

PHP Forms Basics



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HTTP Verbs

GET

Data appended to URL

Size limit (~500-2000 characters)

PHP array `$_GET`

POST

Data in body of HTTP request

No size limit, file uploads possible

PHP array `$_POST` (and `$_FILES` for uploads)



Demo



Looking at HTTP requests



Form Elements

```
<input type="text" name="txt">  
<input type="password" name="pwd">  
<textarea name="area"></textarea>
```

Text field

••••••••

Multi-line
text field

Text fields

```
<input type="checkbox" name="chb" value="on">  
<input type="radio" name="group" value="option1">1  
<input type="radio" name="group" value="option2">2
```

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Radio buttons/
checkboxes

```
<select name="ddl">  
  <option value="item1">one</option>  
  <option value="item2">two</option>  
  <option value="item3">three</option>  
</select>
```

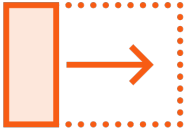
one ▼

one
two
three

Selection lists



Processing Form Elements



Data is put in `$_GET`/`$_POST` arrays



Element's name is array key



Value is value of text field, button



Special Cases

```
<input type="checkbox" name="chb" value="on">  
<input type="radio" name="group" value="option1">1  
<input type="radio" name="group" value="option2">2
```



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**Radio
button/checkbox**
\$_GET/\$_POST
contains value of
selected
button/checkbox

```
<select name="ddl">  
  <option value="item1">one</option>  
  <option value="item2">two</option>  
  <option value="item3">three</option>  
</select>
```

one ▼

Selection list
\$_GET/\$_POST
contains value of
selected list element

```
<select multiple name="list[]" size="3">  
  <option value="item1">one</option>  
  <option value="item2">two</option>  
  <option value="item3">three</option>  
</select>
```

one
two
three

Multi-select list
\$_GET/\$_POST
contains array with
values of all selected
list elements



Escaping Form Output



User input is not trustworthy

- Might contains JavaScript -> Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

Use htmlspecialchars() to escape special characters

< > " &

Option ENT_QUOTES escapes ', too

Demo



Building a registration form



Summary



Form data is put in `$_GET` or `$_POST`, depending on HTTP verb

Take care of Cross-site Scripting (XSS) when processing form data