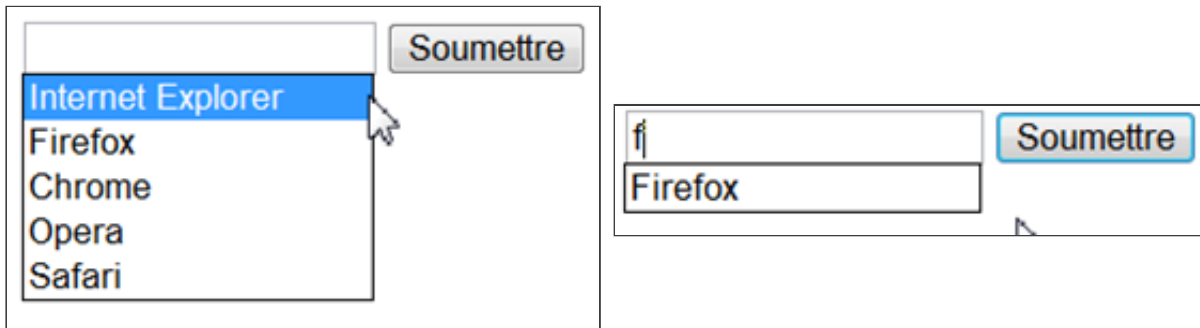


# The <datalist> element

The <datalist> form element is useful for linking a list of choices to an input element.



We have already seen this element in action with different <input> elements, such as <input type="color">, <input type="date">, or <input type="range">.




```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>Example of date picker</title>
</head>
<body>
<label for="birthdayParty">Pick a preferred date for celebrating
my birthday party: </label><p>
  <input type="date"
    id="birthdayParty"
    list="birthdayPartyPossibleDates"
    value="2015-06-20">

  <datalist id="birthdayPartyPossibleDates">
    <option label="Best for me">2015-06-20</option>
  <option label="Ok for me too  ">2015-06-27</option>
  <option label="This one is a sunday, hmmm">2015-06-28</option>
  </datalist>
</body>
</html>
```

Pick a preferred date for celebrating my birthday party:

**ONLY THE VALUES FROM THE  
<DATALIST> ELEMENT ARE  
PROPOSED IN THE DROPDOWN  
LIST.**

value=5 min=0, max=10 step=1, ticks at 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10:  5

It is often "linked" to input fields either for restricting the value set that can be proposed (i.e., restricted set of colors or possible dates, or for displaying slider ticks, as shown above), **but it may be also used in a more general way, for providing client-side auto-completion without the need to use JavaScript.**

It works with the new `list` attribute of input fields introduced by HTML5. **The `id` of the `<datalist>` must match the value of the `list` attribute in the input field. A datalist can be shared by several input fields.** It suffices that their list attribute matches the id of the datalist element.

The input field is related to the datalist that will propose auto-completion based on `<datalist>` values.

## TYPICAL USE FOR AUTO-COMPLETION

Here is an [online example at JS Bin](#), or try it here in your browser (type the name of your favorite browser):

What is your favorite browser:

Submit

Source code of this example:

```
<form action="demo_form.asp" method="get">
  <input list="browsers" name="browser" />
  <datalist id="browsers">
    <option value="Internet Explorer">
    <option value="Firefox">
    <option value="Chrome">
    <option value="Opera">
    <option value="Safari">
  </datalist>
  <input type="submit" />
11.
```

```
</form>
```

As you can see at lines 2 and 4, the `id` and `list` attributes match. The `<datalist>` element is wrapped around a set of `<option>` that are available for selection by another form control (in this example the input field from line 2).

## CURRENT SUPPORT

All major browsers support this element except Safari (as of June 2015). See <http://caniuse.com/#search=datalist> for details and polyfills.