

# Web Programming

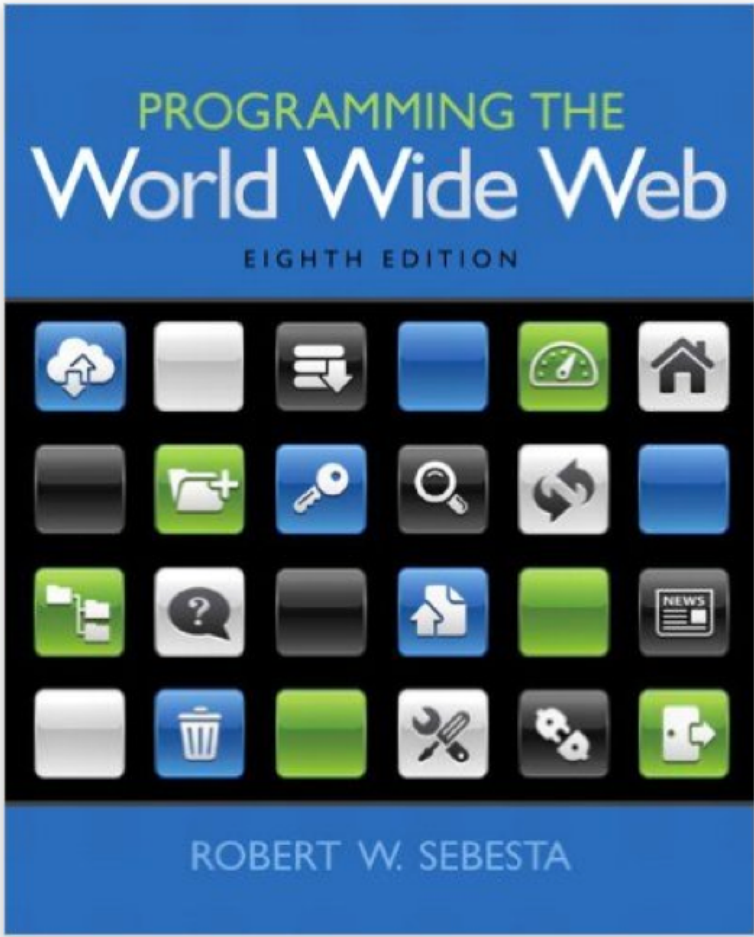
# **HTML Forms**

# Forms

- A group of UI controls that accepts information from the user and sends the information to a web server
- Today: how to make forms
- Sending and processing forms comes later

# Programming the World Wide Web (8th Edition) 8th Edition

by [Robert W. Sebesta](#) (Author)  
★★★★☆ 4 customer reviews



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What's on your mind?



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Post

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Create a password

Use at least one lowercase letter, one numeral, and seven characters.

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# Form

- In between **<form>** and **</form>**
  - **action** is the address where the form is sent
    - required attribute, but can be set empty

```
<form action="">
```

```
</form>
```

# The input element

- **<input>** is used for several different types of controls (text, password, radio, checkbox)
- Obligatory attributes
  - **type** — determines the type of control (text, checkbox, radio, etc.)
  - **name** — to identify the form control uniquely (sent back to the server when the form is submitted)
- There are additional optional attributes depending on the type

# Text input

- `<input type="text" name="..." />`
- Attributes
  - **size** — width in terms of characters
  - **maxlength** — maximum number of characters the user may enter
  - **value** — sets the default (initial) value for the field

Zip code: `<input type="text" name="zip" maxlength="4" />`

Zip code:

# Password input

- `<input type="password" name="..." />`
- Attributes
  - **size** — width in terms of characters
  - **maxlength** — maximum number of characters the user may enter
  - **value** — sets the default (initial) value for the field
- Password is hidden only on the screen, it is not sent securely to the server (!)

Password: `<input type="password" name="pw" />`

Password:



# Number input

- `<input type="number" name="..." />`
- Attributes
  - **size** — width
  - **min** — minimum value
  - **max** — maximum value
  - **step** — increments
  - **value** — sets the default (initial) value for the field

Quantity:

```
<input type="number" name="points" size="3" min="0" max="100" step="10" value="30">
```

Quantity:



# Radio button

- Let the user select **only one** of a limited number of choices
- **<input type="radio" name="..." value="..." />**
  - Each option should have the same **name**
  - Value of value is sent to the server for the selected option
  - **checked** indicates which option should be selected initially

Preference:

```
<input type="radio" name="pref" value="male" /> Male
```

```
<input type="radio" name="pref" value="female" /> Female
```

Preference: ☐ Male ☐ Female

# Checkbox

- Let the user select **zero or more** of a limited number of choices
- `<input type="checkbox" name="..." value="..." />`
  - Each option should have a different **name**
  - Value of **value** is sent to the server for the selected option
  - **checked** indicates if the option should be checked initially

Preference:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="pref1" value="male" /> Male  
<input type="checkbox" name="pref2" value="female" /> Female
```

Preference: ☐ Male ☐ Female

# Textarea

- `<textarea name="...">...</textarea>`
- Attributes
  - **cols** — width (measured in characters)
  - **rows** — height (number of rows)
- Closing tag is mandatory!
- Content of the tag is the initial input value

What do you think?

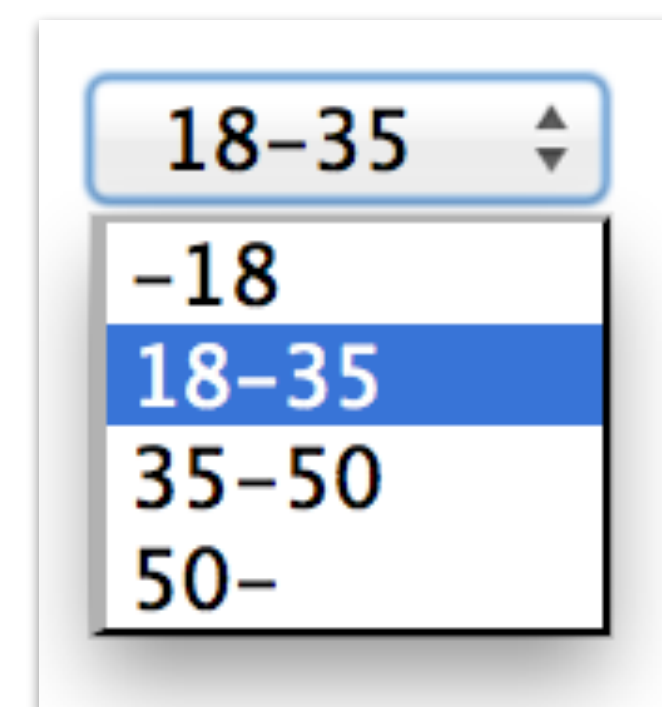
```
<textarea name="comment" cols="40" rows="3"></textarea>
```

What do you think?

# Dropdown list

- Let the user select a **single option** from a dropdown list
- `<select name="...">...</select>`
- Each option is `<option value="...">...</option>`
  - Value of value is sent to the server for the selected option
  - **selected** can be used to set the default option

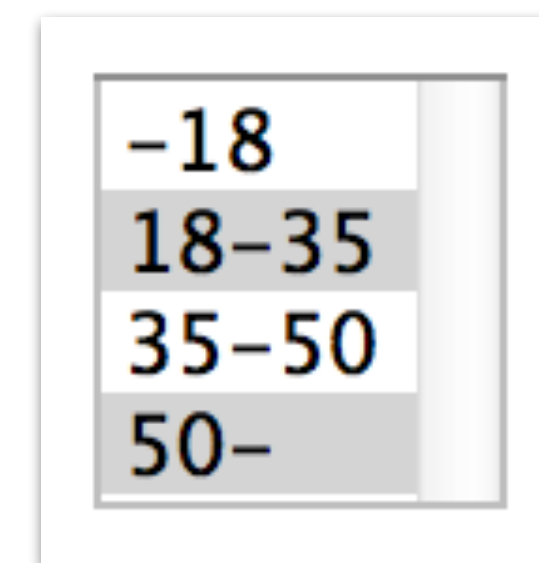
```
<select name="age">  
  <option value="1">-18</option>  
  <option value="2" selected>18-35</option>  
  <option value="3">35-50</option>  
  <option value="4">50-</option>  
</select>
```



# Multichoice select list

- Let the user select **multiple options** from a list
- **<select name="..." multiple>...</select>**
- Each option is **<option value="...">...</option>**
  - Value of value is sent to the server for the selected option
  - **selected** can be used to set the default selection(s)

```
<select name="age" multiple>
  <option value="1">-18</option>
  <option value="2" selected>18-35</option>
  <option value="3">35-50</option>
  <option value="4" selected>50-</option>
</select>
```



# Hidden form variables

- To pass on information that is not entered by the user
- Not shown on the page, but sent along to the server the same way as any other variable

```
<input type="hidden" name="secret" value="nosecret" />
```

# Global attributes

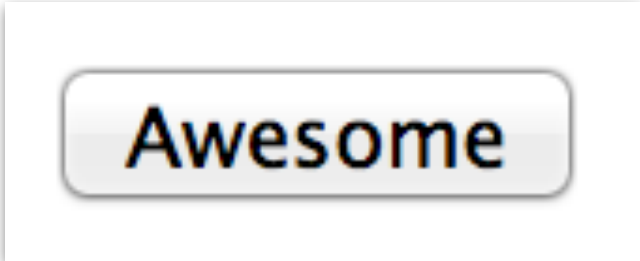
- **disabled** — the field is not usable, content cannot be copied from it
- **readonly** — the content cannot be changed, but a user can tab to the field and copy content from it

-  - **required** — the input field must be filled out before submitting the form

# Submit button

- `<input type="submit" />`
- Attributes
  - **value** — the text that appears on the button
  - **name** — name of the button

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

A rectangular button with rounded corners, a light gray background, and a thin gray border. The word "Awesome" is centered on the button in a dark gray, sans-serif font.



# Labeling form controls

- **<label>** can be used in two ways
  - Wrapped around both the text description and the form input

```
<label>Name: <input type="text" name="name" /></label>
```

- Kept separate from the form control and using the **for** attribute
  - The **for** attribute of the **<label>** tag should be equal to the **id** attribute of the related element to bind them together

```
<label for="name">Name</label>  
<input type="text" name="name" id="name" />
```

Name



# Placeholder text

- placeholder="..." — specifies a short hint that describes the expected value of an input field
  - The hint is displayed before the user enters a value into the field
  - Works for the following
    - input types: text, search, url, tel, email, password
    - textarea

```
<input type="text" name="name" size="20" placeholder="Firstname, lastname" />
```

Name

# Grouping fields

- **<fieldset>...</fieldset>**
  - Used for grouping related elements in a form
  - **<legend>** can be used inside to provide a caption (optional)

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Delivery address</legend>
  <label>City: <input type="text" name="city" size="10" /></label>
  <label>Zip: <input type="text" name="zip" size="4" /></label>
  <label>Street: <input type="text" name="street" size="20" /></label>
  <label>House no: <input type="text" name="housetno" size="4" /></label>
</fieldset>
```

Delivery address

City:  Zip:  Street:  House no:



# More HTML5 input types

- Date
- Email
- URL
- Search
- Color
- ...



Pick a date

Email address

! Please include an '@' in the email address. 'john.smith' is missing an '@'.

URL:

! Please enter a URL.

Search

- See [http://www.w3schools.com/html/html\\_form\\_input\\_types.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_form_input_types.asp)

# Exercise #1 (#1b)



[github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/  
\*\*exercises/html/forms\*\*](https://github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/exercises/html/forms)

# Exercises #2-#3



[github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/](https://github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/exercises/html/forms)  
**exercises/html/forms**

# Exercise #4



[github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/](https://github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/exercises/html/forms)  
**exercises/html/forms**

# References

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- Styling forms using CSS
  - <http://tutorials.jenkov.com/css/forms.html>
  - <https://jonathan-harrell.com/advanced-css-form-styling/>
  - <https://www.sanwebe.com/2014/08/css-html-forms-designs>
- A/B testing quiz
  - <http://bit.ly/2n7P6un>