



CORSO DI LAUREA IN INFORMATICA

Tecnologie Software per il Web

HTML – Part 2 – Forms

a.a. 2020-2021

Form

- Un **form** (modulo) è una sezione di documento HTML che contiene elementi di controllo che l'utente può utilizzare per inserire dati o in generale per interagire
- I dati inseriti possono essere poi inoltrati al server dove un “**agente**” può processarli
- Gli elementi di controllo sono caratterizzati da un valore **iniziale** e da un valore **corrente**
- Gli elementi di controllo possono essere:
 - Bottoni di azione
 - Checkbox (caselle di spunta)
 - Radio Button (bottoni mutuamente esclusivi)
 - Liste di selezione (lista di opzioni)
 - Caselle di inserimento di testo
 - **Oggetti nascosti (elementi valorizzati ma invisibili)**
 - Selezione file
 - ...

Forms

You visit a web page with an HTML form, fill out the form, and submit it.

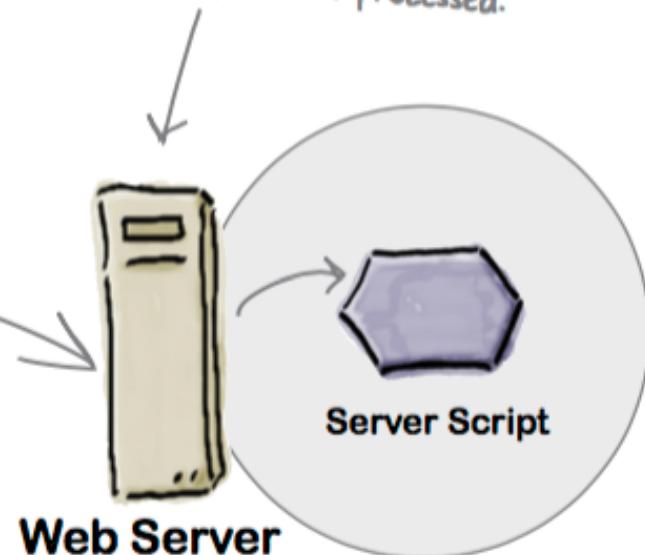


1

The browser packages up all the data in the form and sends it over to the web server.



The web server receives the form data, and then passes it off to a server script to be processed.



Web Server

The server script processes the data in the form and creates a brand-new HTML page as a response, which it hands back to the web server.

3



Browser

The browser gets the response and displays it.



The response is an HTML web page.



Web Server



Server Script

The web server sends the server script's response back to the browser.

<form> tag

- Il tag **<form>** racchiude tutti gli elementi del modulo (è un elemento di tipo blocco)
- Attributi:
 - **action = uri** (URI dell'agente/servizio che riceverà i dati del form)
 - **name = text** (specifica il nome della form)
 - **method = {get | post}** (specifica il modo in cui i dati vengono inviati)
 - **enctype = content-type** se il metodo è post specifica il content type usato per la codifica (encoding) dei dati contenuti nel form
 - **application/x-www-form-urlencoded** (default)
 - **multipart/form-data**

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>Enter the Contest</title>
  </head>
  <body>
```

```
    <form action="http://wickedlysmart.com/hfhtmlcss/contest.php"
          method="POST">
```

- (A) <p>Just type in your name (and click Submit) to enter the contest:

We've got the <form> element itself...

- (B) First name: <input type="text" name="firstname" value="">

- (C) Last name: <input type="text" name="lastname" value="">

- (D) <input type="submit">

...and a bunch of elements nested inside it.

```
    </p>
  </form>
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

Here's just normal
paragraph text in a form.

And here are two text
controls for entering a
first and last name. In
HTML you use the <input>
element to create these.

And here's the
submit button.
(Your button might
say "Submit Query"
instead.)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Enter the Contest". The address bar displays "file:///chapter14/contest". The main content area contains the following text and form fields:

Just type in your name (and click Submit) to ent

First name:

Last name:

Submit

On the left side of the browser window, there is a vertical stack of four circular icons labeled A, B, C, and D from top to bottom. Three arrows point from the handwritten text on the left to these icons: one arrow points from the first paragraph text to icon A, another arrow points from the two-text-controls paragraph to icon B, and a third arrow points from the submit-button paragraph to icon D.

Form elements

Here's the opening tag.
Everything in the form
goes inside.

The action attribute
holds the URL of the
web server...

...the folder
the script
is in...

...and the name
of the server
script that will
process the form
data.

The method attribute
determines how the form
data will be sent to the
server. We're going to
use the most common
one: POST. Later in the
chapter we'll talk about
other ways to send data,
and why you might or
might not use POST.

```
<form action="http://wickedlysmart.com/hfhtmlcss/contest.php" method="POST">
```

Everything inside your
form goes here...

```
</form>
```

...and the closing tag
ends the form.

Text input

- The text <input> element is for entering one line of text. Optional attributes let you set a maximum number of characters and the width of this control...

Use the type attribute to indicate you want a "text" input.

<input type="text" name="fullname">

Most form elements require a name that is used by the server script. We'll see how this works in a bit.

The <input> element is a void element, so there's no content after it.

```
<form action="http://site.com/bin/adduser" method="post">
  <p>
    Nome: <input type="text" name="firstname">
  </p>
</form>
```

Nome:

Submit input

- The submit <input> element creates a button that allows you to submit a form. When you click this button, the browser sends the form to the server script for processing

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



Submit



For a submit button, specify "submit" as the <input> element's type.

The button is labeled "Submit" (or "Submit Query") by default, although you can change that (we'll show you how later).

- type=reset** resets all form values to default values
- type=button** is a generic action button

```
<form action="http://site.com/bin/adduser" method="post">
  <input type="submit" value="Conferma">&nbsp;&nbsp;
  <input type="reset" value="Azzera">
</form>
```

Conferma

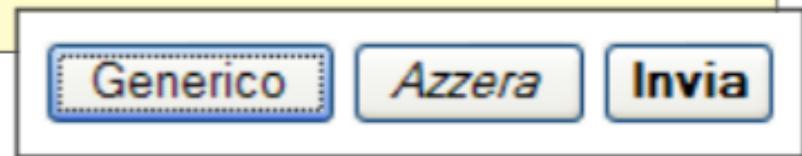
Azzera

Button...

- Il tag **<button>** consente di specificare anche codice HTML all'interno del tag: testo formattato ma anche immagini

```
<form action="http://site.com/bin/adduser" method="post">
  <button type="button">Generico</button>&nbsp;
  <button type="reset"><i>Azzera</i></button>&nbsp;
  <button type="submit"><b>Invia</b></button>
</form>
```

- Es:



<**button**></**button**>

- in alternativa

<**input type="image"** style="height:20px;vertical-align: text-top;" src=".//imgs/submit.png" alt="Submit">



radio input

The radio `<input>` element creates a single control with several buttons, only one of which can be selected at any time. These are like old-time car radio buttons; you “push” one in, and the rest “pop out.”

Use a radio `<input>` for each choice.



```
<input type="radio" name="hotornot" value="hot">  
<input type="radio" name="hotornot" value="not">
```

All the radio buttons associated with a given set of choices must have the same name...



...but each choice has a different value.



hot

not



The radio control allows only one of a set of choices.

checkbox input

A checkbox `<input>` element creates a checkbox control that can be either checked or unchecked. You can use multiple checkboxes together, and if you do, you can check as many or few as you like.

Like radio,
you use one
checkbox
`<input>` element
for each choice.

Related checkboxes also share
a common name.

Unlike radio buttons, a checkbox allows zero or more of a set of choices.

Each checkbox has a
different value.

```
<input type="checkbox" name="spice" value="Salt">
<input type="checkbox" name="spice" value="Pepper">
<input type="checkbox" name="spice" value="Garlic">
```

textarea

- The <textarea> element creates a multiline text area that you can type into. If you type more text than will fit into the text area, then a scroll bar appears on the right side.

The <textarea> element is not an empty element, so it has both opening and closing tags.



Use the name attribute to give the element a unique name.



```
<textarea name="comments" rows="10" cols="48"></textarea>
```

The rows attribute tells the browser how many characters tall to make the text area.



Any text that goes between the opening and closing tags becomes the initial text in the browser's text area control.

You can also specify the width and height of a textarea using CSS.

Customer feedback:

I love my new Mini Cooper! I got the red, sporty model, and I've been zipping around town like there's no tomorrow. And, my new iPod fits perfectly in the dash drink holder. Of course, now everyone else wants one, too.

rows

cols

Select

The `<select>` element creates a menu control in the web page. The menu provides a way to choose between a set of choices. The `<select>` element works in combination with the `<option>` element below to create a menu.

Buckaroo Banzai

The select element creates a menu that looks like this (although the look will vary depending on the browser you're using).

The `<select>` element goes around all the menu options to group them into one menu.

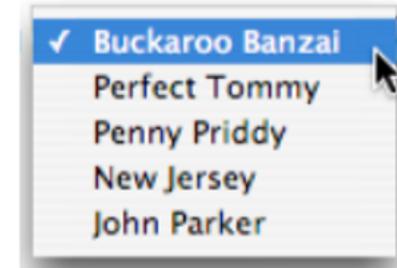
Just like the other form elements, give the select element a unique name using the `name` attribute.

```
G <select name="characters">  
    <option value="Buckaroo">Buckaroo Banzai</option>  
    <option value="Tommy">Perfect Tommy</option>  
    <option value="Penny">Penny Priddy</option>  
    <option value="Jersey">New Jersey</option>  
    <option value="John">John Parker</option>  
</select>
```

option

The `<option>` element works with the `<select>` element to create a menu. Use an `<option>` element for each menu item.

After clicking on the menu, the menu items drop down.



selected

```
<select name="characters">
  <option value="Buckaroo">Buckaroo Banzai</option>
  <option value="Tommy">Perfect Tommy</option>
  <option value="Penny">Penny Priddy</option>
  <option value="Jersey">New Jersey</option>
  <option value="John">John Parker</option>
</select>
```

The content of the `<option>` element is used for the menu items' description. Each menu option also includes a value representing the menu item.

number input

The number <input> element restricts input to numbers. You can even specify a min and max number that is allowed with optional attributes.



Some browsers show arrows next to the input area you can use to increase or decrease the number.

The "number" type means you're expecting a number only, not text.

```
<input type="number" min="0" max="20">
```

Use the max and min attributes to restrict the numbers allowed.

range input

The range <input> element is similar to number except that it displays a slider instead of an input box.

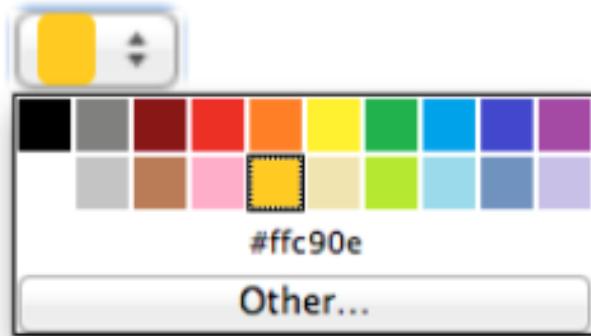
```
<input type="range" min="0" max="20" step="5">
```

Both number and range have an optional step attribute you can use to specify the number of intervals for the values.

color input

Use the color `<input>` to specify a color. When you click on the control, a color picker pops up that allows you to select a color rather than having to type in the color name or value.

If the color input is not supported by the browser, you'll just get a regular text input instead.

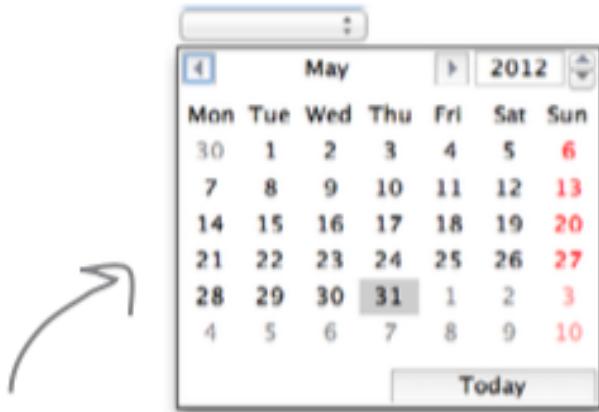


`<input type="color">`

date input

Use the date `<input>` element to specify a date, with a date picker control. The control creates a valid date format string to send to the server script.

`<input type="date">`



Like with color, if the date input isn't supported by the browser yet, you'll get a regular text input instead.

email input

The email <input> element is just a text input, but on some mobile browsers, you'll get a custom keyboard for email when you start typing.

```
<input type="email">
```

Email:

tel input

The tel <input> element is also just a text input, but like email, causes a custom keyboard to pop up on mobile devices.

```
<input type="tel">
```

Phone:

url input

Like email and tel, the url <input> type is just a text input, but causes a custom keyboard to pop up on mobile devices.

```
<input type="url">
```

URL:

Input file

- Consente di fare l'upload di un file selezionandolo nel file system del client
- Attributi:

- **name = text** (specifica il nome del controllo)
- **accept o value = content-type** (lista di MIME type per l'upload)
- Richiede una codifica particolare (**enctype**) per il form (**multipart/form-data**) perché le informazioni trasmesse con il **post** contengono tipologie di dati diverse: testo per i controlli normali, binario per il file da caricare

accept="image/*"

```
<form action="http://site.com/bin/adduser" method="post"
      enctype="multipart/form-data" >
  <p>
    <input type="file" name="attach">
  </p>
</form>
```



Organizzare form complessi

- Con il tag **<fieldset>** si possono creare gruppi di campi a cui è possibile attribuire un nome utilizzando il tag **<legend>**

```
<form action="http://site.com/bin/adduser" method="post">
<fieldset>
<legend>Nome e cognome</legend>
Nome: <input type="text" name="nome"><br>
Cognome: <input type="text" name="" cognome">
</fieldset>
<fieldset>
<legend>Provincia</legend>
<select name="provincia" multiple="multiple" size=7>
<optgroup label="Capoluogo">
    <option value="BO" selected="selected">Bologna</option>
</optgroup>
<optgroup label="Emilia">
    <option value="MO">Modena</option>
    <option value="RE">Reggio Emilia</option>
    <option value="PR">Parma</option>
    <option value="PC">Piacenza</option>
</optgroup>
</select>
</fieldset>
</form>
```

optgroup

Nome e cognome

Nome:

Cognome:

Provincia

Capoluogo

Bologna

Emilia

Modena

Reggio Emilia

Parma

Piacenza

Collegare le etichette ai controlli

- Il tag **<label>** permette di associare un'etichetta ad un qualunque controllo di un form
 - L'associazione può essere fatta in forma implicita inserendo il controllo nell'elemento label
 - In forma esplicita tramite l'attributo **for** che deve corrispondere all'attributo **id** del controllo

```
<form action="...">
<label>Nome: <input type="text" id="nome"></label><br>
<label>Cognome: <input type="text" id="cognome"></label><br>
</form>
```

```
<form action="...">
<label for="nome">Nome: </label>
<input type="text" id="nome"><br>
<label for="cognome">Cognome: </label>
<input type="text" id="cognome"><br>
</form>
```



Example

- Create the document “form.html”:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>The Starbuzz Bean Machine</title>
  </head>
  <body>

    <h1>The Starbuzz Bean Machine</h1>
    <h2>Fill out the form below and click “order now” to order</h2>

  </body>
</html>
```

The form is going to go here.

All we've got so far is a heading identifying the page, along with instructions.

The URL of the server script

- Goal:

http://starbuzzcoffee.com/form.html

- Action:

http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php

This URL points to the
Starbuzz Coffee website...

...and to the processorder.php server
script that's on the server there.
This server script already knows
how to take orders from the form
we're going to build.

Adding the form element

- The URL of the server script that will process your form has to be plugged into the action attribute of your <form> element

```
<bod
```

```
  <h1>The Starbuzz Bean Machine</h1>
```

```
  <h2>Fill out the form below and click “order now” to order</h2>
```

```
  <form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" method="POST">
```

```
    <!-- ... -->
```

```
  </form>
```

```
</body>
```

Form element names

- Each input control in your form has a name attribute:

```
<input type="text" name="name">  
<input type="text" name="address">  
<input type="text" name="city">  
<input type="text" name="state">  
<input type="text" name="zip">  
<input type="tel" name="phone">
```

The unique
names for each
form element

```
name = Buckaroo Banzai  
address = Banzai Institute  
city = Los Angeles  
state = CA  
zip = 90050  
phone = 310-555-1212
```

Each unique
name gets a
value from the
data you type
into the form.

Notice here we've got an element whose
name is "name" (which is perfectly fine).

What you enter into
the form.

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

What the browser packages
up for the server

Insert the inputs in the HTML

```
<form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" ...>  
  <p>Ship to: <br>  
    Name: <input type="text" name="name"> <br>  
    Address: <input type="text" name="address"> <br>  
    City: <input type="text" name="city"> <br>  
    State: <input type="text" name="state"> <br>  
    Zip: <input type="text" name="zip"> <br>  
    Phone: <input type="tel" name="phone"> <br>  
  </p>  
  <p>  
    <input type="submit" value="Order Now">  
  </p>  
</form>
```

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form below and click "order now" to order

Ship to:

Name: Buckaroo Banzai

Address: Banzai Institute

City: Los Angeles

State: CA

Zip: 90050

Phone: 310-555-1212

And here's the response
after submitting the form.

Here's the form.



The Starbuzz Bean Machine

http://chapter14/starbuzz/form.html

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Thanks, Buckaroo Banzai, for your order... But we didn't get your choice of beans or whether they are whole or ground. You might want to click the back button to go back and try again, otherwise, we won't be able to make your Bean Machine order, and that would suck.

Here's what we received from you so far:

Number of bags: 1

Name: Buckaroo Banzai

Address: Banzai Institute

City: Los Angeles

State: CA

Zip: 90050

Phone: 310-555-1212

Here's the server script's
response. It looks like the
script got what we submitted,
but we haven't given it
everything it needs.



Adding the select element

```
<form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" method="post">
```

```
<p>
  Choose your beans:
  <select name="beans">
    <option value="House Blend">House Blend</option>
    <option value="Bolivia">Shade Grown Bolivia Supremo</option>
    <option value="Guatemala">Organic Guatemala</option>
    <option value="Kenya">Kenya</option>
  </select>
</p>
```

Here's our brand-new
`<select>` element. It gets a
unique name too.

Inside, we put each `<option>`
element, one per choice of coffee.

Each option has a value.

```
<option value="Guatemala">Organic Guatemala</option>
```

When the browser packages up the names
and values of the form elements, it uses
the name of the `<select>` element along
with the value of the chosen option.

The content of the
element is used as the label
in the drop-down menu.

In this case, the browser would send
the server beans = "Guatemala".

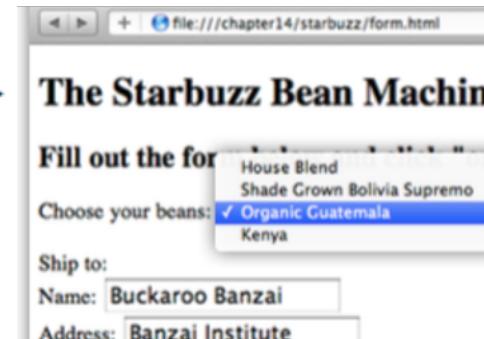
The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form:

Choose your beans: Organic Guatemala
 Kenya

Ship to:

Name: Buckaroo Banzai
Address: Banzai Institute



Radio buttons

```
<p>Type: <br>  
  <input type="radio" name="beantype" value="whole"> Whole bean <br>  
  <input type="radio" name="beantype" value="ground"> Ground  
</p>
```

We're using the `<input>` element for this, with its `type` set to "radio".

Here's the unique name. All radio buttons in the same group share the same name.

And here's the value that will be sent to the server script. Only one of these will be sent (the one that is selected when the form is submitted).

Notice that we often label radio buttons on the righthand side of the element.

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form below and click "order now".

Choose your beans:

Type:

- Whole bean
- Ground

Ship to:

Check boxes

Here we've added a checkbox for each option. Notice that these share the same name, "extras[]..."

...but have different values.

```
<p>
    Extras:<br>
    <input type="checkbox" name="extras[]" value="giftwrap">Gift wrap<br>
    <input type="checkbox" name="extras[]" value="catalog" checked>Include catalog
        with order
</p>
```

We're using the checked attribute to specify that the catalog option should be checked by default. You can add a checked attribute to more than one checkbox.

As with the radio buttons, we've put these labels to the right of the checkboxes.

Text Area

```
<p>Customer Comments:<br>
    <textarea name="comments"></textarea>
</p>
```



Here's the text area.

```
<p>
    <input type="submit" value="Order Now">
</p>
</form>
```

Number and data types

<p>

Number of bags:

```
<input type="number" name="bags" min="1" max="10" value="1">
```

</p>

<p>

Must arrive by date:

```
<input type="date" name="date">
```

</p>

Not supported by all the browsers!

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

+ file:///chapter14/starbuzz/form.html

Google

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form below and click "order now" to order

Choose your beans:

Type:
 Whole bean
 Ground

Number of bags:

Must arrive by date:

Extras:
 Gift wrap
 Include catalog with order

Ship to:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Customer Comments:

Order Now

Here's our brand-new checkboxes, with the catalog checkbox already checked.

And a nice new text area as well

Fieldset and legend

```
<form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" method="post">
<fieldset>
  <legend>Order details</legend>
  <label for="beans">Choose your beans:</label>
  <select name="beans" id="beans">
    <option value="House Blend">House Blend</option>
    <option value="Bolivia">Shade Grown Bolivia Supremo</option>
    <option value="Guatemala">Organic Guatemala</option>
    <option value="Kenya">Kenya</option>
  </select>
  <br>
  <label>Type:</label>
  <p>
    <input type="radio" id="whole_beantype" name="beantype" value="whole">
    <label for="whole_beantype">Whole bean</label>
    <br>
    <input type="radio" id="ground_beantype" name="beantype" value="ground" checked>
    <label for="ground_beantype">Ground</label>
  </p>
  <!-- ... -->
</fieldset>
```

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form below and click "order now" to order

Order details

Choose your beans: Shade Grown Bolivia Supremo ▾

Type:

- Whole bean
- Ground

Number of bags: 1 ▾

Must arrive by date:

Extras:

- Gift wrap
- Include catalog with order

Ship to

Name: Buckaroo Banzai

Address: Banzai Institute

City: Los Angeles

State: CA

Zip: 90050

Phone: 310-555-1212

Customer Comments:

get

- Open up your “form.html” file and make the following small change:

```
<form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" method="GET">
```

- This is the URL of your browser:

```
http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php?beans=Kenya&beantype=ground&extras%5B%5D=catalog&name=Buckaroot+Banzai&address=Banzai+Institute&city=Los+Angeles&state=CA&zip=90050&phone=3105551212&comments=Great+coffee
```

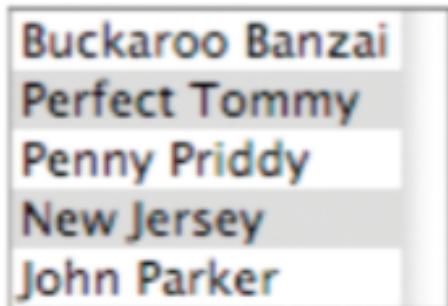
Multiple selection

```
<select name="characters" multiple>
  <option value="Buckaroo">Buckaroo Banzai</option>
  <option value="Tommy">Perfect Tommy</option>
  <option value="Penny Priddy">Penny</option>
  <option value="New Jersey">Jersey</option>
  <option value="John Parker">John</option>
</select>
```



Just add the attribute `multiple` to turn a single selection menu into a multiple selection menu.

With multiple selection, you can choose more than one option at a time.



Placeholder

- You can use the placeholder attribute with most of the <input> types in a form to give the person who's filling out the form a hint about the kind of content you expect him to enter into the control

```
<input type="text" placeholder="Buckaroo Banzai">
```

Name:



If you leave this field blank and submit the form, the placeholder content is NOT submitted as the value for the control!

```
<form action="/login">
  <input type="text" name="fname" placeholder="First name"><br>
  <input type="text" name="lname" placeholder="Last name"><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

First name
Last name
Submit

Password

- The password `<input>` element works just like the text `<input>` element, except that the text you type is masked.

```
<input type="password" name="secret">
```

```
<form action="/login">
  Email:  <input type="text" name="email" placeholder="mrisi@unisa.it" autofocus><br>
  Password: <input type="password" name="secret" maxlength="8" placeholder="max 8 chars"><br>
  <input type="submit">
</form>
```

Email: 

Password:

Required and other input attributes

- It indicates that a field is required, so you shouldn't submit the form without specifying a value for the controls that have this attribute set

```
<input type="text" placeholder="Buckaroo Banzai" required>
```

- Not supported by all browsers!*

- Other attributes:

```
<input type="text" name="firstname" maxlength="10">  
  
<input type="text" name="firstname" value="John" readonly>  
  
<input type="text" name="firstname" value="John" disabled>  
  
<input type="email" name="email" autocomplete="off">  
  
<input type="number" name="points" min=0 max=30 step="3">  
  
<input type="text" name="firstname" autofocus>  
  
<input type="text" name="sentence" spellcheck="true">  
  
<p contenteditable spellcheck="true">This exampull will be checkd fur spellung when you try to edit it.</p>
```

References

- Guida ai Form in HTML: https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_forms.asp

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the [w3schools.com](https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_forms.asp) website. The page is titled "HTML Forms". The main content area displays an "HTML Form Example" with fields for First name (Mickey) and Last name (Mouse), and a "Submit" button. Below the form is a green "Try it Yourself »" button. The left sidebar contains navigation links for "HTML Forms", "HTML5", "HTML Graphics", and "HTML Media". The top navigation bar includes links for Home, HTML (which is selected and highlighted in green), CSS, JavaScript, SQL, PHP, More, References, Exercises, and a search icon.

HTML Forms

HTML Form Example

First name: Mickey

Last name: Mouse

Submit

Try it Yourself »

HTML Forms

HTML Form Elements

HTML Input Types

HTML Input Attributes

HTML5

HTML5 Intro

HTML5 Support

HTML5 New Elements

HTML5 Semantics

HTML5 Migration

HTML5 Style Guide

HTML Graphics

HTML Canvas

HTML SVG

HTML Media

HTML Media

HTML Video

REFERENCES ▾

EXERCISES ▾

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