Notebook 5: HTML Submit Form Data

In this tutorial, you will learn how to send data to a server using an HTML form.

# Requirements

* Previous tutorials
* Files from previous tutorials
* A code editor

# Making a form with the “action” and “method” attributes

The “action” attribute of a form specifies where to send the data to. The “method” attribute specifies how to send it.

1. Inside your “views” folder, make a new EJS file and name it.
2. Insert this code into the new file to create a basic form.

### <!DOCTYPE html>

### <html>

### <body>

### <form action='/formdata' method='post' id='formname'>

### 

### </form>

### </body>

### </html>

# Using form input elements

1. Add this code inside your form:

### <input type='text' name='string' placeholder='Input text here'>

### <input type='submit' value='Click here to submit'>

## What each attribute does

* “type” is what kind of input the element is.
* “name” lets you get an element’s data later.
* “value” sets an element’s initial value.
* “placeholder” is what is displayed if an element has no value.

# Using <textarea>

1. Outside of your form, insert this code:

### <textarea name='string2' form='formname' cols='15' rows='4'></textarea>

## What each attribute does

* “form” specifies what form an element belongs to.
* “cols” and “rows” are ways to specify a textarea’s width and height, respectively.

# What the submit button does

When you click the submit button, the form’s data is sent to a form handler. (In this example, the form handler is your JS file.) Then, the form handler can use the data to do various things.

# Adding a new endpoint

1. In your JS file, add this code:

### app.get('/form', (req, res) => {

### res.render('[[name of EJS file containing form; do not include “.ejs”]]');

### });

## Testing the new page

1. Run your JS file.
2. Go to this address in your browser:

### localhost:3000/form

You should see something like this (the order of elements does not matter):

