Processing Form Data

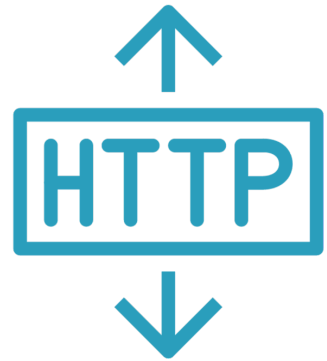**Christian Wenz**
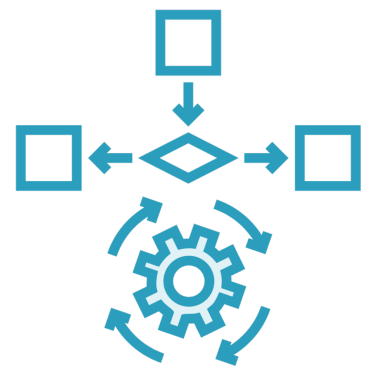Consultant, Software Architect

@chwenz

Form Data Workflow

Browser sends data to the server

PHP parses both GET and POST data

Superglobal $_GET and $_POST arrays are prefilled

Never trust user input!

```php
echo $_GET["q"];

echo htmlspecialchars($_GET["q"]);

echo htmlspecialchars($_GET["q"], ENT_QUOTES);

echo htmlspecialchars($_GET["q"] ?? "", ENT_QUOTES);
```

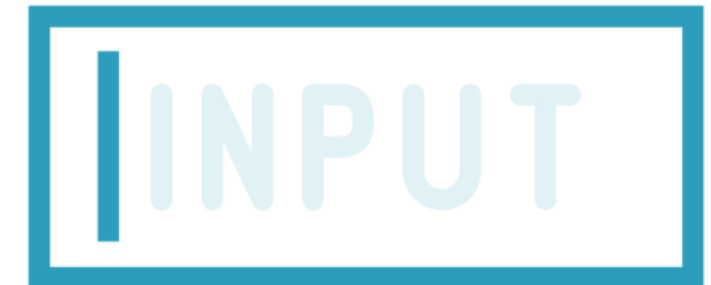# Preventing Cross-Site Scripting

Escape special characters of HTML

Text fields

```html
<input type="text">

<input type="password">

<textarea></textarea>
```

Check Boxes and Radio Buttons

```html
<input type="checkbox" value="on">

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option 1">1

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option 2">2
```

Selection Lists

```
<select>

    <option value="item 1">one</option>

    <option value="item 2">two</option>

    <option value="item 3">three</option>

</select>
```
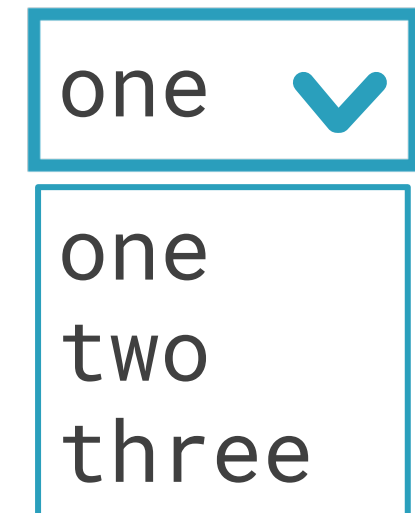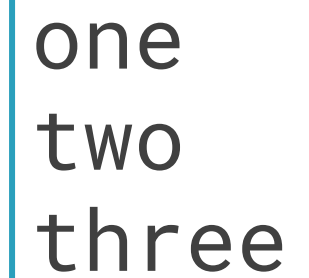
Multiple Selection Lists

```html
<select multiple name="list[]" size="3">

    <option value="item 1">one</option>

    <option value="item 2">two</option>

    <option value="item 3">three</option>

</select>
```

```
one
two
three
```
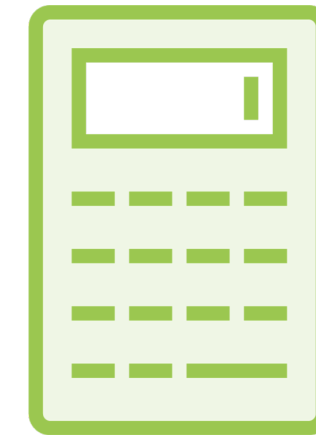
More Form Elements

Button

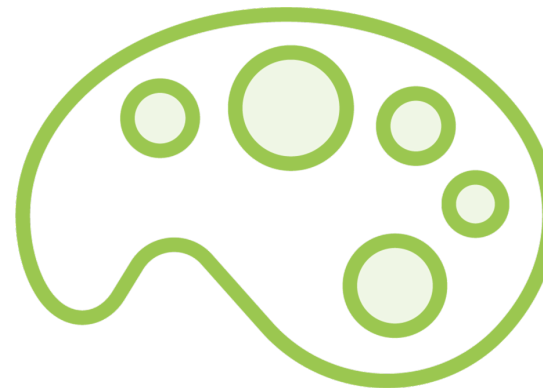Date information

Numbers

Range et al.

Color picker

File upload

Summary

Form data is put in $_GET/$_POST

Major edge case: multiple select lists