Button Types

There are three types of buttons:

- `submit` — Submits the current form data. (This is default.)
- `reset` — Resets data in the current form.
- `button` — Just a button. Its effects must be controlled by something else (that is, with JavaScript).

It used to be the case that buttons primarily appeared in the context of forms, where the default `submit` behavior made perfect sense. Today, it is common to see buttons in all sorts of in-browser app contexts, and so it isn't always clear at first glance at the markup. Therefore, it is a good practice to *always* declare the `type` of a button explicitly.

Difference between `<button type="submit">` and `<input type="submit">`

Both `<button type="submit">` and `<input type="submit">` display as buttons and cause the form data to be submitted to the server.

The difference is that `<button>` can have content, whereas `<input>` cannot (it is a null element). While the button-text of an `<input>` can be specified, you cannot add markup to the text or insert a picture. So `<button>` has a wider array of display options.

There are some problems with `<button>` on older, non-standard browsers (such as Internet Explorer 6), but the vast majority of users today will not encounter them.