# ITMD-461

# HTML Forms

# Forms

- Forms are used to send data back to the server

- Forms can not be nested inside other forms

- Form element contains all form controls

  - `<form></form>`

  - Has two main attributes you need

    - action & method

    - `<form action="PathToScript" method="post"></form>`

  - action attribute

    - URL to the application or script that processes the form

  - method attribute

    - Specifies how the form data is sent to the server

# Forms

- Form methods, GET or POST
  - POST
    - Most often used
    - Sends data as part of the request only the server sees
    - No character limit to data
  - GET
    - Default if no method is specified
    - Data is encoded and appended to URL as key value pair
      - http://server.com/script.php?name=Bob&city=chicago
    - URL length is limited and varies by browser & server

# Forms

- Variables
- Use the name attribute to specify the variable name for the form control
  - name="variablename"
  - Becomes the variable name in the get or post requ
- If the processing script is already created the fo variables must match what the script expects
- All form elements must have a name attribute except the submit and/or reset buttons

# Form Controls

- <input type="text"> - Single line text field

- <textarea></textarea> - Multi line text entry area

  - Text inside the tag will display in the area by default and will send to the server...be careful

  - Might use html5 attribute placeholder instead

    - Can be used on any text based form control

- <input type="password"> - obscured field

- HTML5 contains other text inputs

  - Types include search, email, tel, url

  - If browser doesn't support it will use generic text

# Form Controls

- <input type="submit"> - submit button

- <input type="reset"> - reset form button

- value attribute sets the text on the button
  - <input type="submit" value="Process Form">
  - Button would say Process Form on it

- Radio Buttons
  - <input type="radio" name="var" value="value">
  - Name attribute sets the group of buttons & var name
  - Value attribute sets the value of the variable if that option is selected
  - Only one button per group can be selected

# Form Controls

- Labels

- Provide a textual label for your form control

- Implicit or explicit association

  - Implicit, label wraps form control
    - `<label>Full Name:<input type="text" name="name"></label>`

  - Explicit, associates label with form control id
    - `<label for="name-form">Name:</label>`
    - `<input type="text" name="name" id="name-form">`

- Gives semantic meaning to the controls

- Allows clicking of labels for Radio and Checkbox

# Form Controls

- Checkboxes
  - <input type="checkbox" name="var" value="value">
  - Can select zero or more options
  - It will send all selected values to server
  - If form processing is PHP it is common to set the name attribute's value in array syntax if there is more than one with the same name
    - name="var[]"
  - Can set a box to be pre-checked with checked attribute
  - checked="checked"

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# Form Controls

- Drop-down Menus
- Uses the <select name="var"></select> tags
- Select tag contains <option></option> tags
- Option tags can have a value attribute
  - Sends the value attribute instead of the contents of the tag to server
- Option tags can have a selected attribute
  - <option selected="selected"></option>
- Option tags can be grouped with <optgroup label="cat"></optgroup>
- Select tags size attribute controls size of menu
  - Size of 1 is a standard pull down menu
  - Size > 1 displays that many options, see p164
  - multiple attribute allows multiple selections
    - <select multiple="multiple></select>

# Form Controls

- ## File uploads

  - Use an <input type="file">

  - If form includes file must

    - Be POST method

    - Must include enctype="multipart/form-data"

    - See page 165 for more info

- ## Hidden Controls

  - <input type="hidden" name="success-link" value="http://www.example.com/link.html">

# Form Controls

- Fieldset and Legend
- Allows you to group form controls
- <fieldset>
- <legend>Field title</legend>
- </fieldset>
- See page 172 for example.