



CORSO DI LAUREA IN INFORMATICA

Tecnologie Software per il Web

HTML – Part 2 – Forms

Docente: prof. Simone Romano
a.a. 2024-2025

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

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



Browser

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



Server Script

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.



Browser

The browser gets the response and displays it.

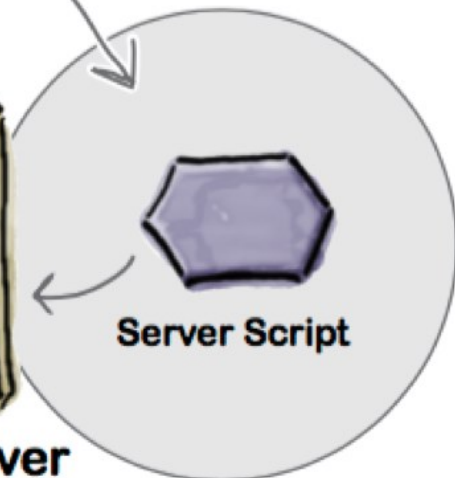


The response is an HTML web page.



Web Server

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



Server Script

<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">
```

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

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

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

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

Ⓓ <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.)

A
B
C
D

Enter the Contest

file:///chapter14/contest

Just type in your name (and click Submit) to enter the contest.

First name:

Last name:

Form elements

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.

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.

```
<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 (maxlength), the width of this control (size)...

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

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

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

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

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 usually used to trigger the execution of some client-side scripts, it does not cause the form to be submitted!!!

[illegible]

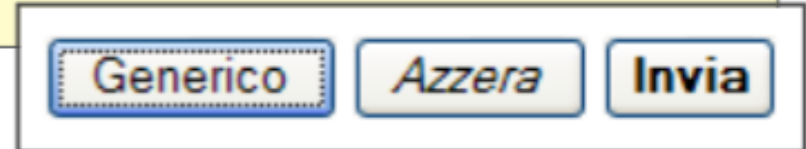
Conferma

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>
```

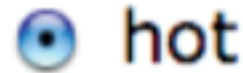


- Es:

```
<button></button>
```

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.”



hot



not



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

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



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



...but each choice has a different value.



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

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.

- ☒ Salt
- ☒ Pepper
- ☐ Garlic

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

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

Related checkboxes also share a common name.

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.

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

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.

The `cols` attribute tells the browser how many characters wide to make the text area.

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

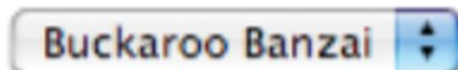
Any text that goes between the opening and closing tags becomes the initial text in the browser's text area control.

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

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

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.



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.

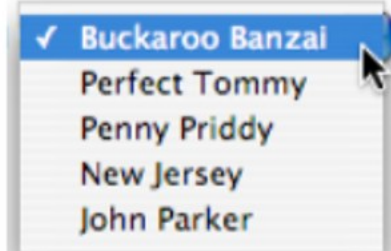
Just like the other form elements, give the select element a unique name using the name attribute.

```
<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.



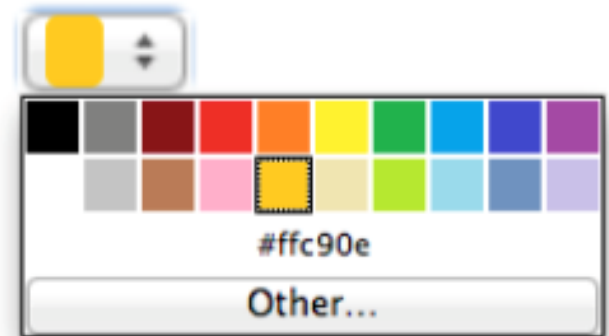
Both number and range have an optional step attribute you can use to specify the number of intervals for the values.

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

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.

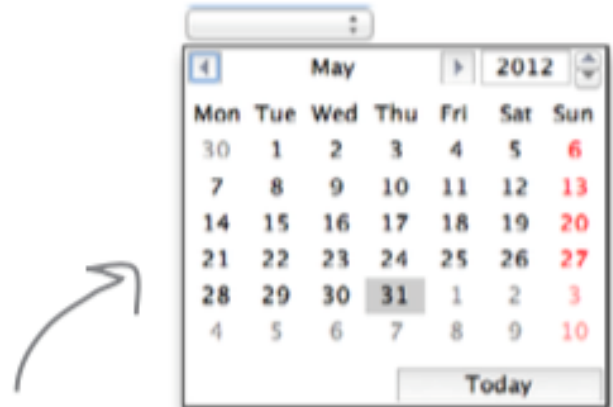


`<input type="color">`

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 = 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>
```

 Sfoglia...

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
- Le label migliorano l'accessibilità di un sito Web:
 - Cliccando sulla label, il controllo corrispondente acquisisce il focus

```
<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 (starbuzz2.zip)

- 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

`<body>`

`<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">
```

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

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.

What the browser packages up for the server

What you enter into the form.

Name:

Address:

City:

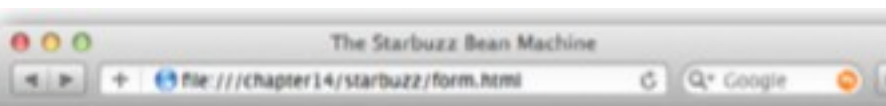
State:

Zip:

Phone:

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

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

Ship to:

Name:

Address:

City:

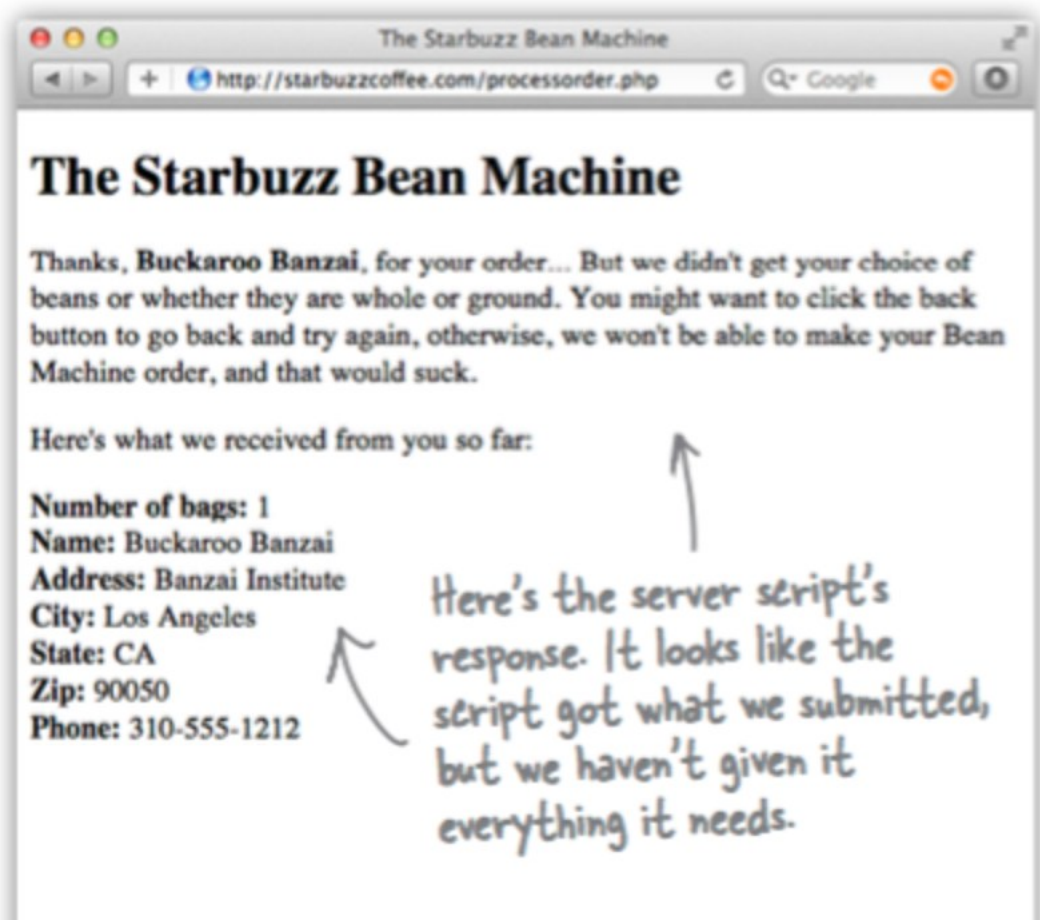
State:

Zip:

Phone:

And here's the response
after submitting the form.

Here's the form.



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.

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

```
<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.

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

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form

Choose your beans: House Blend Shade Grown Bolivia Supremo Organic Guatemala Kenya

Ship to:

Name:

Address:

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 n

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>

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

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

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:

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>
    <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>
  <p> Type:<br>
    <input type="radio" name="type" value="whole" checked> Whole bean <br>
    <input type="radio" name="type" value="ground"> Ground
  </p>
  <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>
  <p> Extras: <br>
    <input type="checkbox" name="extras" value="giftwrap" checked> Gift wrap <br>
    <input type="checkbox" name="extras" value="catalog"> Include catalog with order
  </p>
</fieldset>
<fieldset>
  <legend>Ship to</legend>
  <p>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> Customer Comments: <br>
    <textarea name="comments"></textarea>
  </p>
  <p>
    <input type="submit" value="Order Now">
  </p>
</fieldset>
</form>
```

The Starbuzz Bean Machine

Fill out the form below and click submit to order


Order Details

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:

Fieldset, legend, and label

```
<form action="http://starbuzzcoffee.com/processorder.php" method="post">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Order Details</legend>
    <p> <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>
    </p>
    <p> Type:<br>
      <input type="radio" name="type" id="whole_type" value="whole" checked> <label for="whole_type">Whole bean</label><br>
      <input type="radio" name="type" id="ground_type" value="ground"> <label for="ground_type">Ground</label>
    </p>
    <p> <label for="bags">Number of bags:</label><input type="number" name="bags" id="bags" min="1" max="10" value="1">
    </p>
    <p> <label for="date">Must arrive by date:</label> <input type="date" id="date" name="date">
    </p>
    <p> Extras: <br>
      <input type="checkbox" name="extras[]" value="giftwrap" id="extra_giftwrap" checked> <label for="extra_giftwrap">Gift wrap</label><br>
      <input type="checkbox" name="extras[]" value="catalog" id="extra_catalog"> <label for="extra_catalog">Include catalog with order</label>
    </p>
  </fieldset>
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Ship to</legend>
    <p><label for="name">Name:</label> <input type="text" name="name" id="name"><br>
    <label for="address">Address:</label> <input type="text" name="address" id="address"><br>
    <label for="city">City:</label> <input type="text" name="city" id="city"><br>
    <label for="state">State:</label> <input type="text" name="state" id="state"><br>
    <label for="zip">Zip:</label> <input type="text" name="zip" id="zip"><br>
    <label for="phone">Phone:</label> <input type="tel" name="phone" id="phone"><br>
    </p>
    <p> <label for="comments">Customer Comments:</label> <br>
      <textarea name="comments" id="comments"></textarea>
    </p>
    <p> <input type="submit" value="Order Now">
    </p>
  </fieldset>
</form>
```

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=Buckaroo+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.



Buckaroo Banzai
Perfect Tommy
Penny Priddy
New Jersey
John Parker

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>
```


Password

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

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

```
<form action="/login">  
  Email <input type="email" name="email"><br>  
  Password: <input type="password" name="pwd" minlength="8"> <br>  
  <input type="submit" value="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 field with a max length of 10 characters*

`<input type="text" name="firstname" value="John" readonly>` *Input field not modifiable*

`<input type="text" name="firstname" value="John" disabled>` *Input field disabled*

`<input type="email" name="email" autocomplete="off">` *Input field with autocomplete disabled*

References

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

[Home](#) [HTML](#) [CSS](#) [JAVASCRIPT](#) [SQL](#) [PHP](#) [MORE ▾](#) [REFERENCES ▾](#) [EXERCISES ▾](#) [🌐](#) [🔍](#)

HTML Forms

- 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

HTML Forms

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)

HTML Form Example

First name:

Last name:

[Try it Yourself »](#)

The <form> Element

The HTML `<form>` element defines a form that is used to collect user input:

COLOR