

CSBP461 – Internet Computing

Review of HTML Forms

Forms are used to gather information from the Web site user. Information such as, name, email address, credit card details, username, passwords etc. can be collected from the Web site user.

Some example images of forms are given below.

Suggestions

Your input is valuable to us. Please send us your suggestions.

Name

Email Address

Rating
Excellent

Comments

Please fill in the form below to open a new ticket.

Full Name:

Email Address:

Telephone: Ext

Help Topic:

Subject:

Message:

Priority:

Attachment:

<form> Tag

Within an HTML page, the <form> tag is used in the body of the page, to capture the **input** information that a user would enter.

```
<html>
  <head></head>
  <body>
    <form>      </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

Once the Web user enters relevant information to the form it must be sent to the Web server to be processed. Adding the following attributes to a <form> tag will indicate how this is to be done.

name – identifies the form

method - We are using the **POST** functionality of method, which sends the data without displaying any of the information to the visitor.

action - Specifies the URL (destination) to send the data to.

```
<html>
  <head></head>
  <body>
    <form name="mform" method="POST" action="mailto:myname@uaeu.ac.ae">
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

Input fields

Input fields are used to capture different types of information from a Website user. Input fields are identified in HTML by the <input> tag. Each <input> has a few **attributes** that defines the input field.

type - Determines what kind of input field it will be.

name - Assigns a name to the given field so that it can be referenced later.

size - Sets the horizontal width of the field. Unit of measurement is blank spaces.

maxlength - Dictates the maximum number of characters that can be entered.

There are different types of input fields that can be used to gather information from a Web site user. Some of the input field types which will be studied here are:

1. Text field
2. Submit Button
3. Radio Buttons
4. Check Boxes
5. Drop Down List
6. Text Area
7. Upload Field

Input type: Text Field

The text field is used to take single line of information from the user.

```
<form>
Name: <input type="text" size="10" maxlength="40" name="firstName" /> <br />
</form>
```



☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it looks.

Input type: Submit button

The Submit button is used to send the form information to be processed.

The Submit button should be the last item on the form and have its **type** attribute set to "Submit". The **value** defines what the label of the button will be.

```
<form name="mform" method="post" action="mailto:youremail@email.com">
  Name: <input type="text" size="10" maxlength="40" name="name" /> <br />
  <input type="submit" value="Send" />
</form>
```



Here the form **action** indicates that the form must be send as email and the form **method** indicates that the form must be sent in the body.

The action specifies that the form content must be sent by email to a particular recipient youremail@email.com.

Note: This requires your system to be configured with an email client.

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it works on clicking the Send button.

Input type: Radio buttons

Radio buttons are a popular form of interaction and they are used when the user has to make a **single selection** from multiple options. The radio buttons are used as a group, of which only one will be selected.

Attributes you should know that relate to the radio button.

value - specifies what will be sent if the user chooses this radio button. Only one value will be sent for a given group of radio buttons.

name – is the name of a group of radio buttons and it defines which group it is a part of.

Example below has two groups: shade and color.

```
<form method="POST" action="mailto:youremail@email.com">
Describe the sky? <br /> <br />
  <h3>Shade:</h3>
    <input type="radio" name="shade" value="d" />Dark
    <input type="radio" name="shade" value="l" />Light <br /> <br />
  <h3>Color:</h3>
    <input type="radio" name="color" value="bu" />Blue<br />
    <input type="radio" name="color" value="r" />Red<br />
    <input type="radio" name="color" value="bl" />Black <br />

  <br /> <input type="submit" value="Send">
</form>
```

The **name & value pair** that will be sent is "shade=(value) color=(value)".

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page. See how it works with different options and clicking the Send button.

Input type: Check Box

Check boxes allow for **multiple items to be selected** for a certain group of choices. The check box's *name* and *value* attributes have the same functionality as a radio button.

```
<form method="post" action="mailto:youremail@email.com">
Select your favourite cartoon characters.<br />
  <input type="checkbox" name="toon1" value="Micky" />Micky<br />
  <input type="checkbox" name="toon2" value="Goofy" />Goofy <br />
  <input type="checkbox" name="toon3" value="Donald" />Donald <br />
  <input type="checkbox" name="toon4" value="Bugs" />Bugs Bunny <br />

  <input type="submit" value="Send">
</form>
```

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it works on clicking the Send button.

Input type: DropDown List

Drop down list are created with the `<select>` and `<option>` tags, where `<select>` is the list itself and each `<option>` is an available choice for the user.

```
<form method="post" action="mailto:youremail@email.com">
College Degree? &nbsp;
  <select name="degree">
    <option>Choose One</option>
    <option>High School Diploma</option>
    <option>High School Degree</option>
    <option>College Degree</option>
    <option>Bachelor's Degree</option>
    <option>Master's Degree</option>
    <option>Doctorate Degree</option>
  </select>
  <br /><br /><input type="submit" value="Send" />
</form>
```

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it works on clicking the Send button.

Input type: TextArea

Text area displays a box that serves as an input field for viewers to enter multiple lines of information.

Rows and **Columns** need to be specified as attributes of the `<textarea>` tag.

Rows define height of the box and the value of the columns reflects how many characters wide the text area will be. Another attribute to be aware of is the **wrap**.

Wrap has 3 values.

- "off"
- "virtual"
- "physical"

Virtual means that the viewer will see the words wrapping as they type their comments, but when the page is submitted, the document will not have wrapping words.

Physical means that the text will appear to the web host and to the viewer including any page breaks and additional spaces.

Off will turn off word wrapping within the text area. It will be one ongoing line.

```
<form method="post" action="mailto:youremail@email.com">
  <textarea rows="5" cols="20" wrap="physical" name="feedback">
    Enter your feedback here
  </textarea>
  <input type="submit" value="Send" />
</form>
```

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it works on clicking the Send button.

Input type: Upload Form

This HTML input type for the upload form does nothing more than create an interface for the user to select a file to upload. To actually make the upload form upload the selected file, a scripting language like PHP or JSP must be used.

In the input field the user has the option to type in the full local URL of the file or click the *Browse* button to go through the file system directories.

HTML codes this automatically when we place the *type="file"* attribute within the input tag.

```
<form>
  Upload file: <input name="file" type="file" />
</form>
```

- ☒ Create an HTML page with the above form in the body of the page, to see how it works on clicking the Send button.