

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](#) on the W3C website has a list of all the available properties for this element and a brief description of each.