HTML Forms

Form Structure

1. Open Notepad++, open a new file and type in the following code and save the file as **html-form-structure.html**:

```html
<html>

    <head>
        <title>HTML Form Structure</title>
    </head>

    <body>

        <form action="#" method="post">



            </form>

        </body>

</html>
```

- **`<form>`** - form controls live inside a <form> element. The element shouls always carry the **`action`** and **`method`** attributes, and will quite often have an **`id`** attribute (particularly when being validated using a server-side script such as **JavaScript**). The **`action`** and method **`attributes`** are vital when using a server-side script (such as **PHP**) to process the form.

- **`action`** – Every **`<form>`** requires an **`action`** attribute. Its value is the URL (address) for the page on the web server that will receive the information in the form when it is submitted.

- **`method`** – Forms can be sent using one of two methods – **`get`** or **`post`**.

    - With the **`get`** method, the values are from the form are added to the end of the URL specified in the action attribute, e.g.

        - **`http://www.world-of-ducks.co.uk/handle-form.php/?user_id=1`**

    - Using this method, anybody can read what has been entered into the form. Therfore it is not suitable for forms sending private data such as:
        - Passwords
        - Bank details
        - Credit card information

    - With the **post** method the form data is sent in HTTP headers – the data is hidden from plain view – which means it is much more suited for sending private information.
    - The post method is the most suitable method if your form:
        - Allows users to upload a file
        - Is very long
        - Contains sensitive data (passwords, credit card information, etc)
        - Adds information to a database.

Form Elements

2. Create a new HTML file in Notepad++ and name it **form-text-and-password-input.html** and save it in your **html-tasks** folder. Then add the following code:

```html
<html>

    <head>
        <title>HTML Form Inputs</title>
    </head>

    <body>

        <form action="#" method="post">

            <p>
                <label for="username">Username:</label>
                <input type="text" name="username" size="15" maxlength="30" />
            </p>

            <p>
                <label for="password">Enter password:</label>
                <input type="password" name="password" size="15" maxlength="30" />
            </p>

        </form>

    </body>

</html>
```

- The `<input>` element is used to create several different types of form control.
- The `type=" "` attribute specifies how the form control should display:
  - `type="text"` – creates a single line text input.
  - `type="password"` – creates a single line text input, but the characters are blocked out.

3. Create a new HTML file in Notepad++ and name it `form-text-and-password-input.html` and save it in your `html-tasks` folder. Then add the following code:

```
 1  <html>
 2
 3      <head>
 4          <title>HTML Form Inputs</title>
 5      </head>
 6
 7      <body>
 8
 9          <form action="#" method="post">
10
11              <p>Please select your favourite type of film:
12                  <br />
13
14                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="action" /> Action
15                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="horror" /> Horror
16                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="romcom" /> Rom Com
17                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="thriller" /> Thriller
18              </p>
19
20          </form>
21
22      </body>
23
24  </html>
```

- **`type="radio"`** – This option creates a radio button, which allows users to pick only one of the options.

4. Update the code to look like the following:

```
1   <html>
2       <head>
3           <title>HTML Form Structure</title>
4       </head>
5
6       <body>
7
8           <form action="#" method="post">
9
10              <p>Please select your favourite type of film:
11                  <br />
12
13                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="action" /> Action
14                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="horror" /> Horror
15                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="romcom" /> Rom Com
16                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="thriller" /> Thriller
17              </p>
18
19              <p>Please select where you watch films:
20                  <br />
21
22                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="home" /> At home
23                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="cinema" /> Cinema
24                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="friend" /> Friends House
25                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="mobile" /> Mobile Device
26              </p>
27
28          </form>
29
30      </body>
31
32  </html>
```

- **type="checkbox"** – This option creates a tick box, which allows users to pick one or more options to a question.

5. Add the following code underneath the checkbox code:

```html
1   <html>
2   
3       <head>
4           <title>HTML Form Structure</title>
5       </head>
6   
7       <body>
8   
9           <form action="#" method="post">
10  
11              <p>Please select your favourite type of film:
12                  <br />
13  
14                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="action" /> Action
15                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="horror" /> Horror
16                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="romcom" /> Rom Com
17                  <input type="radio" name="film" value="thriller" /> Thriller
18              </p>
19  
20              <p>Please select where you watch films:
21                  <br />
22  
23                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="home" /> At home
24                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="cinema" /> Cinema
25                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="friend" /> Friends House
26                  <input type="checkbox" name="location" value="mobile" /> Mobile Device
27              </p>
28  
29              <p>What device do you listen to music on
30  
31                  <select name="devices">
32                      <option value="ipod">iPod</option>
33                      <option value="radio">Radio</option>
34                      <option value="computer">Computer</option>
35                      <option value="other">Other device</option>
36                  </select>
37              </p>
38  
39          </form>
40  
41      </body>
42  
43  </html>
44  
```

- The **<select>** element is used to create a drop-down box. It contains 2 or more **<option>** elements.
- The **<option>** element is used to specify what options appear in the drop-down list.

6. Underneath the closing </select> element, enter the following code:

```html
<p>
    <input type="submit" name="submit" value="Enter My Details" />
</p>
```

- The input type="submit" element creates a button to send the form for processing.

7. Your finished form should look similar to:
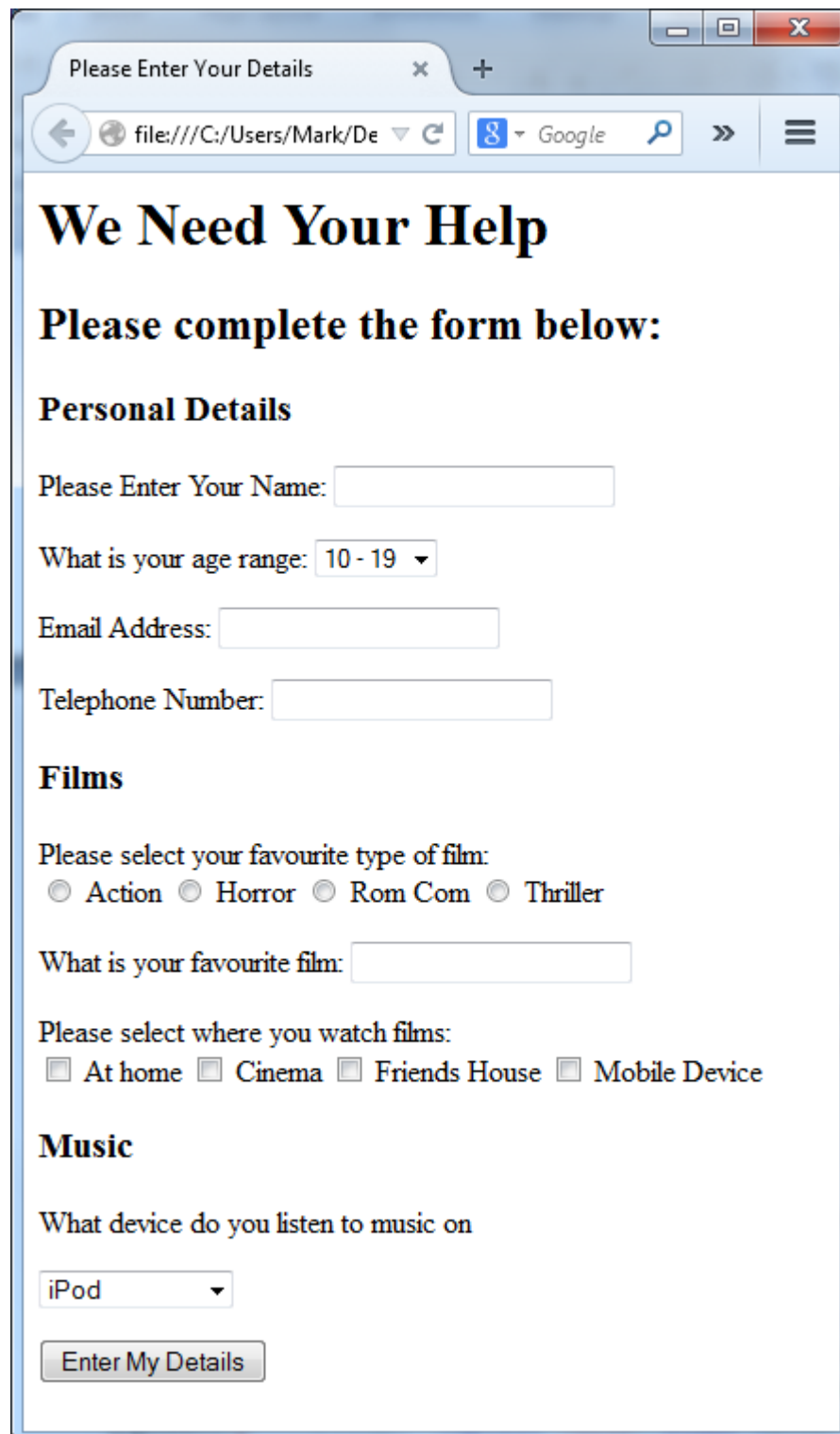

Activity
Using the skills learned by working through this worksheet, you need to create a form which would collect the information about people's interests; the form should have the following:

- Suitable titles and headings
- Inputs that collect personal information such as:
    - Name
    - Age
    - Email address
    - Telephone number
- Inputs that collect a person's interests, such as:
    - Favourite film
    - Favourite band
    - Favourite type of food

The form should contain a range of inputs such as text inputs, radio buttons, drop-down box, etc.

The following screenshot is an example of how to lay out your form, **it is not a complete example**:

Activity Example:

Browser window titled "Please Enter Your Details"

We Need Your Help

Please complete the form below:

Personal Details

Please Enter Your Name: [   ]

What is your age range: [10 - 19 ▼]

Email Address: [   ]

Telephone Number: [   ]

Films

Please select your favourite type of film:
○ Action ○ Horror ○ Rom Com ○ Thriller

What is your favourite film: [   ]

Please select where you watch films:
☐ At home ☐ Cinema ☐ Friends House ☐ Mobile Device

Music

What device do you listen to music on

[iPod   ▼]

[Enter My Details]

Points to remember

- All forms begin with **\<form\>** and end with **\</form\>**
- For a text input use `<input type="text">`
- For a password box use `<input type="password">`
- Radio buttons allow a user to select one option only.
- Checkboxes allow a user to select one or more options.