

CREATING web forms.

- \* You design a web form to include fields, such as text areas, text boxes, option buttons and check boxes.

The fields needing to be included depend on the type of input the form seeks.

- \* The web form may also include select lists, Submit/Reset buttons and upload buttons

- \* a text box is a text field in which a user enters characters. eg Name, e-mail address

- \* option buttons are round shaped buttons. They always occur in a group of two or more mutually exclusive options.

- \* check boxes are square boxes. They allow the user to choose between non-exclusive options. A check box may be used to obtain information about a users preferences

- \* Select lists include single option select lists or multiple option select lists.

A single option select list is a dropdown list of multiple options, from which the user can select only one option.

A multiple option list allows the user to select multiple options from an exposed list of two or more options

- \* A textarea is a scrolling text field in which a user can enter multiple lines of text. The area prompting the user is flanked by a scroll bar.

## ○ Section 5 Webforms

## \* Common Gateway interface (CGI)

Websites obtain information from users through webforms. To be fully functional, a web form needs the CGI program, which processes and stores the received data.

\* A single webform will have various fields to collect various types of information eg name, age, address, credit card no

\* When the user completes the form, he clicks the submit button. The information is then uploaded into the receiving server.

\* Many webforms also have a Reset button, which clears the data already entered.

\* A CGI is a program that processes data submitted by users. On user request, CGI allows a web server to hand over control to a software application that receives, organises and returns the data in a consistent format.



- \* Many Webforms include a password field to verify user authenticity and to permit access to restricted areas of the web site. A password field is a text box that visually masks the other characters entered as Asterisks.  
Some forms also include upload buttons that allow users to navigate, select and upload local files.
- \* When you click the submit button, the action statement of the form gets processed. By default, a submit button may be labelled as Submit or Submit Query. However, you can display any label of your choice.  
The Submit button in the 'feedback form [Example on screen]' has the label 'Submit Comments'.
- \* A Reset button, when clicked, clears all the form data and sets all form fields back to the default values for those fields. By default, a Reset button may be labelled as reset. (or Clear form).
- \* All form fields share an attribute called name. This attribute identifies information received from a user and associates it with a specific value. It allows you to organize user input. For Example, when you receive information from the webform, the user comments in appreciation of the web site will appear as : Message Type = Praise

\* Consider a situation. As a web administrator, you have to collect feedback from the users. You need to create a webform with fields, such as text boxes, option buttons, select lists and scrolling area text boxes. These fields allow users to provide relevant feedback in an organized format.

- \* The text box is the most common field used in web forms. It is used to collect a single line of data, such as name or address information, from the user.

The syntax used to create a text box is displayed ~~on the screen~~. The name of the text box field is appropriately selected to prompt the user for information, such as name, to be entered in the text box.

```
<input type = "text" name = "fieldname"/>
```

- \* You can use this code to create a text box with default text inside. For this you need to use the value attribute.

```
<input type = "text" name = "fieldname"  
value = "default text"/>
```

The size attribute defines the display width in characters, but does not restrict text a user can enter. In contrast, the maxlength attribute does not display width, but restricts text to be entered.



- \* The code to create text boxes is displayed on the screen. The text boxes have a display width of 35 characters and are restricted to a maximum of 256 characters.

```
<td> <input type = "text" size = "35"
      maxlength = "256" name = "username">
```

- \* option buttons allow users to select between two or more mutually exclusive options. To ensure exclusivity, a group of option buttons share a common name attribute, but have different values. You must never use option buttons as standalone items. The syntax used to create an option button is as follows

```
<input type = "radio" checked = "checked"
      name = "groupname" value = "value1"
Display option 1
</input>
```

```
<input type = "radio" name = "groupname"
      value = "value2">
Display option 2
</input>
```

The checked attribute preselects a default option

- \* A section of the code displayed below creates option buttons. The name attribute for all option buttons contain the value message type. The value attribute contains the Complaint, Problem, Suggestion and Praise values.

<dl>

<dd><input type="radio" name="Message type" value="Complaint"> Complaint  
<input type="radio" name="Message type" value="problem"> Problem  
<input type="radio" name="Message type" value="Suggestion"> Suggestion  
<input type="radio" name="Message type" value="Praise"> Praise </dd>

</dl>

### check boxes

Check boxes allow users to select from a group of non-exclusive choices. The syntax used to create a checkbox is as follows

<input type="checkbox" name="group name">  
If you assign a common name value for all the check boxes, each option is treated as part of a single database field.

You may also use the checked attribute to preselect multiple exclusive options



## CW Foundations

S3 (1)

This section of code creates check boxes.

The name attribute has the value 'Contact requested'. If the user chooses to be contacted, the value is stored as 'contact requested'.

```
<dd>
```

```
<dd>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="contact-  
requested" value="contact requested">
```

Please contact me as soon as possible  
regarding this matter.

```
</dd>
```

```
</dd>
```

By default, the check box is not selected

## Select lists

A select list allows users to choose options from a drop down list. These lists can allow single or multiple selections.

The syntax for a single option select list is as follows.

```
<select name="listname">
```

```
<option> Option 1 </option>
```

```
<option> Option 2 </option>
```

```
</select>
```

When a user submits a form, you can either pass the default value, which is the text to the right of the option tag, or pass another value, using the value tag.

- \* to create a multiple option select list, you need to include the multiple attribute with the `<select>` tag. the syntax for using the multiple attribute is displayed on the screen. The size attribute controls the number of items in a scrolling list box.

If the size is not specified, the default number of items depends on the browser.

```
<select name="listname" multiple="Multiple"
size="number of items">
```

- \* A section of the code below creates a single option select list. The value of the name attribute is 'subject'. The value of the size attribute is 1. In single option select lists, the size attribute defines the number of options you can select

```
<dd>
```

```
<dd> <select name="subject" size="1">
    <option selected> website </option>
    <option> company </option>
    <option> Product </option>
```

```
    :
```

```
</option> other2 </option>
```

```
</select> other: <input type="text" size="25"
maxlength="255" name="subject-other">
</dd>
</de>
```



\* A scrolling area text box allows you to enter more than one line of text. You need to use the `<textarea>` tag to create a scrolling area text box. The `<textarea>` tag is a container tag that contains only text. The text within the `<textarea>` tag appears as the default text within the box.

The `cols`, `rows` and `wrap` attributes help define a text area.

\* The integer value of the `cols` attribute specifies the width of the scrolling area text box in characters.

The integer value of the `rows` attribute defines the number of rows that can be defined in the text box.

\* If the value of the `wrap` attribute is `virtual`, the text area wraps the text in the text box. If the value is `none`, the text continues on one line and can be viewed through a horizontal scroll bar.

\* In XHTML 1.0, the `wrap` attribute is not allowed and the browser is responsible for text wrapping.

\* The syntax used to create a text area is as follows.

```
<textarea name="name" rows="number of rows"
  cols="no. of cols"> </textarea>
```

The `textarea` has scroll bars as determined by the values specified for `rows` and `columns`.

## CW Foundation

S3 (IX)

This section of code is used to create a scrolling text box area

The value of the name attribute is Comments, the values of the rows and cols attributes are 8 and 42, respectively

```
<dl>
```

```
<dd>
```

```
<textarea name="Comments" rows="8" cols="42">
```

```
</dd>
```

---

Text boxes

Option buttons

Check boxes

Select lists

Textarea

Password fields

Submit / Reset / Upload.