

# FormStorm<sup>TM</sup> Enterprise Forms Processing

# Step by Step Guide

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Audience: This document provides a guide to

FormStorm forms processing capabilities

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### 1. Introduction

This guide will provide you with step by step instructions to setting up a System in FormStorm in order to process forms. The guide is based on the SampleDemo system that is included with the FormStorm installation package.

The guide only provides a partial system setup. Once you have created the system according to this guide, you can analyse the complete SampleDemo system to understand how the rest of it was defined

This guide will take you through the following sections:

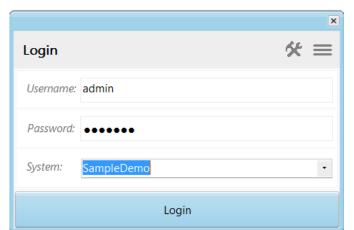
- FormStorm at Work this section explains how FormStorm is actually used to process forms. In this section we will import some images, process them to extract data using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and then display the data to the Verifier (data entry operator). The final step will be to export the data and images to files.
- The SampleDemo System this section provides a brief overview of the SampleDemo setup.
- Creating a New System this section provides instructions for setting up a system similar to SampleDemo

### 2. FormStorm at Work

This section provides a brief explanation about how FormStorm can be used to process forms and extract the data from within the images. The next chapter provides an overview of the system setup definitions which enable FormStorm to process these forms

### 2.1. Logging In

Once you startup FormStorm you can login to the SampleDemo system by entering the User Name and Password and selecting SampleDemo as the System



The default user name and password are:

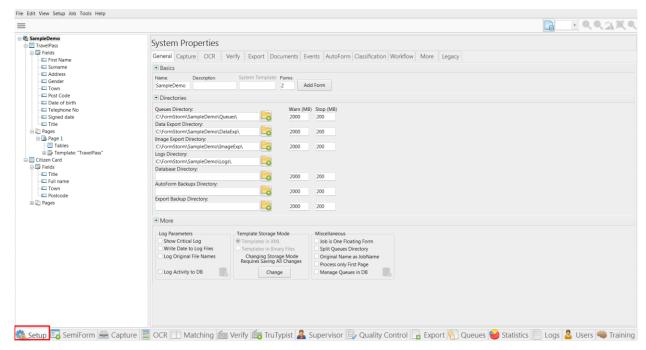
Username - admin

Password – admin51



- Enter the Username, Password and select the System called 'SampleDemo
- 2 Click the Login button (or press ENTER).

Make sure the tab selected at the bottom is Setup. The System Setup should appear



■ If you do not see all the details in the left-hand pane, click on the small + signs to expand the tree structure

The Setup tab allows for Systems to be defined so that forms can be defined for data processing. We will cover this information in the next two sections of the guide. As a starting point we will cover how to use FormStorm to process forms.

In this section of the guide, we will be using the SampleDemo system which has already been Setup. We will now cover the actions and steps used when actually processing forms.

Processing Forms involves the following steps

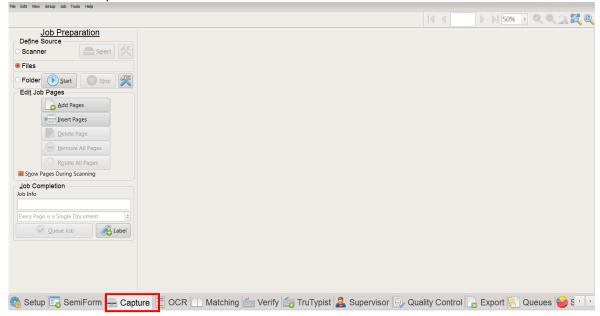
- 1. Capture images
- 2. Process the images using OCR technology
- 3. Verify the OCR results to ensure there are no errors
- 4. Export the data and images



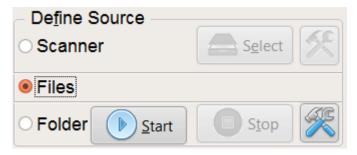
### 2.2. Capturing Images

The first step in the process is to capture images.

• Select the Capture tab at the bottom



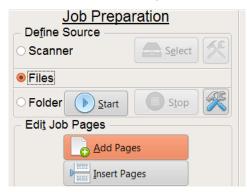
There are three ways to capture images with FormStorm



- 1. Scanner to scan images
- 2. Files to select existing images
- 3. Folder to define a directory that FormStorm will continuously access every few seconds and automatically import any images placed in that directory

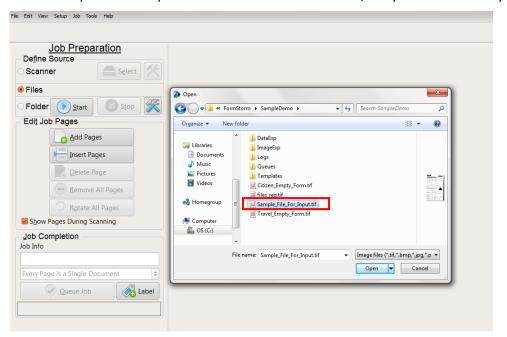


2 Make sure the Files option is selected and click Add Pages.



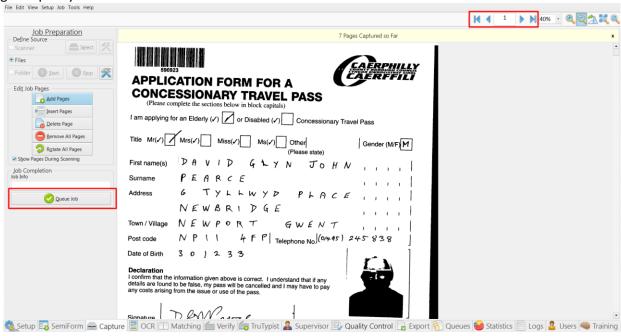
From the Open window select the file 'Sample File for Input.tif'.

→ The Sample File for Input.tif file is located in FormStorm/SampleDemo directory





• Use the toolbar on the top right hand corner to scroll through the images and ensure images are of good quality.



- The Edit Job Pages buttons are used to Insert, Delete, Remove All, or Rotate pages
- 4 Click the Queue Job to send the Job to the Queues

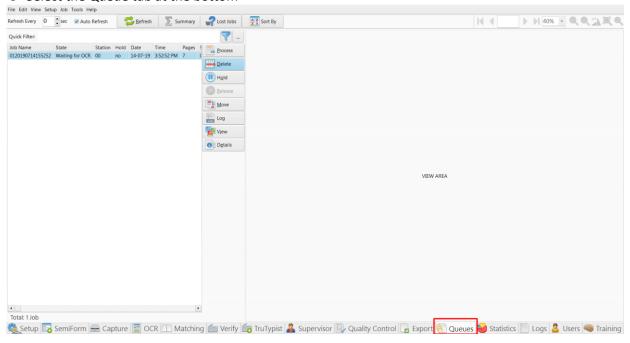
In FormStorm 'Job' refers to a group of images processed together. When you click Queue Job all images in the Capture station are grouped together as a single Job. In fact all images are grouped into a single multitif file and sent to the Queue



### 2.3. The Queues

The Queue is where all the FormStorm files are kept while they are being processed by FormStorm. When you click the Queue Job button in the Capture station the images are collected into a single tif file and stored in the Queues as a single job. The Queues also contain an xml file for each job. The XML file holds all the data from the OCR and the Verify process. The files are deleted from the Queues only after the export process when the data and images get exported.

#### • Select the Queue tab at the bottom



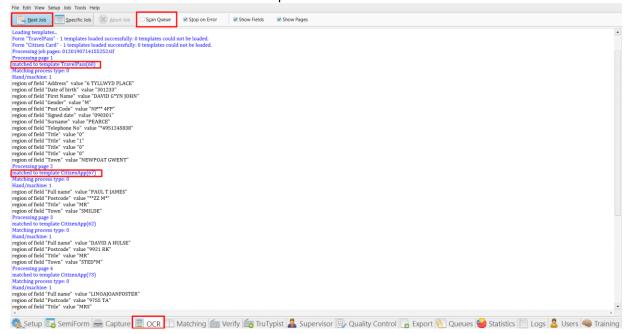
- The Queues station is the Administrator console where the System Administrator can view which jobs are being processed and their status. The Administrator can carry out action such as deleting jobs, moving jobs higher in the queue and so on. There are also various reports available for the Administrator.
- The State of the Job which has just been sent to the Queues from the Capture station is 'Waiting for OCR'. This means that the next process to be applied on this Job is OCR processing



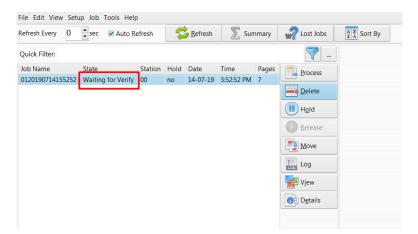
### 2.4. OCR Processing

The next step in the process is to OCR the images to extract the data.

- Select the OCR tab at the bottom
- Click on Next Job button to start the OCR process



- The OCR Listing shows each page being processed and to which template it matched to as well as a matching score (25 is the default, anything over this number is a good match)
- The OCR Station does not have to be manually attended, you can click the Scan Queue checkbox and the OCR Station will pull Jobs automatically from the Queues
- 3 Click the Queues tab at the bottom and you will see in the Queues Station that the Job is now 'Waiting for Verify'

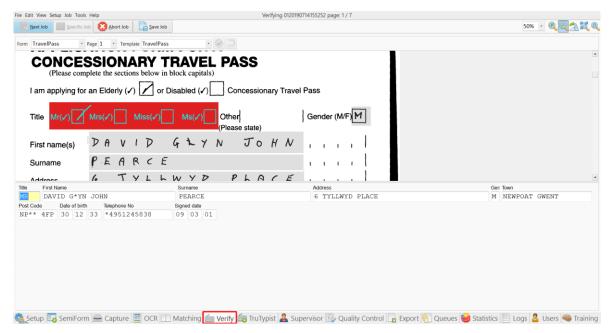




### 2.5. Verify

The next step in the process is to verify the data. This is a manual process carried out by the data entry operator.

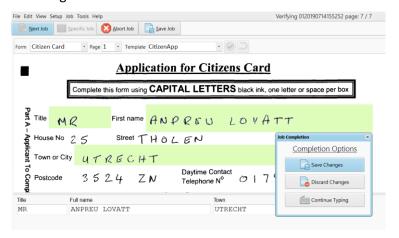
- Select the Verify tab at the bottom
- Click on Get Next Job button to retrieve the next Job



- **3** Press ENTER to move to the next field. Where there is an \* in a field it means the OCR could not process the character and it must be manually corrected.
- ⇒ If you press ENTER without correcting the \* FormStorm will not allow you to continue and inform you that there is an ambiguous character to fix



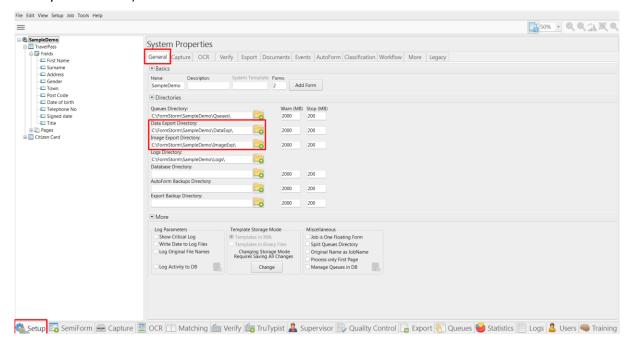
• Once all pages are verified the Job Completion window appears, Select Save Changes to Export the data and images





To see the files which were exported you need to go to the directories where these files have been exported to.

In the Setup you define where the data and images will be exported to. (This is covered in the Creating a New System section).



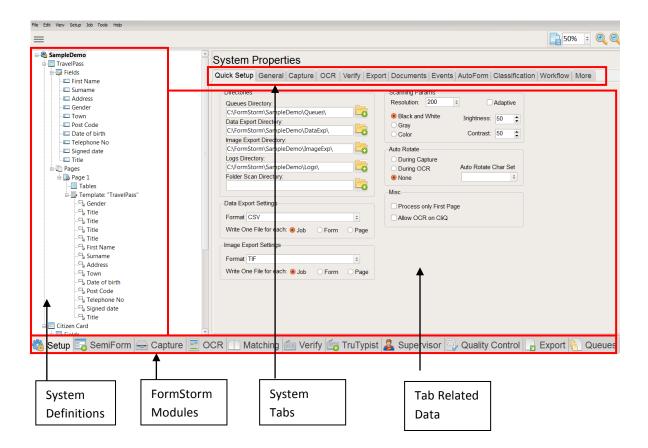
• Go to these directories to find the exported files and view them



# 3. The SampleDemo Setup

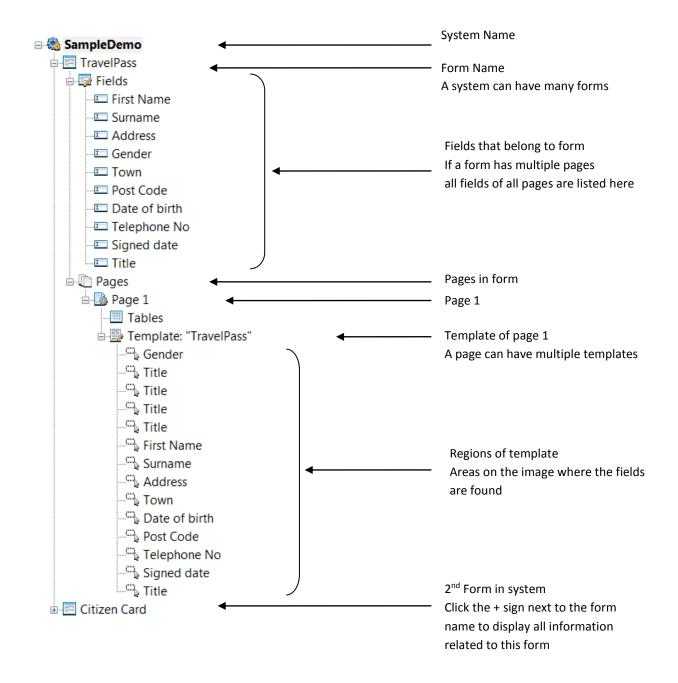
#### 3.1. The Work Area

This section provides a brief explanation about the complete SampleDemo system. The next chapter provides a step by step guide to explain how the system was created.





#### System Definitions

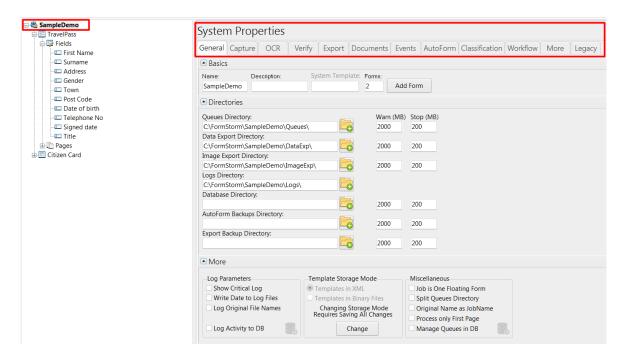




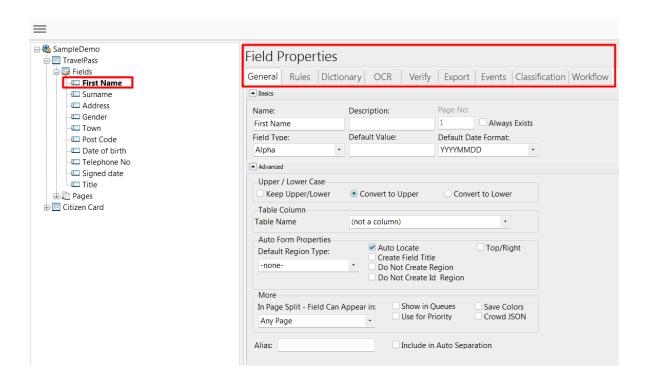
### 3.2. System Definitions - Detail

Creating a system involves the following high level steps:

1. Define the System Level definitions

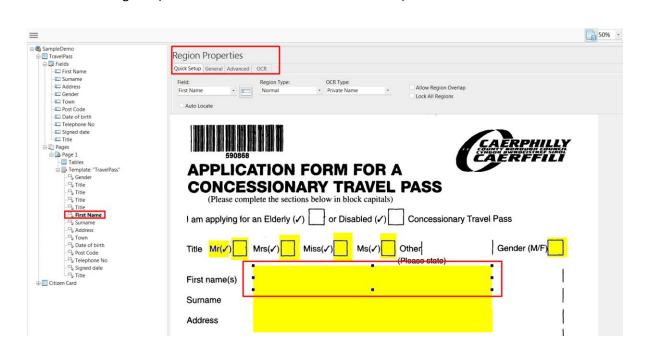


2. Define the Field Level definitions





3. Create the Regions (areas on form where data is to be found)





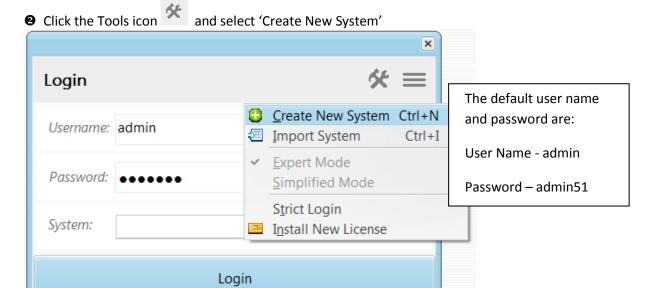
## 4. Creating a New System

In this section a new system similar to SampleDemo will be created. This guide does not repeat all steps required to create the complete system but rather provides enough information so that the full system can be completed on your own

### 4.1. Creating the System

The first screen displayed once FormStorm is started is the Login window. The window will display the User Name and System of the previous Login

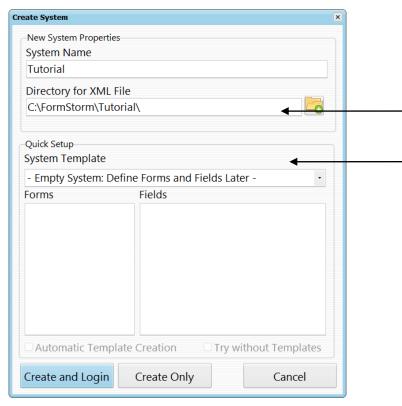
• Enter your User Name and Password





The Create System window will be displayed

3 Enter the new system name in the New System Name field



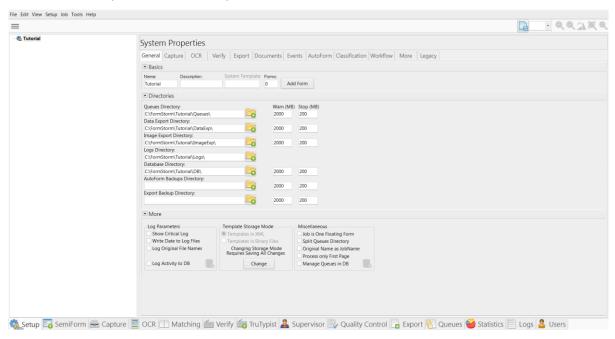
The Directory for XML file is where the XML file holding the system definitions will be stored. All system definitions are stored in this file

The Quick Setup section is used for requesting a blank system to be created or a ready-made system.

The ready-made system for Invoice Processing is not part of this guide

#### 4 Click the Create and Login button

FormStorm will open with the new system created.



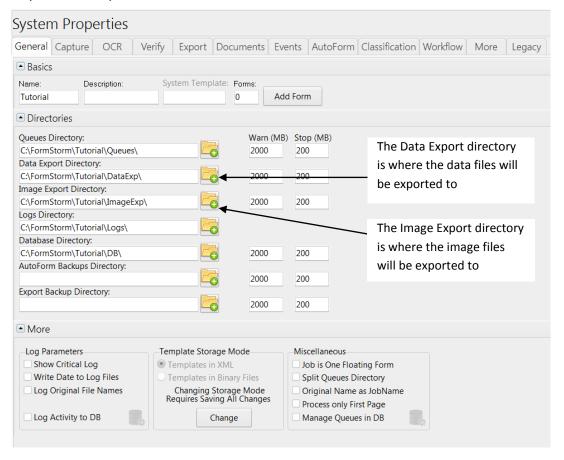


### 4.2. Defining the System Properties

This step includes defining all the System level parameters. Only the very basic parameters will be explained. For a complete description of all parameters refer to the FormStorm User Guide

#### The General Properties

At this stage no need to make changes to any of the General definitions. Note the location of where the output will be exported to



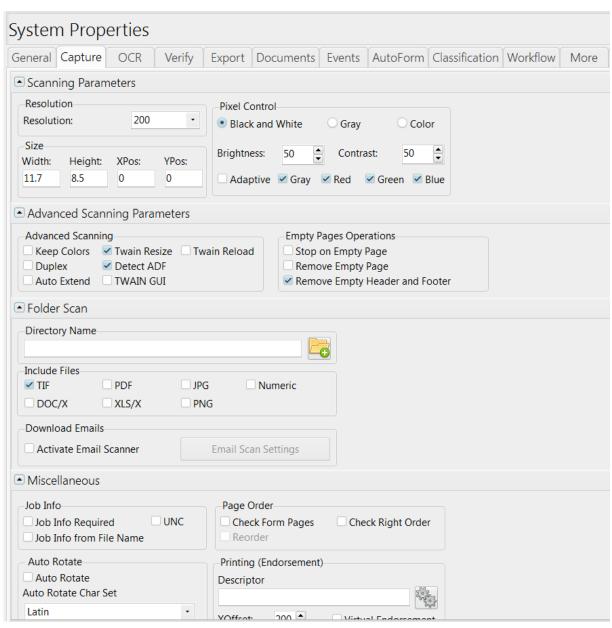


#### The Capture Properties

Capturing images can be done from three sources:

- Scanning using FormStorm
- Selecting existing images
- Instructing FormStorm to access a certain directory every few seconds and import any images which are placed there

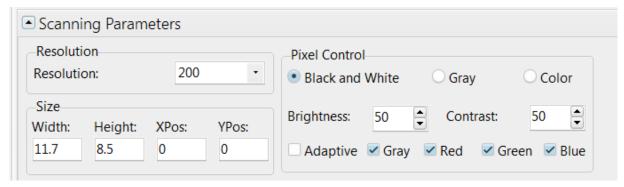
Depending on which method you plan to use will determine what parameters you will need to define in this screen





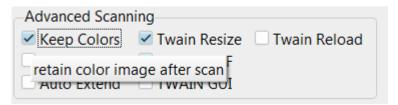
#### **Scanning Parameters**

- Enter the Resolution if you plan to scan using FormStorm
- ➡ Higher resolution is preferred for OCR but does mean more storage space requirements.



- 2 Leave Black and white as the pixel control
- Sometime Gray images will provide higher quality but those are rare cases
- Select the Color option only if you wish to scan in color in order to export the whole image or part of it (e.g. a photo) in color. If the Color option is selected make sure to select Keep Colors option as well. If Keep Colors is not ticked the color image is discarded during scanning after it is converted to Black and White. (Black and White is always required for OCR purposes).

For this tutorial make sure Keep Colors is not ticked



#### Folder Scan

- If you want FormStorm to poll a directory during processing time and pick up any images placed in that directory, enter the location where the images will be picked up
- 2 Tick the types of files to be picked up from the directory

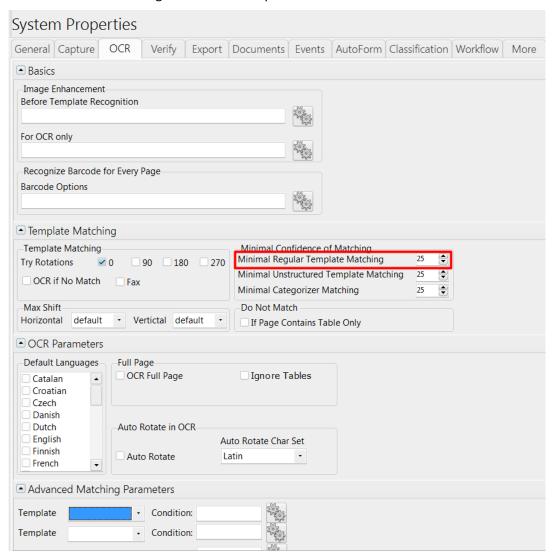


→ If you have just started using FormStorm best to leave this option for later and either scan or import existing images at this initial stage



#### The OCR Properties

At this stage no need to make changes to any of the OCR definitions. At a later stage this screen can be used to define some image enhancements parameters



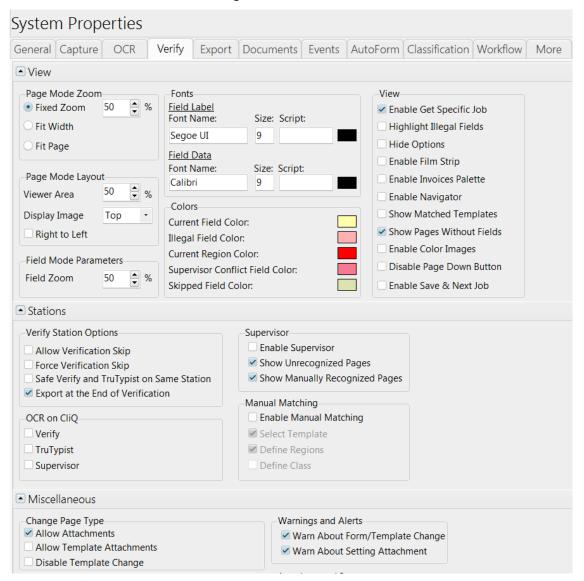
#### Template Matching

- The Minimal Regular Template Match is the threshold level for template matching. Images matched to a template with a score higher than this number are regarded as 'matched to template' below this number is regarded as no match
- At this stage leave the score as 25 which is the default level. If during preliminary testing many images are not matched to templates it is advisable to lower this score and see if it improves matching. A lower score will mean more images matched to templates but could also mean wrong matching so there is a trade-off.



#### The Verify Properties

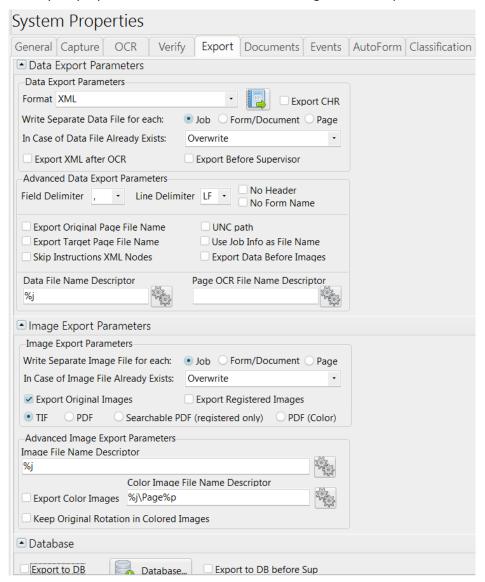
The Verify properties define how the Verify station (data entry) will look and feel. At this stage no changes need to be made to the default settings





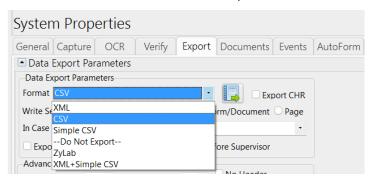
#### The Export Properties

The Export properties define how the data and images will be exported



#### **Data Export Parameters**

Select CSV as the format for the exported data file





2 Select how the data will be exported, as one file for the Job or as separate files per Form or per Page



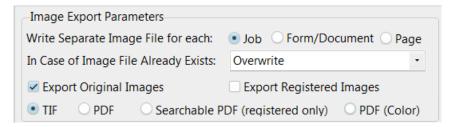
- ⇒ Job means data from all pages in a Job are exported into a single file. Forms means data is exported per each Form (as Form can be one or more pages). Page means data from each page is exported to a different file
- 3 Use the cog wheels icon to the right of the Data File Name Descriptor to define the name of the data file to export



☐ If the option of Form or Page is selected for data output, make sure the file name is unique, for example you can add the page number to the file name %j%p

#### **Image Export Parameters**

- Select the images to export. Original images are exactly as they were scanned, Registered images are after enhancements are applied
- 2 Select how the images will be exported, as one file for the Job or as separate files per Form or per Page



- ⇒ Job means images of all pages in a Job are exported into a single file. Forms means images are exported per each Form (as Form can be one or more pages). Page means each page is exported as a separate file.
- **3** Use the cog wheels icon to the right of the Image File Name Descriptor to define the name of the image file to export

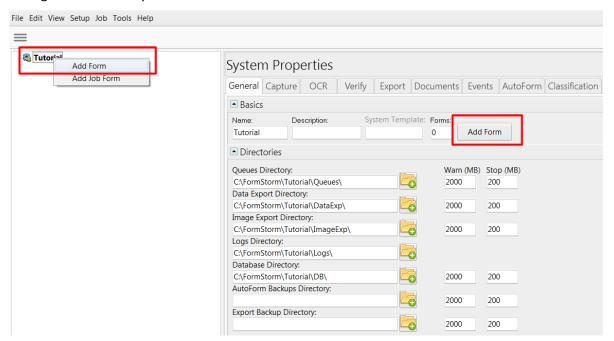


■ If the option of Form or Page is selected for image output, make sure the file name is unique, for example you can add the page number to the file name %j%p

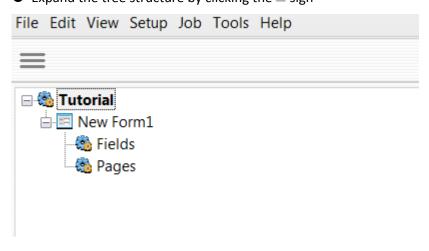


### 4.3. Defining the Form

Right click on the system name or click the Add Form button

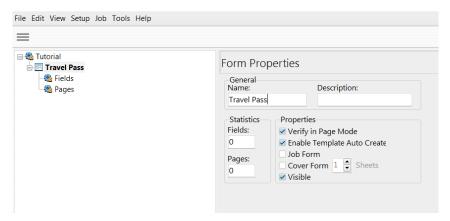


**②** Expand the tree structure by clicking the **⊞** sign





3 Click on New Form1 then enter 'TravelPass' as the name of the Form

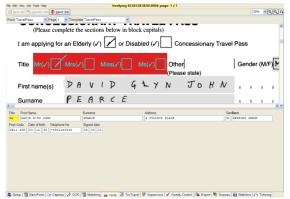


• Leave the Verify in Page Mode option ticked if you want verification to be done with image of full page displayed. Unticking this option means verification will be done in Field Mode which means seeing snippets of fields

This is how the Verify screen will look if:

Page Mode 'Verify in Page Mode' ticked





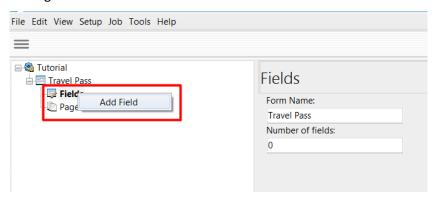




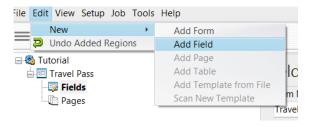
### 4.4. Defining the Fields

Once the Form is defined the next step is to define the fields. There are two ways to define fields. One way is to define the field first and later to draw the region on the image where the field is. The other way is to draw the region on the image first. In this section we will define the field first, in a later section we will define the region first and then the field.

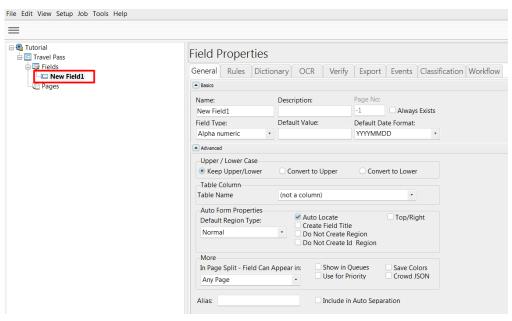
• Right click on the word Fields and click on Add Fields



⇒ You can also add fields from the menu Edit > New > Add Field



#### A New Field is created

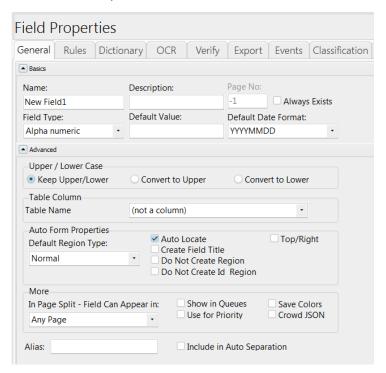




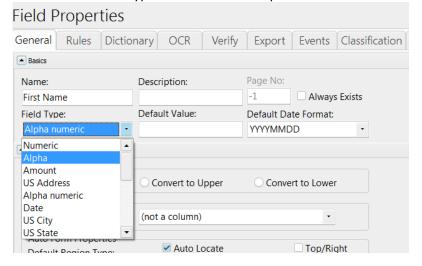
### 4.5. Defining the Field Properties

For each field we need to define the field properties which describe what values can be entered for the field and how the field will behave.

#### The General Properties

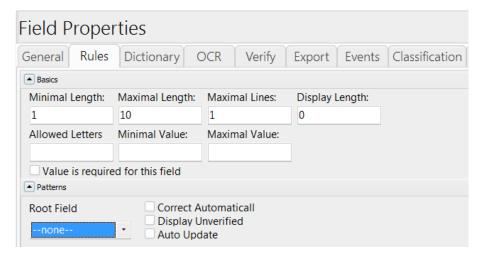


- Enter the field name e.g. First Name
- 2 Select the Field Type. In this case we expect the First Name to include only alpha characters





#### The Rules Properties

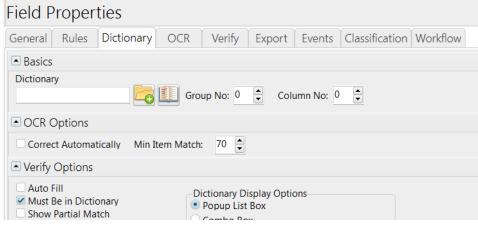


• Enter the minimum and maximum length expected for the field. E.g. if the First Name can be as short as 1 character and as long as 30 characters:



#### The Dictionary Properties

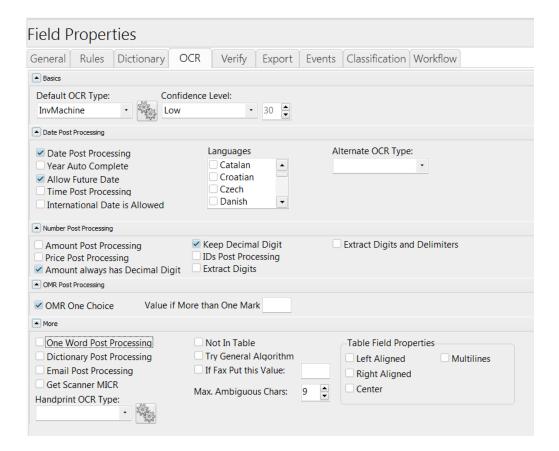
Dictionaries are used for fields which have a fixed set of possible values. Dictionaries greatly enhance the OCR results as the OCR will use the list of values to attain improved final results. The field First name is not a good contender for a dictionary since it does not have a fixed set of possible values. In this case we do not make changes in this tab





#### The OCR Properties

The OCR properties are used to select the OCR parameters and other options which can increase the OCR recognition.

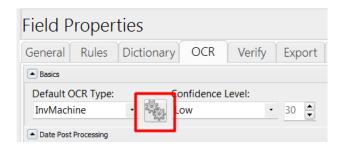


#### OCR Type

The OCR Type is a set of OCR settings that are saved together as a group of parameters called 'OCR Type' so that you can assign the same group of parameters to many fields.

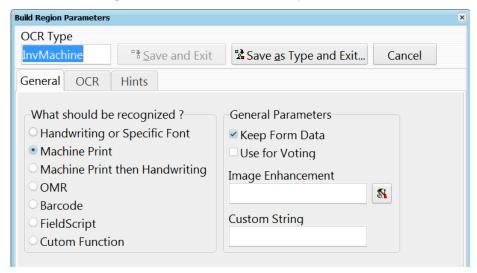
For example if you have many alpha numeric fields that are similar. You can create an appropriate OCR Type that is good for such fields and then assign this OCR Type to all alpha numeric fields.

• Click the icon next to the Default OCR Type field

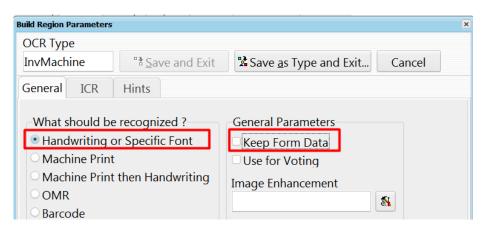




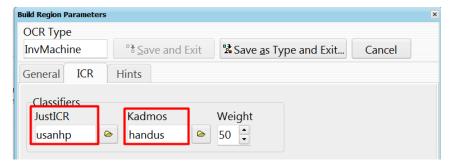
The OCR Build Region Parameters window will open



Select Handwriting as the type of writing expected in this field



- Make sure Keep Form Data is un-ticked. This is an advanced feature not required at this point
- © Click on the ICR tab and make sure the Classifiers JustICR and Kadmos fields are populated with usanhp and handus. If the fields are empty, click the Open File icon and select usanhp as the JustICR classifier and handus as the Kadmos classifier.



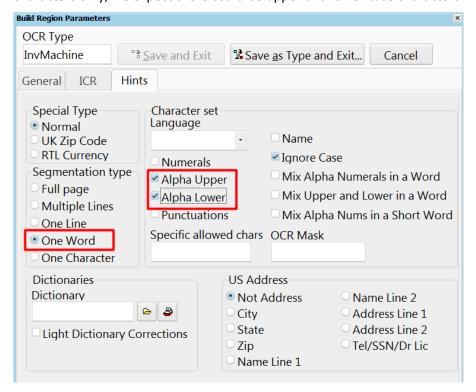
→ The Classifiers are sample files that the OCR engine uses.

Selecting different classifier files is explained in the User Guide

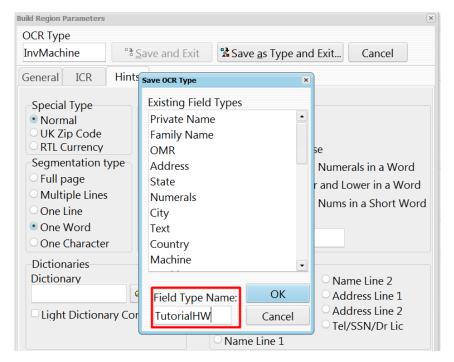


Creating a New System

• Click on the Hints tab and select the Segmentation Type. In our case we only expect this field to contain one word i.e. the First Name itself. Also select the characters expected, in our case it is a field with alpha characters only, we expect there could be upper and lower case characters



• Click Save as Type and Exit. Enter a name in the Field Type Name and click OK



□ It is recommended to create separate OCR Types for each system so that if changes are done to an OCR Type it does not affect other systems.

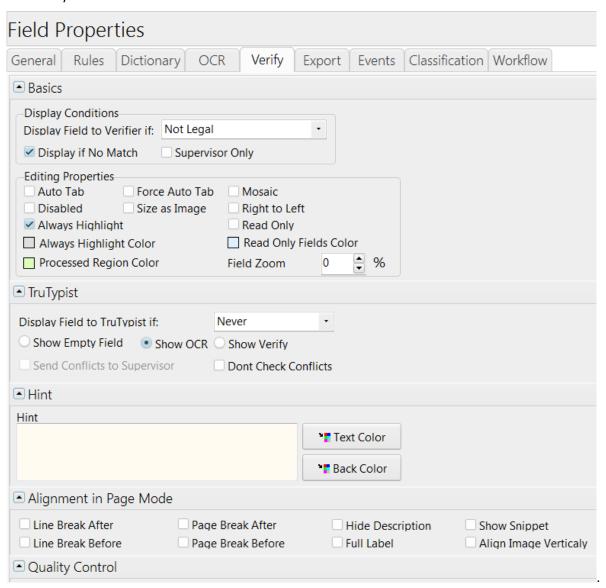


- It is recommended to give the OCR Type a name which includes the system name as well as the type of characters this OCR is used for e.g. in this case we named the OCR Type as System name 'Tutorial' followed by the type of field which is HandWriting hence TutorialHw
- Once you click OK the Default OCR Type field will show the OCR Type selected for this field



#### The Verify Properties

The Verify properties are used to define how the field will appear and behave in the verify station used for data entry.





• In Display Field to Verifier if: select Always



This field determines the conditions to determine if a field will be displayed to the Verifier during the verification process

Not Empty – display field if there is a value in this filed

**Not Legal** – display field if it breaks some rule and therefore has a value not allowed e.g. an alpha character in a numeric field

Always – field is always shown even if blank

Never – field is never displayed to the Verifier

Empty / illegal – display if field is empty or has an illegal value

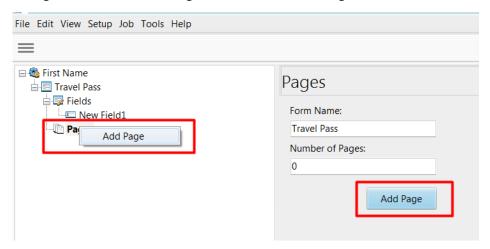
**Display Page** – display field only if page needs to be displayed for example if for a certain Form being processed, all fields are correct and there is no need to display any of them then this field is also not displayed



### 4.6. Defining the Page

A Form can include one or more pages.
For example, a duplex form will have 2 pages, the front and the back

• Right click on the word Pages or click on the Add Page button



② Click the ⊞ sign next to the word Pages to open up the tree structure

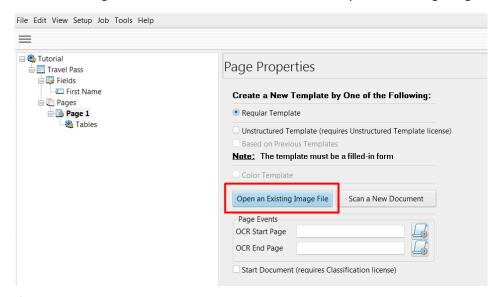




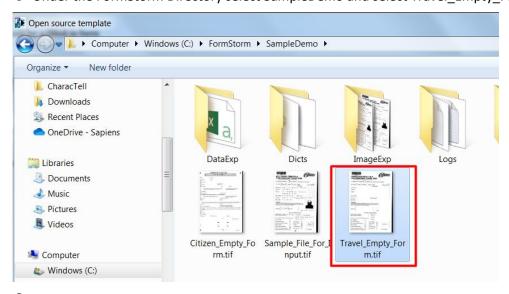
### 4.7. Creating the Template

Each page requires one or more templates. The template is simply an image of a blank form. FormStorm uses the templates to match the forms being processed so it can determine which form and which page it is processing

• Click on Page 1 on the left hand Pane and click the Open an Existing Image File button



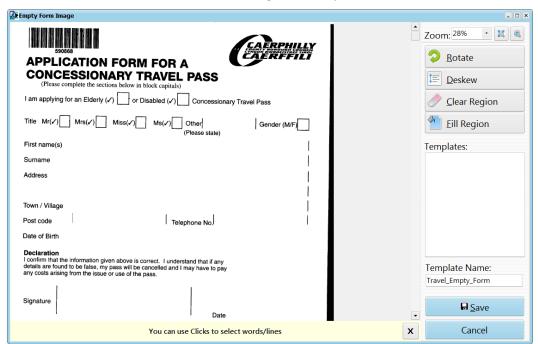
- → You can also select to scan a page by selecting the Scan a New Document button
- ② Under the FormStorm Directory select SampleDemo and select Travel\_Empty\_Form.tif and click Open



■ In this case we are simply using the blank image supplied with the SampleDemo system

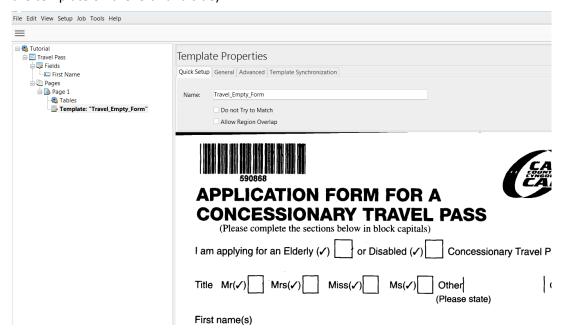


3 Click the Save button to confirm the image as a template



This window allows you to make some enhancements to the template before saving it

The Template Properties screen appears with the template image displayed (make sure you have selected the template on the left hand side)

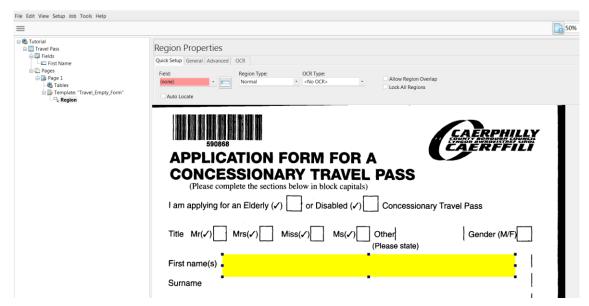




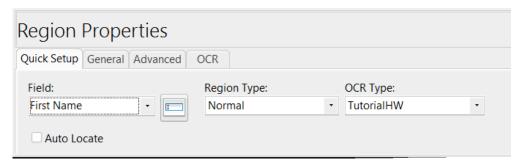
### 4.8. Creating the Template Regions

Regions are areas marked on the template which are assigned to fields. FormStorm then knows where the data for each field resides on the form

• Drag the mouse to draw a region corresponding to the area of the First Name



2 Select the field First Name to link the field to the region. The Region Type in this case is Normal and the OCR Type is the one we selected before in Field Properties OCR parameters



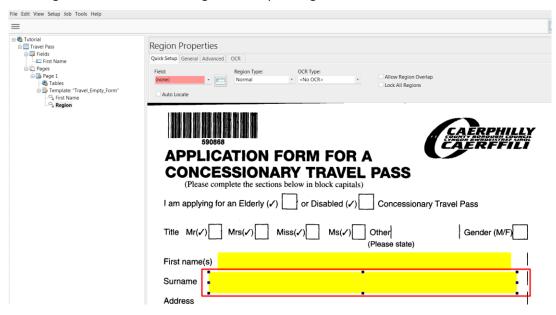
The First Name field and its associated region have now been defined.



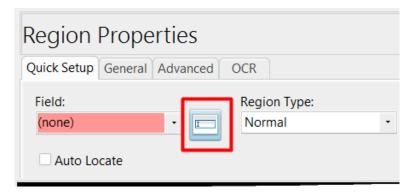
### 4.9. Alternate Way to Create Fields

In the previous example, a field was created then it was assigned to a region. There is another way to create regions and fields by creating the region first. The following example will show how this is done to define the Surname field

• Drag the mouse to draw a region corresponding to the area of the Surname

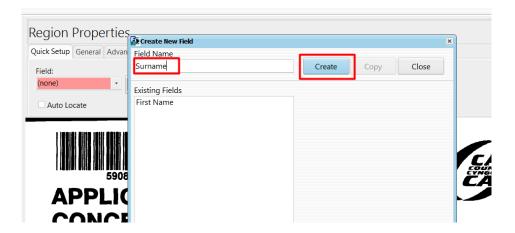


2 Click on the Field icon



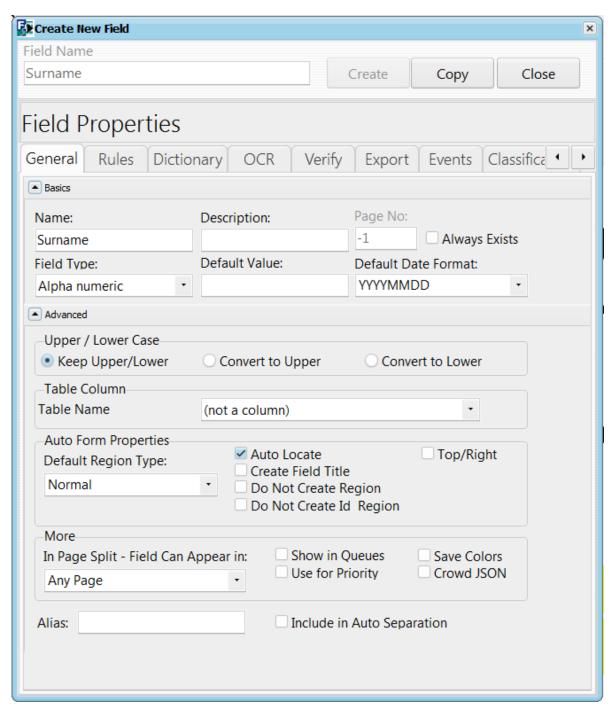


2 Enter the field name and click Create



The Create New Field window opens





■ The Create New Field window has exactly the same Field Properties tabs as before. Selecting the field properties is done in exactly the same way as before. Define all field properties and click Close when finished



# 5. Completing the System

You can now continue to define all the fields in the Form in the same manner, either defining the field first and then drawing the appropriate region for that field and linking the region to the field or creating the region first and then defining the field

You can log out of the Tutorial system and log back into the SampleDemo system to see how the other fields were defined

Once all fields are defined in the Setup you can process images in the Tutorial system to see the results.

In the SampleDemo directory you have some sample documents that can be used for processing. The file is called Sample\_File\_For\_input

