following:

Component(s):

Administrator

Solutions(s):

All

### Summary

The masked edit box is a control in the IssueNet forms designer which allows you to specify the format required for data entered by users. The masked edit box is useful in a wide variety of scenarios where it is necessary to collect data in a specific format while also making proper data entry easier for users. Common uses of the masked edit box include form elements for: phone numbers, I.P. addresses, product versions, and serial numbers.

### Adding a Masked Edit Control to a Form

The process for adding a masked edit control is very similar to adding a standard text box. The first step is to open the IssueNet Architect and open the form to which you want to add the masked edit box. Once the form is open select the MaskedTextBox control in the Form Toolbox pane and then click on the area of the form where the control will be located and then drag the control to the proper dimensions. Once the control is located on the form click on the control and set the MemberName property in the FormProperties pane to bind the control to the class property it will represent on the form, and set any other layout options and control properties you desire.

Once you have added the control to the form, you can then set the Mask property of the control. The mask property is a set of mask characters which specifies the required format of the data entered into the control. You will choose the type, number, and order of mask characters you enter in the box based on the format you want to require. In this tech tip we will review several common mask examples. However, before reviewing specific examples it is best to become familiar with the different mask characters and their functions. The following table lists the mask characters supported by the IssueNet masked edit control. These mask characters are similar to characters used by other masked edit controls.

Mask Character	Function and Description	Example
# or 9	AAAA	A mask of "#####" allows an entry of "1234567890".
?	Letter placeholder. This placeholder will only accept alphabetic characters.	A mask of "?????????" allows an entry of "AbCdEfGhIj".

