**HTML Forms**

An HTML form is used to collect user input. The user input is most often sent to a server for processing.

<html>

<body>

<h2>HTML Forms</h2>

<form action=" " method=”post”>

<label for="fname">First name:</label><br>

<input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>

<label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>

<input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" <br><br>

<input type="submit" value="Submit">

</form>

</body>

</html>

**The <input> Element**

The HTML <input> element is the most used form element.

An <input> element can be displayed in many ways, depending on the type attribute.

Type Description

<input type="text"> Displays a single-line text input field

<input type="radio"> Displays a radio button (for selecting one of many choices)

<input type="checkbox"> Displays a checkbox (for selecting zero or more of many choices)

<input type="submit"> Displays a submit button (for submitting the form)

<input type="button"> Displays a clickable button

**The <label> Element**

The <label> tag defines a label for many form elements. The for attribute of the <label> tag should be equal to the id attribute of the <input> element to bind them together.

Radio Buttons

The <input type="radio"> defines a radio button.

Radio buttons let a user select ONE of a limited number of choices.

<form>

  <input type="radio" id="html" name="fav\_language" value="HTML">

  <label for="html">HTML</label><br>

  <input type="radio" id="css" name="fav\_language" value="CSS">

  <label for="css">CSS</label><br>

  <input type="radio" id="javascript" name="fav\_language" value="JavaScript">

  <label for="javascript">JavaScript</label>

</form>

**Checkboxes**

The <input type="checkbox"> defines a **checkbox**.

Checkboxes let a user select ZERO or MORE options of a limited number of choices.

<form>  
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle1" name="vehicle1" value="Bike">  
  <label for="vehicle1"> I have a bike</label><br>  
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle2" name="vehicle2" value="Car">  
  <label for="vehicle2"> I have a car</label><br>  
  <input type="checkbox" id="vehicle3" name="vehicle3" value="Boat">  
  <label for="vehicle3"> I have a boat</label>  
</form>

**The Submit Button**

The <input type="submit"> defines a button for submitting the form data to a form-handler.

<form action=" ">  
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>  
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname" value="John"><br>  
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label><br>  
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lname" value="Doe"><br><br>  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>

The Name Attribute for <input>

Notice that each input field must have a name attribute to be submitted.

If the name attribute is omitted, the value of the input field will not be sent at all.

<form action=" ">  
  <label for="fname">First name:</label><br>  
  <input type="text" id="fname" value="John"><br><br>  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>

**HTML Form Attributes**

The Action Attribute

The action attribute defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.

Usually, the form data is sent to a file on the server when the user clicks on the submit button.

The Target Attribute

The target attribute specifies where to display the response that is received after submitting the form.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

Value Description

\_blank The response is displayed in a new window or tab

\_self The response is displayed in the current window

\_parent The response is displayed in the parent frame

\_top The response is displayed in the full body of the window

framename The response is displayed in a named iframe

The default value is \_self which means that the response will open in the current window.

The Method Attribute

The method attribute specifies the HTTP method to be used when submitting the form data.

The form-data can be sent as URL variables (with method="get") or as HTTP post transaction (with method="post").

The default HTTP method when submitting form data is GET.

**Notes on GET:**

* Appends the form data to the URL, in name/value pairs
* NEVER use GET to send sensitive data! (the submitted form data is visible in the URL!)
* The length of a URL is limited (2048 characters)
* Useful for form submissions where a user wants to bookmark the result
* GET is good for non-secure data, like query strings in Google

**Notes on POST:**

* Appends the form data inside the body of the HTTP request (the submitted form data is not shown in the URL)
* POST has no size limitations, and can be used to send large amounts of data.
* Form submissions with POST cannot be bookmarked