# C:\Users\stefano.maggi.CONBIPELSPA\Desktop\prom38.png

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**Procedure:** Show the at symbol on mobile device on screen keyboard

**Source:** [**LINK**](http://www.electrictoolbox.com/show-at-symbol-mobile-device-screen-keyboard/)

**Permalink:** [**LINK**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/show-the-at-symbol-on-mobile-device-on-screen-keyboard/)

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# [**Show the at symbol on mobile device on screen keyboard**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/show-the-at-symbol-on-mobile-device-on-screen-keyboard/)

If you’ve used a mobile device (e.g. **iPhone, iPad, Android** phone or tablet) to fill out webforms you’ll often find the @ symbol is present on the on-screen keyboard in email fields sometimes, but not always.

Use **type=”email”** instead of **type=”text”** in the input field and it should show the at symbol on the on-screen keyboard.

## **Input type=”email”**

Normally text input fields look something like this:

input type="text" ...

To make the field an email input field so that it has the at symbol on mobile devices on-screen keyboards, do this:

input type="email" ...

## **Other differences with a regular text input**

Depending on the browser and version you are using, there will also be client-sided validation of the email input to ensure it matches the following regular expression:

/^[a-zA-Z0-9.!#$%&’\*+/=?^\_`{|}~-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9-]+(?:\.[a-zA-Z0-9-]+)\*$/

If the field is not required it can be submitted blank; if it’s required or some text is entered into the input, the validation is done and the form won’t be submitted unless the address is valid. Web browsers that don’t support **type=”email”** will simply render the input as a normal text input.

## **Example screenshots from an iPhone**

The following screenshots are from an **iPhone** using the **iOS** simulator. The input field in the phone on the left has <**input type=”text”**> and the one on the right <**input type=”email”**>. As you can see, the on screen keyboard on the left has no **@** symbol whereas the one on the right does.



## **Browser compatibility**

As mentioned above, if the browser doesn’t support **type=”email”** it will treat the input as if it were **type=”text”**.

From my testing with the iOS Simulator, versions 4.3.2 and 5.1 will show the **@** symbol when it’s an email input, but don’t do the regular expression validation. I haven’t tested other versions.

When using either the LG keyboard or the Android one, it didn’t show the **@** symbol and in neither case did the validation.

If anyone knows of a compatibility table for this input type, please let us know and we can link to it from here.

## **Further reading**

The [input type=email page](http://www.w3.org/TR/html-markup/input.email.html) on the W3C website has a list of all the available properties for this element and a brief description of each.