



Forms

In HTML and Javascript

Overview

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- ▶ Form Structure
- ▶ Form Elements
- ▶ Form Action and Submit
- ▶ Form Examples
- ▶ Introduction to the use of JavaScript in Forms



Introduction to Forms

- ▶ Using simple HTML forms is a very slick way of receiving information from your visitors. You put a few boxes and buttons on your page, they enter in their details and you receive them through email brilliant!
- ▶ HTML Forms are used to select different kinds of user input in an area that can contain form elements.



Introduction to Forms

- ▶ Form elements are elements that allow the user to enter information such as:
 - ▶ text fields,
 - ▶ textarea fields,
 - ▶ drop-down menus,
 - ▶ radio buttons,
 - ▶ checkboxes



Form Structure

- ▶ A form is defined with the `<form>` tag.

```
<form>
```

```
    <input>
```

```
    <input>
```

```
</form>
```

- ▶ An example of a form structure would be:



Form Structure

- ▶ An example of a form structure would be:

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>My Page</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <!-- Here goes HTML -->
    <form>
      <!-- Here goes form fields and HTML -->
    </form>
    <!-- Here goes HTML -->
  </body>
</html>
```



Form Structure

- ▶ To let the browser know where to send the content we add these properties to the `<form>` tag:

action=**address**
method=**post** or method=**get**

- ▶ The address is the URL of the **CGI** script the content should be sent to. The post and get methods are simply two different methods for submitting data to the script.
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Form Structure

- ▶ What is a CGI script?

When your form is submitted you need a program that can receive the information and do something with it.

Such programs are sometimes referred to as: CGI programs.



Form Structure

- ▶ CGI stands for **Common Gateway Interface**, which is computer latin for a program that translates information. This translation is necessary because the server might be a UNIX machine while the visitor might be sending information from a Windows platform.
 - ▶ Windows and UNIX handle information differently - so if there were no CGI, then UNIX machines could only communicate with other UNIX machines etc. and that is pretty far from the basic idea of the world wide web.
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Form Elements

- ▶ **Fields can be added to your forms such as**
 - ▶ text,
 - ▶ password field,
 - ▶ hidden field, text area,
 - ▶ checkbox,
 - ▶ radio button,
 - ▶ drop down menu,
 - ▶ submit button,
 - ▶ reset button,
 - ▶ image button



Form Elements

- ▶ Text Entry Field allows the user to input text.
Settings for text field include:
 - ▶ Size
 - ▶ Max length
 - ▶ Name
 - ▶ Value
 - ▶ Align
 - ▶ Tab index
- ▶ Not all setting values are necessarily inserted.



Form Elements

▶ Example of a Text Entry Field in HTML

```
▶ <html>
  <head>
    <title>My Page</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <form name="myform"
      action="http://www.mydomain.com/myformhandler.cgi"
      method="POST">
  <div align="center">
    <br><br>
    <input type="text" size="25" value="Enter your name
      here!">
    <br><br>
  </div>
</form>
</body>
▶ </html>
```

Form Elements

- ▶ Example of a Radio Button Field in HTML
- ▶ Radio Buttons are used when you want the user to select **one** of a limited number of choices.

```
<form>  
<input type="radio" name="sex" value="male">  
  Male <br>  
<input type="radio" name="sex"  
  value="female"> Female  
</form>
```



Form Elements

- ▶ Example of a Check Box Field in HTML
- ▶ Checkboxes are used when you want the user to select **one** or **more** options of a limited number of choices.

```
<form>
```

```
I have a bike: <input type="checkbox"
name="vehicle" value="Bike" /> <br />
```

```
I have a car: <input type="checkbox"
name="vehicle" value="Car" /> <br />
```

```
I have an airplane: <input type="checkbox"
name="vehicle" value="Airplane" />
```

```
</form>
```



Form Action and Submit

- ▶ When the user clicks on the **Submit** button, the content of the form is sent to another file. The form's action attribute defines the name of the file to send the content to. The file defined in the action attribute usually does something with the received input.
- ▶ There are two methods of receiving feedback. There is the **post** method and the **get** method.



Form Action and Submit

▶ The **post** method

```
<form name="feedback"
  method="post"  action="mailto:you@site.com">
  <!-- Form elements will go in here -->
</form>
```

▶ The **get** method

```
<form name="input"
  action="html_form_action.asp" method="get">
Username: <input type="text" name="user">
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

