

# What are HTML forms

Lesson Time: 10 Minutes

## FORMS SEND DATA TO THE WEB SERVER.

HTML forms collect input from the user and sends their information to the backend server for processing. Forms use an HTTP POST request to send the form data to the web server.

Because this course focuses on the front end, we aren't going to worry about what happens once the data POSTS to the web server, we will be focused on creating the forms themselves.

HTML forms use the `<form>` element . Inside of the `<form>` element, we'll use `<input>` elements and `<label>` elements to create the form controls. Let's look at sample code.

```
12  <body>
13  <h1>Form Elements</h1>
14  <form method="POST" action="http://www.hashemian.com/tools/form-post-tester.php">
15    <label for="firstname">First Name </label>
16    <input type="text" name="firstname">
17    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
18
19  </form>
20
21 </body>
```

## Form Elements

First Name

1. Method attribute. This is virtually always set to POST and tells the form to HTTP POST request to send the data.

2. Action attribute. This tells the browser the server script or page to send the form data to.

3. Label for. This creates a label and connects to an input element.
4. Input type. This sets the type of text such as text, button, checkbox, ect.
5. Input type="submit". This is a special input that submits the form data using the method and action set at the top of the form.

Key Terms	
Lesson Files	
Additional Resources	<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_form_elements.asp">https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_form_elements.asp</a> <a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_form_input_types.asp">https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_form_input_types.asp</a>
Further Learning	

# The Name Attribute

Lesson Time: 20 Minutes

## FORMS ONLY CARE ABOUT THE NAME ATTRIBUTE.

The name attribute of the <input> element is **critical** in the posting of data to the web server. The name attribute is used in the HTTP POST request. Only inputs that have a name attribute will be sent to the server.

Additionally, when using JavaScript to handle form data, JS will access the form data by the name attribute.

In this example code, the server receives data called firstname with a value of my form value.

<pre>&lt;form method='POST' action='http:// &lt;label for "firstname"&gt;First Nam &lt;input type="text" name="firstna &lt;input type="submit" value="Subm</pre>	<h3>Form Elements</h3>	<p>The POSTed value is:</p> <p>*****</p> <p>firstname=my+form+val</p> <p>*****</p>

Key Terms	
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# Labels

Lesson Time: 10 Minutes

## CREATE MEANINGFUL LABELS.

We use the label tag to create a label for an input. The best way to handle labels is to use `<label for input name value>` . The form label will be linked to this input by the name value.

```
<label for "firstname">First Name </label>  
<input type="text" name="firstname">
```

First Name

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# Form Input Elements

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## **BUTTONS, CHECKBOXES, PASSWORDS AND MORE!**

We have a large selection of Input types to choose from. All types use the `<input>` element, and take on a different appearance with the type.

<code>&lt;input type="button"&gt;</code>	Create a button
<code>&lt;input type="checkbox"&gt;</code>	Create a checkbox
<code>&lt;input type="date"&gt;</code>	Create a date picker
<code>&lt;input type="email"&gt;</code>	Text must be in email format with @
<code>&lt;input type="file"&gt;</code>	File Picker
<code>&lt;input type="hidden"&gt;</code>	A hidden field, invisible on the form.
<code>&lt;input type="number"&gt;</code>	Must be a number
<code>&lt;input type="password"&gt;</code>	Hide input on the screen
<code>&lt;input type="radio"&gt;</code>	Create radio buttons
<code>&lt;input type="reset"&gt;</code>	Reset the form
<code>&lt;input type="submit"&gt;</code>	Submit the form
<code>&lt;input type="tel"&gt;</code>	Input must be a telephone number
<code>&lt;input type="text"&gt;</code>	Input can be anything

Two useful inputs that have their own elements is `<textarea>` and `<select>`. `<textarea>` will create a large text area to write comments in. `<Select>` will create a dropdown menu of choices. Because these are not `<input>` elements, the backend server must be configured to process them, or we must write additional javascript to post it them without error. It's ok for this lesson if they don't appear in our POST..

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