4COSCO11C.2 Web Design and Development

HTML Forms
Week 4





Form filling

- It is possible to create forms as Web Pages, to request a user to enter some information.
- When he/she has finished filling in the form, the entered data can be sent to a server-side script or to someone by email for processing.
- The scripts resides and runs on the machine running the web server from which web pages are delivered.
- A form is introduced by the tag <form> and terminated by the inverse tag </form>.



HTML <form>

• The attributes of the <form> tag include:

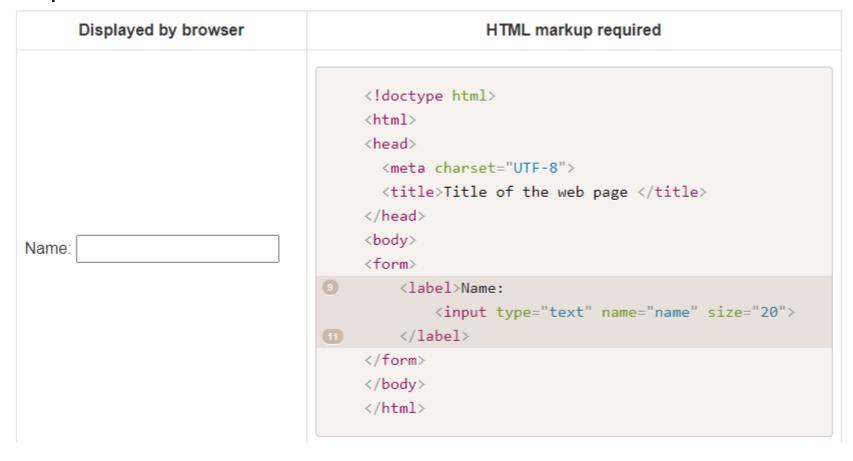
form attribute	Description
<pre>action="http://host/cgi- bin/script_name"</pre>	After the form has been filled in, the entered data is sent to the named (by the action attribute) server-side script for processing.
action="mailto:name@site"	After the form has been filled in, the entered data is sent to the named (by the ACTION attribute) person by email.
method="get"	The browser tacks the query string onto the end of the script's URL, and fetches it from the HTTP server using the usual get request. Fill in the box below, hit return and check out our browser location window: Name:
method="post"	The browser uses the post method to submit the content of the form to the server. In this mode, the HTTP server opens up a communication channel between the browser and the executable script, and the browser sends the query string directly.

- Review Question which is the default method?
- Please note: server-side scripts will be covered next year.



Text Input

A form to request the user to enter some text is shown below.





Contd

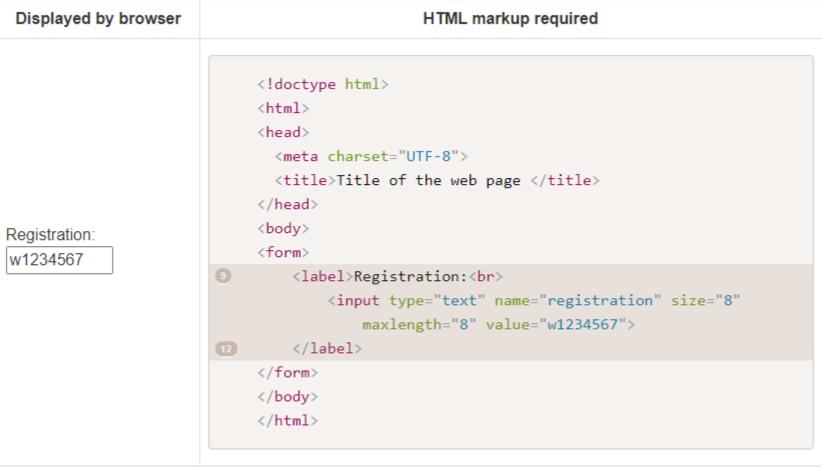
• The data in the input field can be initialized to a particular value using the value attribute:





Contd

• It is also possible to specify the **maximum length** for a text to be entered:





<Input> tag attributes

input attribute	Description
type="text"	Defines a one line text input field
name="registration"	Names the argument which is sent
value="w1234567"	The value of the argument.
size="8"	The width of the input area.
maxlength="8"	The maximum number of characters which can be entered in the field.

In sending the data there are various character mappings of the input data to ease later processing. For example:

Input Character	Sent
space	+
	%3D
Line Feed	%0A
%	%25
&	%38
Carriage Return	%0D



Labels

- The <label> element represents a caption for the form element it is associated with. The <label> can also add as an accessibility aid to forms:
 - they can widen the element clickable area
 - they help screen readers identify fields on a web page



Implicit Labels

• Implicit labels are wrapped around a form control. Implicit labels are not well suported in older screen readers, and are harder to style with CSS





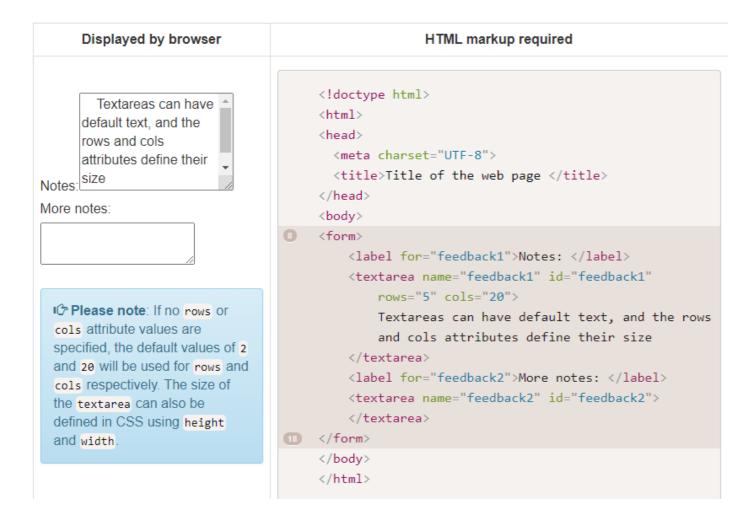
Explicit Labels

- Explicit labels are separate from the form control, and linked to their form control via the for attribute.
- The for attribute of the label has to match the id attribute of the form control it is linked to.
- Explicit labels are well supported by screen readers and are easy to style using CSS. We will be using explicit labels in the notes.





Multiple lines of text input - Textarea

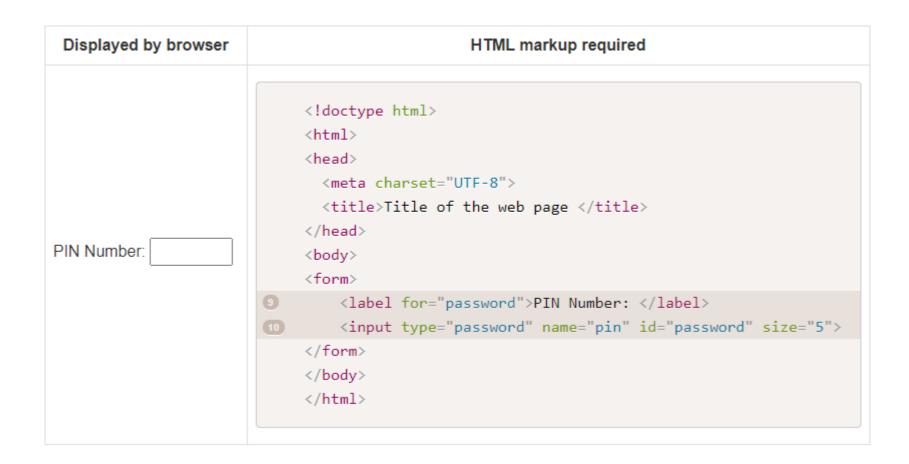


The attributes of the <textarea> tag include:

input attribute	
name="feedback"	Specifies a name for the parameter to
rows="5"	Defines the number of rows visible (b
cols="30"	Defines the number of columns visible



Password





Radio Buttons

```
Displayed by browser
                                                HTML markup required
                        <form>
                             <input type="radio" name="delivery" id="am" value="am">
                             <label for="am">Morning</label>
Morning
                             <input type="radio" name="delivery" id="pm" value="pm">

    Afternoon

                             <label for="pm">Afternoon</label>

    Evening

                             <input type="radio" name="delivery" id="eve" value="eve">
                             <label for="eve">Evening</label>
                        </form>
```

Review Question: Radio buttons allow only one selection per group. How do we create a group of radio buttons?

Contd

The optional attribute checked can be added to one of the input type="radio" tags to set a default selection. For example:

Displayed by browser	HTML markup required
MorningAfternoonEvening	<pre> <form> <input <="" id="amDelivery" name="delivery" td="" type="radio"/></form></pre>



Checkboxes

Displayed by browser	HTML markup required
Drink: ☑ Coffee ☑ Cappuccino ☐ Chocolate	<pre>com> complete type="checkbox" name="drink" id="coffee"</pre>



Pop up List

A form to allow the user to select **an item** from a pop-up list uses the <select> tag. An example of a pop-up list is shown below:



The <select> tag encloses the tag:

<option></option>

Which names a value in the pop-up list.

The <option> tag may have an attribute of selected to define the initial value of the pop-up list.



Scrolling List

• A form to allow the user to **select one or more item** from a list uses the <select> tag with the multiple attribute.



The optional size attribute defines the size of the displayed list. If the specified size is smaller than the number of option items, a vertical scroll bar will automatically be displayed, to allow the user to view all the different items. If multiple is used and no size is specified, the default size is usually 4 (or will automatically fit the number of items in the option list).

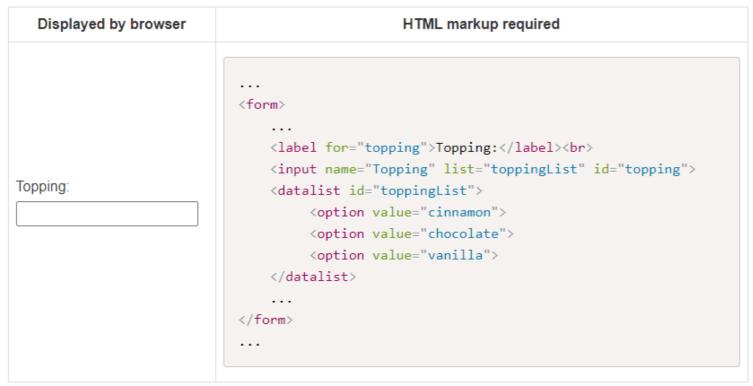


Data List

I Please note how the input is linked to the datalist via the list attribute which matches the id of the datalist.

datalist is an HTML5 element.

- IC Please also note how the option elements in the datalist do not require a closing tag.
- The datalist represents a list of options available for its parent element.
- The datalist can be paired up with an <input type="text" list="idOfList">



Email input field

• email is an HTML5 input type.

• Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.

• If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the

type="text"





URL input

- URL is an HTML5 input type.
- Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.
- If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text





Tel input field

- Tel is an HTML5 input type.
- Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.
- If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text





Number input field

- number is an HTML5 input type.
- This input type is designed to let the user enter a number.
- Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.
- The browser may also display up and down arrows for the user to click on to increase and decrease the value entered.
- If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text"





Contc

The attributes of the <input type="number"> element include:

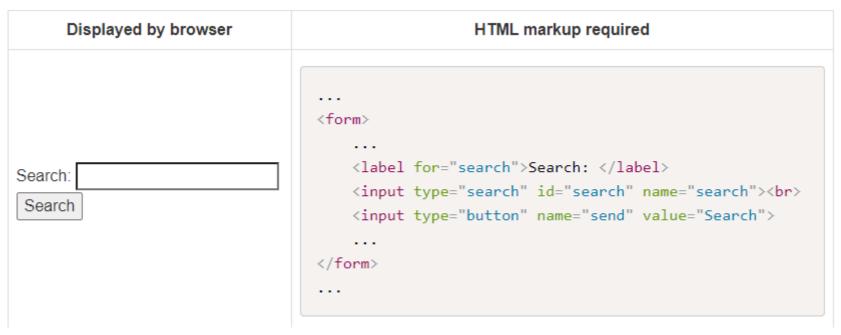
input attribute	Description
value="10"	Defines the default value
step=".1"	Defines the step between values and as a result defines valid values
min="0"	Defines the minimum value allowed
max="100"	Defines the maximum value allowed

Displayed by browser	HTML markup required
Multiples of 10: 10 Multiples of .1: Send	<pre> <form></form></pre>



Search Input field

- search is an HTML5 input type.
- This input type is designed to let the user enter a search query. Browsers that support this input type may style it differently from the text input and may automatically offer the possibility to clear the input field.
- If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text"

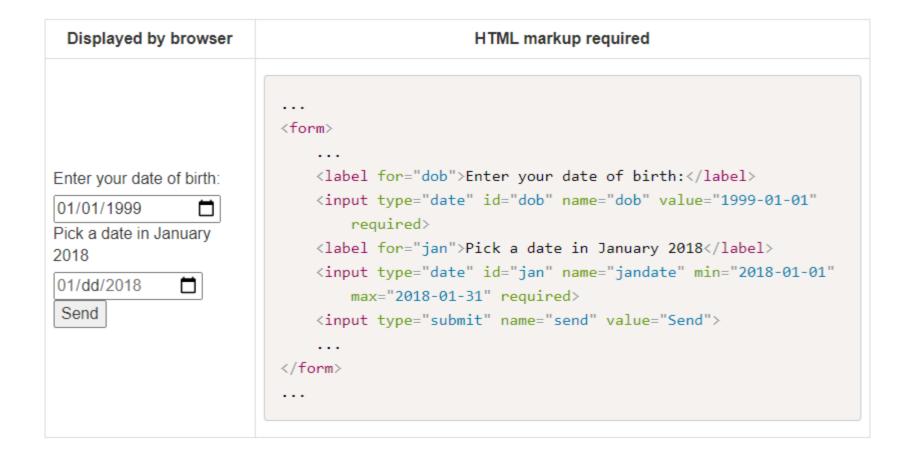


Date picker

- There are a number of attributes that will create a date picker using the input element:
- date is an HTML5 input type.
- This input type is designed to let the user enter a date. Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.
- The browser may also display a date picker. If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text".
- You can provide a default value in the format yyyy-mm-dd, and you may use min and max date values if you want to retrict the valid date.
- Current Browser Support for date and time input



Date

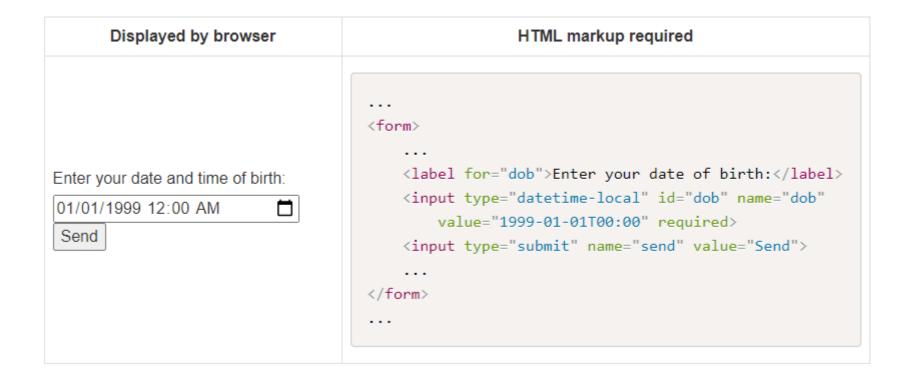


Datetime-local

- datetime-local is an HTML5 input type.
- This input type is designed to let the user enter a date and time in the user's local time zone.
- Browsers that support this input type will automatically check the validity of the format of the data entered and alert the user if the format is invalid.
- The browser may also display a date and time picker. If the browser doesn't support this input type, it will automatically fall back to the type="text".
- You can provide a default value in the format yyyy-mm-ddThh:mm, and you may use min and max date and time values if you want to restrict the valid date/time.



Datetime-local





Week

- week is an HTML5 input type.
- You can provide a default value in the format yyyy-Www, and you may use min and max date and time values if you want to restrict the valid week.





Range input fie

range is an HTML5 input type

You can use the min, max and step attributes to specify authorised values and define the granularity of the slider:

input attribute	Description
value="60"	Defines the default value
step="10"	Defines the step between values and as a result defines valid values. The default step value is 1
min="0"	Defines the minimum value allowed. The default min value is 0
max="100"	Defines the maximum value allowed. The default max value is 100





Color input field

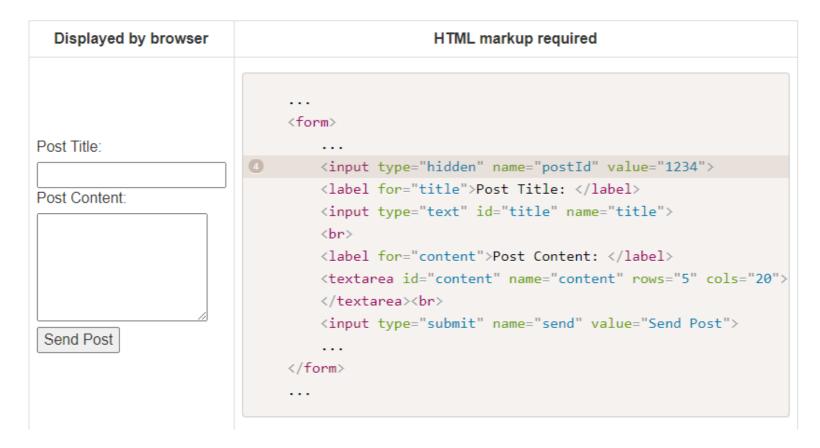
- color is an HTML5 input type.
- This input type is designed to let the user enter a color in hexadecimal format.
- Browsers that support this input type may style it differently from the text input and may automatically present a colour picker.
- If no default value is specified, the default #000000 is used.





Hidden field in a form

- Hidden fields are used to send parameters you don't want to appear in the displayed form.
- The name and value of the hidden field are incorporated into the parameter list sent, but do not have any visible counterpart on the form.



Buttons

- There are several ways to create a button on a form, and there are several types of buttons available.
- You can create a button by adding the type="button" attribute to the input element, or by using the button element.
- These two types of button will have no default behaviour, other than being a clickable button, and you will need to add some JavaScript to add event listeners to these buttons and add behaviour (for example calculating the total price of an order).
- Please see in the last section of this document for details on Submit buttons and Reset buttons.



Buttons

Useful attributes

Readonly

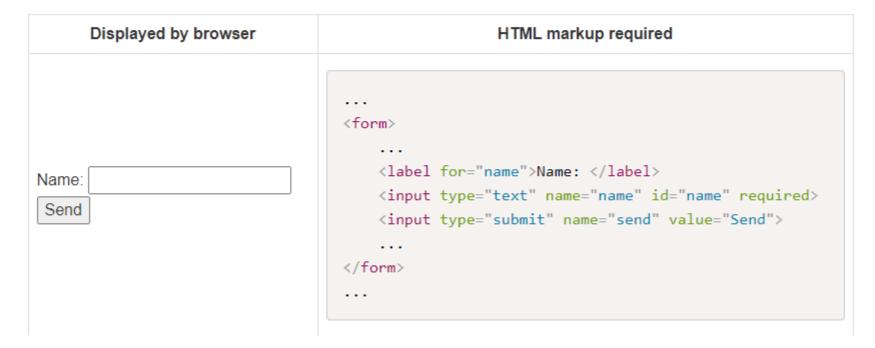
It is possible to make fields read only by adding the readonly attribute in the form element's tag.



Useful Attributes

Required

It is possible to make fields mandatory by adding the required attribute in the form element's tag. The browser may style the element differently to indicate that the field is mandatory.



Useful Attributes

Autofocus

It is possible to make fields be selected by default by adding the autofocus attribute in the form element's tag.

Displayed by browser	HTML markup required
Name:	<pre> <form> <label for="name">Name: </label></form></pre>



Useful Attributes

- It is possible to add a placeholder in the input field by adding the placeholder attribute and spacifying a value in the form element's tag.
- The advantage of the placeholder over a default value, is that the placeholder automatically disappears when the user starts entering text, and will be displayed again if the user deletes what they entered, hence the information is never lost, and never needs additional user interaction to be removed.





Fieldset and Legend

• The fieldset element togehter with its corresponding legend are used to group several form controls and labels together.

	<torm></torm>
	•••
	<fieldset></fieldset>
	<legend>Personal Details:</legend>
	<label for="name">Name:</label>
Personal Details:	<pre><input id="name" name="name" type="text"/> </pre>
	<label for="email">Email:</label>
Name:	<pre><input id="email" name="email" type="email"/></pre>
Email:	<fieldset></fieldset>
	<legend>My Interests:</legend>
	<pre><input <="" id="html" name="interests" pre="" type="checkbox"/></pre>
My Interests:	value="HTML" checked>
	<label for="html">HTML</label>
✓ HTML	<pre><input <="" id="javascript" name="interests" pre="" type="checkbox"/></pre>
□ JavaScript	value="JavaScript">
□css	<pre><label for="javascript">JavaScript</label> </pre>
	<pre><input <="" id="css" name="interests" pre="" type="checkbox"/></pre>
	value="CSS">
	<label for="css">CSS</label>



Reset

- The <input> tag with an attribute of type="reset" is used to reset the values in a form back to their default value.
- For example, the following form may be reset to its initial values by pressing the "reset" button.





Submit Button

• When a form contains a single entry field, the information is sent as soon as the user presses the "return" key.

• However, most forms will contain multiple form elements and therefore require a "submit button", generated by an additional tag <input type="submit"> to cause the submission of the

input data:

Displayed by browser	HTML markup required
First Name: Last Name: Send	html <html> <head></head></html>

Form submission

- When there are several elements in a form the data sent to the server-side script is composed of the individual elements concatenated together with an &.
- For example, when the Send button is pressed and the name Jane Smith is entered, then the following information will be sent: firstName=Jane&lastName=Smith&button=Send
- https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tryit.asp?filename=tryhtml_form_method

Please note: In order for all your form elements to be sent, you must make sure that all your elements are within the <form> and </form> tags. If your submit button is not within those tags, the filled in elements will not be sent and any element outside those tags will not be submitted either. Make sure that if all your elements are to be dealt with as a single form, you should only have one <form> tag to start the form and one </form> tag to end the form.



If you only want to style a specific input type, you can use attribute selectors:

- •input[type=text] will only select text fields
- •input[type=password] will only select password fields
- •input[type=number] will only select number fields
- •etc..

```
label {
   float:left;
   width:25%;
   margin-right:0.5em;
   padding-top:0.2em;
   text-align:right;
   font-weight:bold;
   }
fieldset {
   background-color : lightblue;
   padding: lem;
   font:80%/l sans-serif;
  }
```





Emailing the content of a form

- By adding the following attributes: method="post" action="mailto:Your e-mail address" enctype="text/plain" to your form element.
- When a user fills in and submits the form, the content of the form is posted to your e-mail address. Of course for this to work, the mail preferences must be set up in the users browser.

