Using HTML Forms

- **HTML forms**

- **How are they used?**

  - Use the browser's window as a data entry screen

  - Collect information from the user

  - Pass it to the web server via http

  - Invoke a server-side script

  - Passes **form data** as input to the script

- **`<form>` tag has several attributes – two are required**
- **ACTION**
  - `<form action="`http://URL`">` name of a program on the web server
    - URL specifies the location of the executable file on the web server
  - `<form action="`mailto:mailrecipient`">` sends an email
- **METHOD**
  - `<form method="POST" >` or `<form method="GET">`
    - **POST** when you have large amount of data being sent, encryption available, a two-step process
    - **GET** for small amounts, no security – all in one step

    `<form enctype=`
    - multipart/form-data (default)
    - text/plain (used only for mailto)

- **the <input> tag**

    – Specifies an input field on a form

- **type attribute – tells us what kind of control**

    – **text**

    – **radio**

    – **checkbox**

    – **submit button**

    – **reset button**

- **<form> examples**

- **Text Box**

```
<input type="text" name="Name" size="20" maxlength="30">
```

- **Radio Button(s)**

```
<input type="radio" name="Gender" value="M" /> Male
<input type="radio" name="Gender" value="F" /> Female
```

- **Check Box(es)**

```
<input type="checkbox" name= "size" value="S"
   checked="checked" />Small

<input type="checkbox" name="size" value="M" />Medium

<input type="checkbox" name="size" value="L" />Large

<input type="checkbox" name="size" value="XL" />X-Large
```

- **List Box**

```
<select name="Grade" size="3">

       <option>A

       <option>B

       <option>C

       <option>D

       <option>F

</select>
```

- **List Box via <select> tag**

  - **Size** attribute

    - When absent: you get a "drop down list", first item selected by default

    - When present: indicates the number of items in the list

  - **Selected** attribute: specifies selected item

  - **Multiple** attribute: when "yes", can click > 1

Using Forms

```
<input type="submit" />

<input type="reset" />


<textarea name="comments" cols="40" rows="8">
```