HTML Forms

HTML Forms are required, when you want to collect some data from the site visitor. For example, during user registration you would like to collect information such as name, email address, credit card, etc.
There are various form elements available like text fields, textarea fields, drop-down menus, radio buttons, checkboxes, etc.

The HTML **<form>** tag is used to create an HTML form and it has following syntax −

The <form> Element

The HTML `<form>` element is used to create an HTML form for user input:

<form>

.

form elements

.

</form>

The `<form>` element is a container for different types of input elements, such as: text fields, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, etc.

The HTML <form> Elements

The HTML `<form>` element can contain one or more of the following form elements:

- `<input>`
- `<label>`
- `<select>`
- `<textarea>`
- `<button>`
- `<fieldset>`
- `<legend>`
- `<datalist>`
- `<output>`
- `<option>`
- `<optgroup>`

The <input> Element

One of the most used form elements is the `<input>` element.

The `<input>` element can be displayed in several ways, depending on the `type` attribute.

Here are the different input types you can use in HTML:

- `<input type="button">`
- `<input type="checkbox">`
- `<input type="color">`
- `<input type="date">`
- `<input type="datetime-local">`
- `<input type="email">`
- `<input type="file">`
- `<input type="hidden">`
- `<input type="image">`
- `<input type="month">`
- `<input type="number">`
- `<input type="password">`
- `<input type="radio">`
- `<input type="range">`
- `<input type="reset">`
- `<input type="search">`
- `<input type="submit">`
- `<input type="tel">`
- `<input type="text">`
- `<input type="time">`
- `<input type="url">`
- `<input type="week">`

Tip: The default value of the `type` attribute is "text".

Here are some examples:

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

Notice the use of the `<label>` element in the example above.

The `<label>` tag defines a label for many form elements.

The `<label>` element is useful for screen-reader users, because the screen-reader will read out loud the label when the user focuses on the input element.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h2>The input Element</h2>

<form>
      <label for="name">Name:</label>
      <input type="text" name="name"><br><br>
      <label for="sex">Sex:</label>
      <input type="radio" name="sex" id="male" value="male">
      <label for="male">Male</label>
      <input type="radio" name="sex" id="female" value="female">
```

```html
        <label for="female">Female</label> <br><br>
        <label for="country">Country: </label>
        <select name="country" id="country">
        <option>Select an option</option>
        <option value="nepal">Nepal</option>
        <option value="usa">USA</option>
        <option value="australia">Australia</option>
        </select><br><br>
        <label for="message">Message:</label><br>
        <textarea name="message" id="message" cols="30" rows="4"></textarea><br><br>
        <input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" id="newsletter">
        <label for="newsletter">Subscribe?</label><br><br>
        <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>

</body>
</html>
```

Following is the list of attributes for <input> tag for creating text field.

Sr.No	Attribute & Description
1	**type** Indicates the type of input control and for text input control it will be set to **text**.
2	**name** Used to give a name to the control which is sent to the server to be recognized and get the value.
3	**value** This can be used to provide an initial value inside the control.
4	**size** Allows to specify the width of the text-input control in terms of characters.
5	**maxlength** Allows to specify the maximum number of characters a user can enter into the text box.

Input Type Password

`<input type="password">` defines a **password field**:

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="username">Username:</label><br>
  <input type="text" id="username" name="username"><br>
  <label for="pwd">Password:</label><br>
  <input type="password" id="pwd" name="pwd">
</form>
```

The characters in a password field are masked (shown as asterisks or circles).

Following is the list of attributes for <input> tag for creating password field.

Sr.No	Attribute & Description
1	**type** Indicates the type of input control and for password input control it will be set to **password**.
2	**name** Used to give a name to the control which is sent to the server to be recognized and get the value.
3	**value** This can be used to provide an initial value inside the control.
4	**size** Allows to specify the width of the text-input control in terms of characters.
5	**maxlength** Allows to specify the maximum number of characters a user can enter into the text box.

Input Type Submit

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

The form-handler is typically a server page with a script for processing input data.

The form-handler is specified in the form's `action` attribute:

Example

```
<form>
 <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>
```

If you omit the submit button's value attribute, the button will get a default text:

Example

```
<form>
 <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">
</form>
```

Input Type Reset

`<input type="reset">` defines a **reset button** that will reset all form values to their default values:

Example

```
<form>
 <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">
 <input type="reset" value="Reset">
```

```
</form>
```

This is how the HTML code above will be displayed in a browser:

First name:

Last name:

If you change the input values and then click the "Reset" button, the form-data will be reset to the default values.

Input Type Radio

`<input type="radio">` defines a **radio button**.

Radio buttons let a user select ONLY ONE of a limited number of choices:

Example

```html
<p>Choose your favorite Web language:</p>

<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>
```

Input Type Checkbox

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

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

Example
```html
<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>
```

Input Type Button

`<input type="button">` defines a **button**:

Example
```
<input type="button" onclick="alert('Hello World!')" value="Click Me!">
```

Input Type Color

The `<input type="color">` is used for input fields that should contain a color.

Depending on browser support, a color picker can show up in the input field.

Example
```
<form>
  <label for="favcolor">Select your favorite color:</label>
  <input type="color" id="favcolor" name="favcolor">
</form>
```

Input Type Date

The `<input type="date">` is used for input fields that should contain a date.

Depending on browser support, a date picker can show up in the input field.

Example
```
<form>
  <label for="birthday">Birthday:</label>
  <input type="date" id="birthday" name="birthday">
</form>
```

You can also use the `min` and `max` attributes to add restrictions to dates:

Example
```
<form>
  <label for="datemax">Enter a date before 1980-01-01:</label>
  <input type="date" id="datemax" name="datemax" max="1979-12-31"><br><br>
```

```
  <label for="datemin">Enter a date after 2000-01-01:</label>
  <input type="date" id="datemin" name="datemin" min="2000-01-02">
</form>
```

Input Type Datetime-local

The `<input type="datetime-local">` specifies a date and time input field, with no time zone.

Depending on browser support, a date picker can show up in the input field.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="birthdaytime">Birthday (date and time):</label>
  <input type="datetime-local" id="birthdaytime" name="birthdaytime">
</form>
```

Input Type Email

The `<input type="email">` is used for input fields that should contain an e-mail address.

Depending on browser support, the e-mail address can be automatically validated when submitted.

Some smartphones recognize the email type, and add ".com" to the keyboard to match email input.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="email">Enter your email:</label>
  <input type="email" id="email" name="email">
</form>
```

Input Type Image

The `<input type="image">` defines an image as a submit button.

The path to the image is specified in the `src` attribute.

Example

```
<form>
```

```
<input type="image" src="img_submit.gif" alt="Submit" width="48" height="48">
</form>
```

Input Type File

The `<input type="file">` defines a file-select field and a "Browse" button for file uploads.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="myfile">Select a file:</label>
  <input type="file" id="myfile" name="myfile">
</form>
```

Input Type Hidden

The `<input type="hidden">` defines a hidden input field (not visible to a user).

A hidden field lets web developers include data that cannot be seen or modified by users when a form is submitted.

A hidden field often stores what database record that needs to be updated when the form is submitted.

Note: While the value is not displayed to the user in the page's content, it is visible (and can be edited) using any browser's developer tools or "View Source" functionality. Do not use hidden inputs as a form of security!

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="fname">First name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname"><br><br>
  <input type="hidden" id="custId" name="custId" value="3487">
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

Input Type Month

The `<input type="month">` allows the user to select a month and year.

Depending on browser support, a date picker can show up in the input field.

Example

```
<form>
 <label for="bdaymonth">Birthday (month and year):</label>
 <input type="month" id="bdaymonth" name="bdaymonth">
</form>
```

Input Type Number

The `<input type="number">` defines a **numeric** input field.

You can also set restrictions on what numbers are accepted.

The following example displays a numeric input field, where you can enter a value from 1 to 5:

Example

```
<form>
 <label for="quantity">Quantity (between 1 and 5):</label>
 <input type="number" id="quantity" name="quantity" min="1" max="5">
</form>
```

Input Restrictions

Here is a list of some common input restrictions:

Attribute	Description
checked	Specifies that an input field should be pre-selected when the page loads (for type="checkbox" or type="radio")
disabled	Specifies that an input field should be disabled
max	Specifies the maximum value for an input field
maxlength	Specifies the maximum number of character for an input field
min	Specifies the minimum value for an input field
pattern	Specifies a regular expression to check the input value against
readonly	Specifies that an input field is read only (cannot be changed)
required	Specifies that an input field is required (must be filled out)
size	Specifies the width (in characters) of an input field
step	Specifies the legal number intervals for an input field

value   Specifies the default value for an input field

You will learn more about input restrictions in the next chapter.

The following example displays a numeric input field, where you can enter a value from 0 to 100, in steps of 10. The default value is 30:

Example

```html
<form>
  <label for="quantity">Quantity:</label>
  <input type="number" id="quantity" name="quantity" min="0" max="100" step="10" value="30">
</form>
```

Input Type Range

The `<input type="range">` defines a control for entering a number whose exact value is not important (like a slider control). Default range is 0 to 100. However, you can set restrictions on what numbers are accepted with the `min`, `max`, and `step` attributes:

Example

```html
<form>
  <label for="vol">Volume (between 0 and 50):</label>
  <input type="range" id="vol" name="vol" min="0" max="50">
</form>
```

Input Type Search

The `<input type="search">` is used for search fields (a search field behaves like a regular text field).

Example

```html
<form>
  <label for="gsearch">Search Google:</label>
  <input type="search" id="gsearch" name="gsearch">
</form>
```

Input Type Tel

The `<input type="tel">` is used for input fields that should contain a telephone number.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="phone">Enter your phone number:</label>
  <input type="tel" id="phone" name="phone" pattern="[0-9]{3}-[0-9]{2}-[0-9]{3}">
</form>
```

Input Type Time

The `<input type="time">` allows the user to select a time (no time zone).

Depending on browser support, a time picker can show up in the input field.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="appt">Select a time:</label>
  <input type="time" id="appt" name="appt">
</form>
```

Input Type Url

The `<input type="url">` is used for input fields that should contain a URL address.

Depending on browser support, the url field can be automatically validated when submitted.

Some smartphones recognize the url type, and adds ".com" to the keyboard to match url input.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="homepage">Add your homepage:</label>
  <input type="url" id="homepage" name="homepage">
</form>
```

Input Type Week

The `<input type="week">` allows the user to select a week and year.

Depending on browser support, a date picker can show up in the input field.

Example

```
<form>
  <label for="week">Select a week:</label>
```

```html
  <input type="week" id="week" name="week">
</form>
```