by morriswmz

Styling Forms

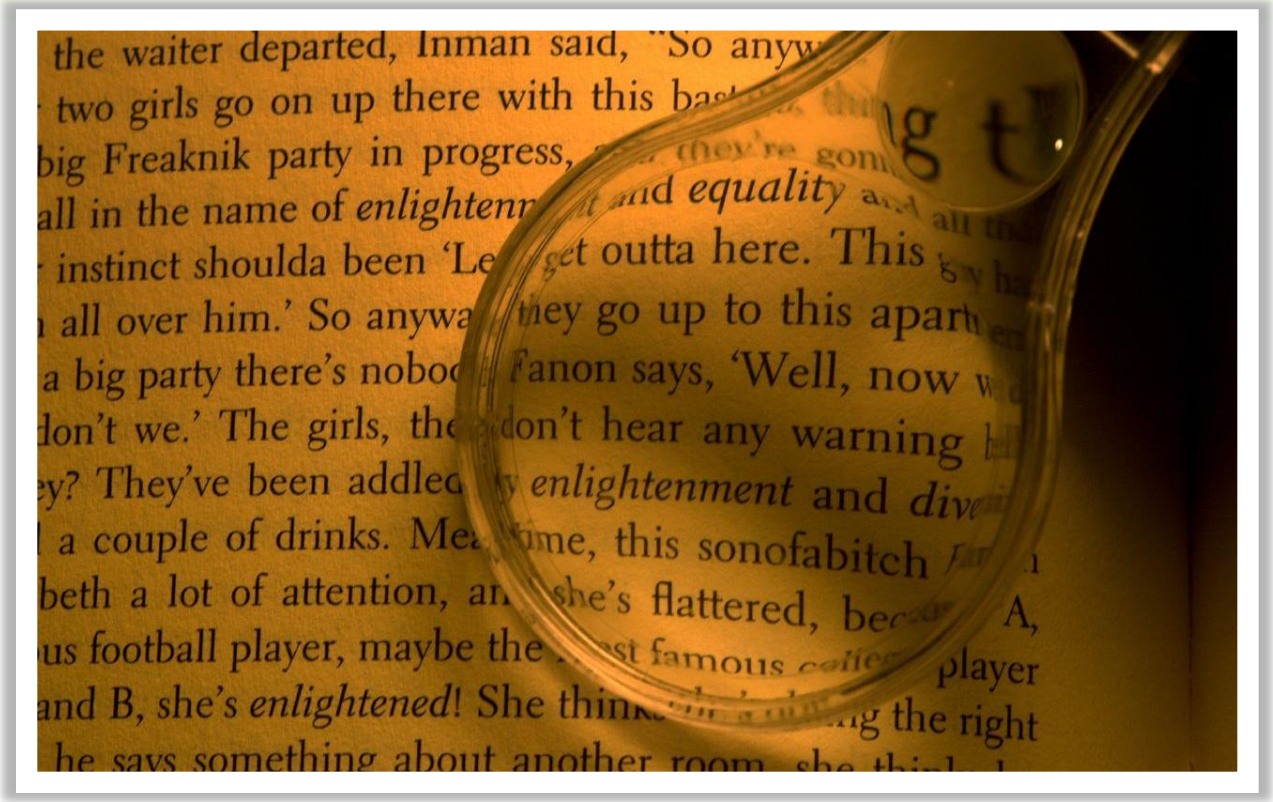
Adding a new level of interaction

We've been familiar with Slice & Layouts

And we can build a well-structured webpage now.

So it is time for some Details

Sometimes it is more difficult to layout small elements.



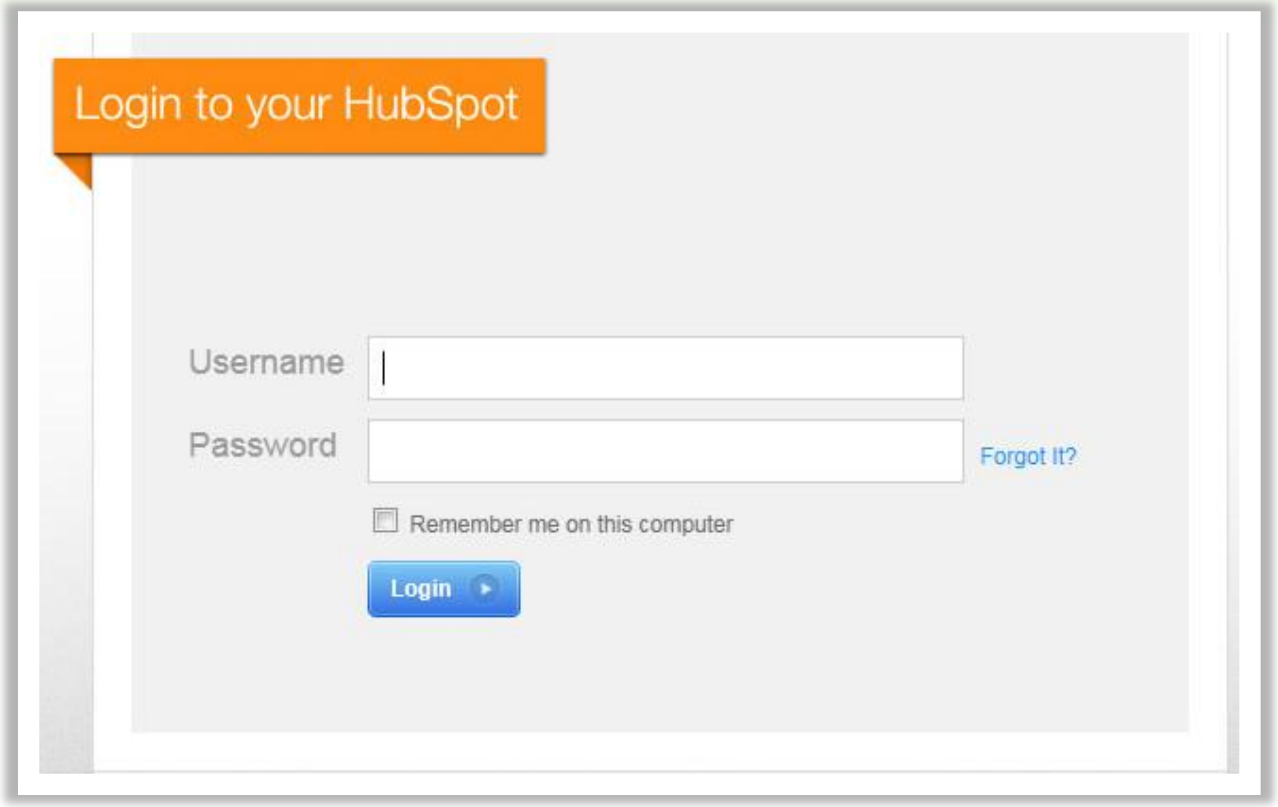
Add more interactions like Forms

- It's hard to imagine a website without forms.
  - Login Forms
  - Comments
  - Administration
  - …
- Although they don not occupy much space, sometimes they bring you more trouble.

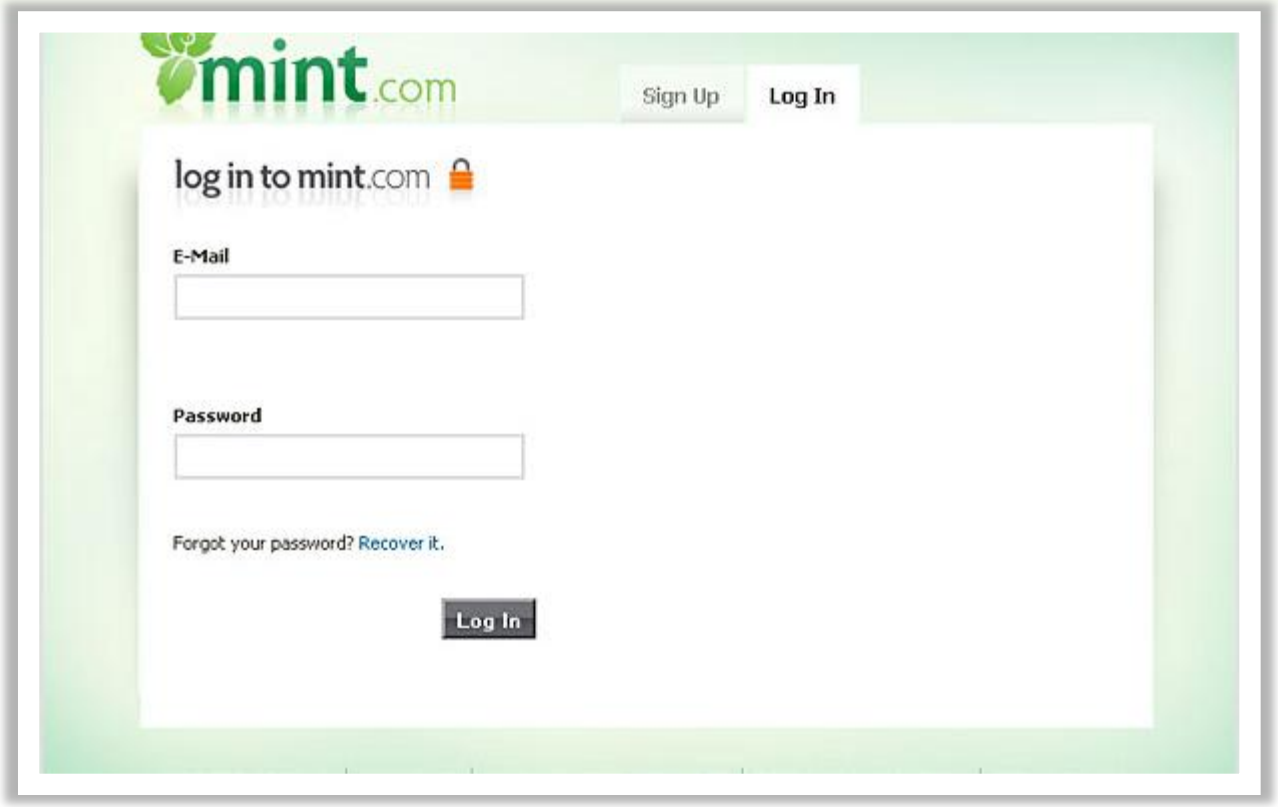
Inspirations

Inspirations 1st

Inspirations 1st



Inspirations 1st



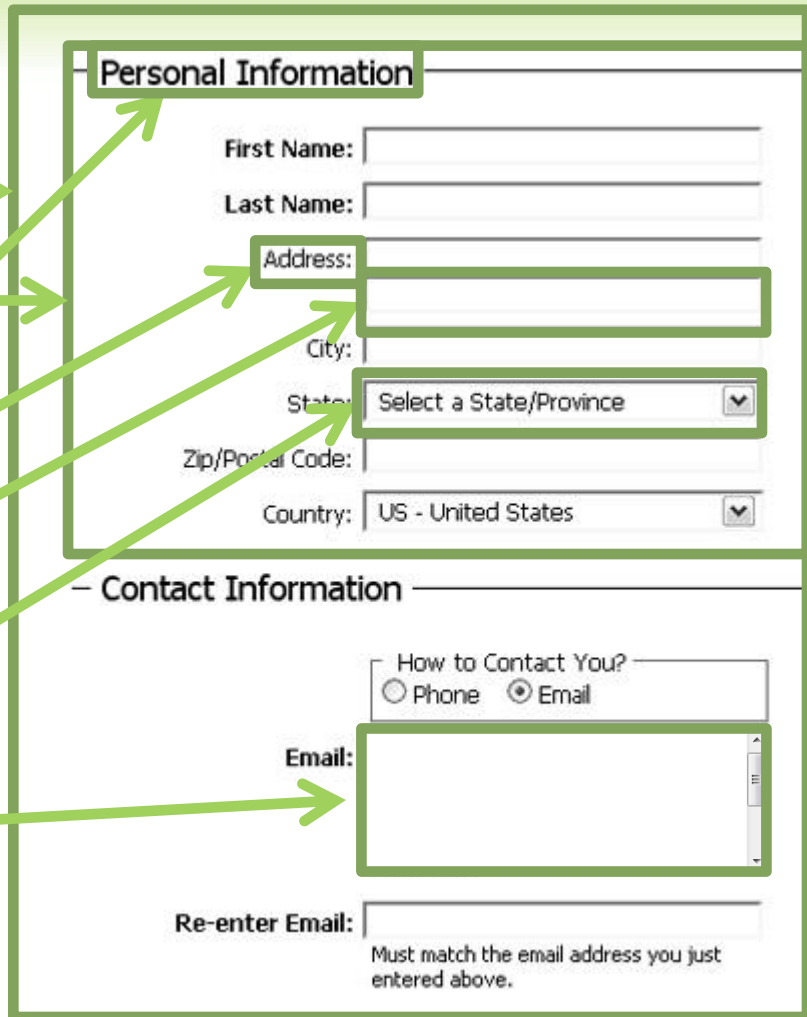
SIGN IN
Log in to your account or sign up to create one.
Name:
Password:
SUBMIT

New to Twitter? Join today!
Full name
Email
Password
Sign up

Elements in <form>

Form Elements

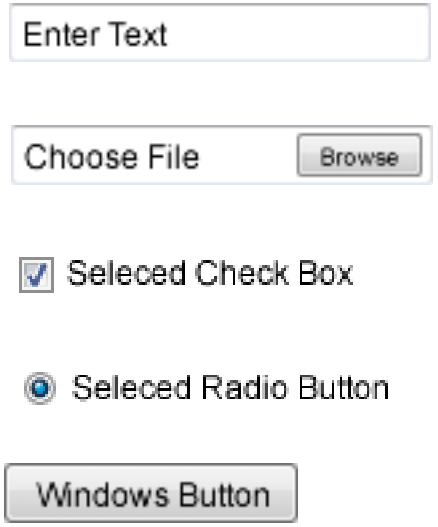
- Basic members:
  - <form>
  - <fieldset>
  - <legend>
  - <label>
  - <input>
  - <select>
  - <textarea>



Form Elements

The input family:

- <input type="text">
- <input type="file">
- <input type="checkbox">
- <input type="radio">
- <input type="button">
- <input type="hidden">

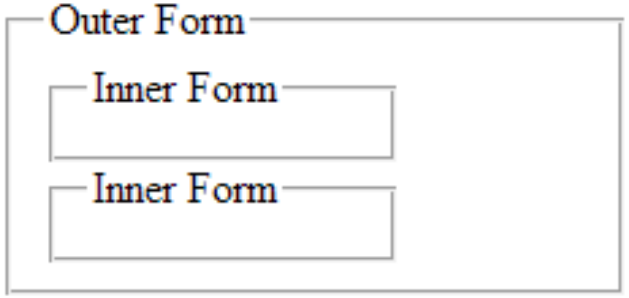


A GLIMPSE OF ITS HTML

```
<form action="">
    <fieldset>
        <legend>Infomation</legend>
        <label for="name">Name:</label>
        <input type="text" name="" id="name" />
        ...
        <fieldset>
            ...
        </fieldset>
    </fieldset>
</form>
```

<FIELDSET> & <LEGEND>

- <fieldset> can be nested like



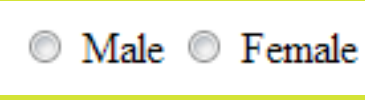
- <legend> is the title of <fieldset>

<LABEL>'S FOR

- The attribute "for" of a <label> indicates its association with other form elements.
- If you click on a label, you also click on the element defined in "for" attribute.
- <label for="target_id" … />

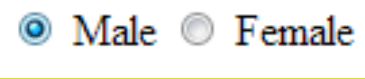
GROUP RADIO BUTTONS

- If several radio buttons have the same "name" attribute, they are in the same group.




```
<input type="radio" name="sex" id="male" />
<label for="male">Male</label>
<input type="radio" name="sex" id="female" />
<label for="female">Female</label>
```

- The "checked" attribute indicates whether the radio button is selected. The same applies to checkbox;

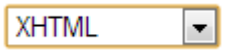


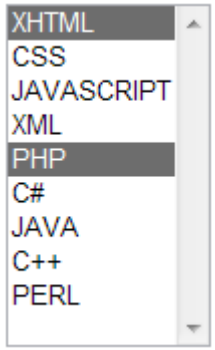

```
<input type="radio" name="sex" id="male"
checked="true" />
```

<SELECT> AND LISTS

- <select> can be both dropdown-menu (size="1") and list-box(size="n", n>1).
- Use <option> to add items.

```
<select size="10" multiple="multiple" id="" name="">
    <option>XHTML</option>
    <option>CSS</option>
    <option>JAVASCRIPT</option>
    <option>XML</option>
    <option>PHP</option>
    <option>C#</option>
</select>
```





Layout

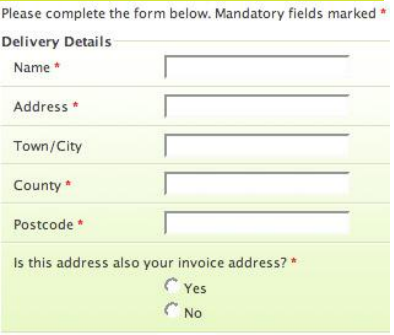
Layout Methods
<P> - simple and lazy

- As <p> occupies one line, it is best suited for forms with one input per line.

```
<p>
    <label for=""></label>
    <input type="text" name="" id="" />
</p>
<p>
    <label for=""></label>
    <input type="text" name="" id="" />
</p>
<p>
    <label for=""></label>
    <input type="text" name="" id="" />
</p>
```

Layout Methods
<li> - simple and clean

- A list is better-structured than simple <p>s.
- Besides, as <li> can be treated like a block, you will have more layout options than <p>.




```
<ul>
    <li>
        <label for=""></label>
        <input type="text" name="" id="" />
    </li>
    <li>
        <label for=""></label>
        <input type="text" name="" id="" />
    </li>
    <li>
        <label for=""></label>
        <input type="text" name="" id="" />
    </li>
</ul>
```

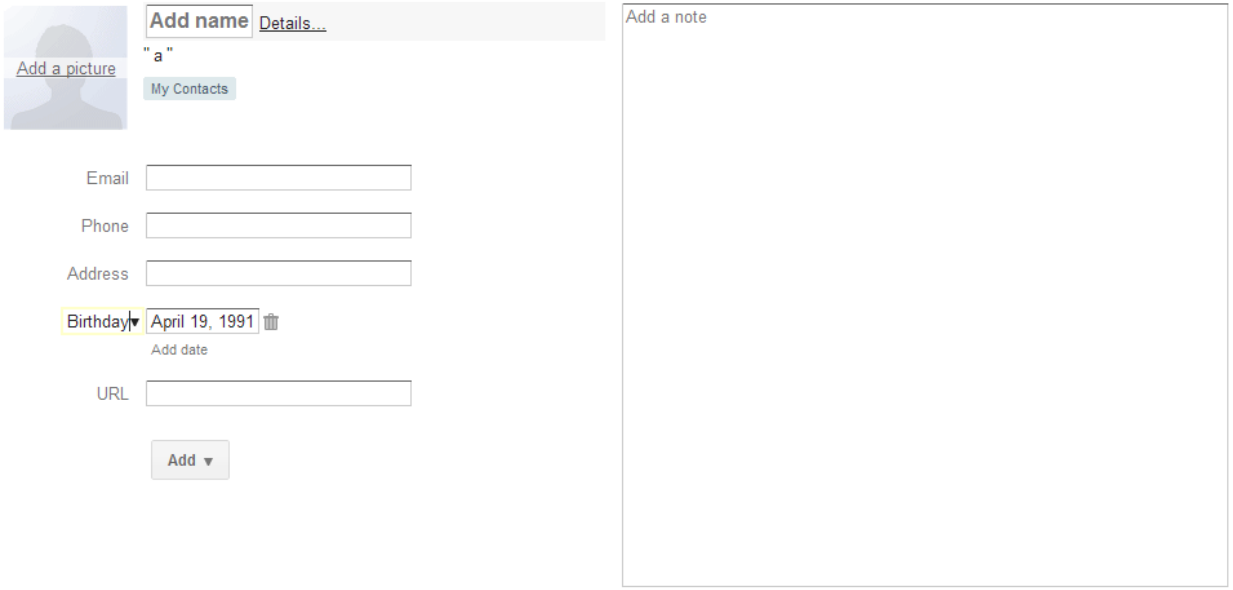
Layout Methods <table> - alignment

- Sometimes we need alignment, which is difficult to achieve by simply using <li>.

- If you want to avoid <table>, you need to specify <label>'s width.

Layout Methods - complex ones

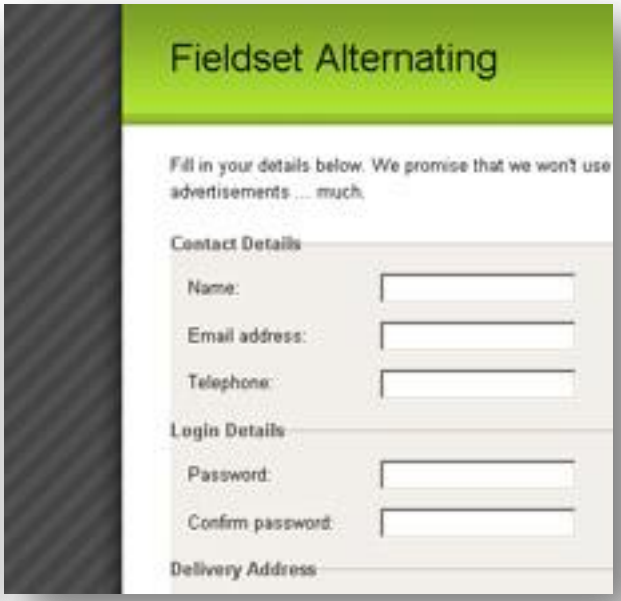
- For some complex forms, is the final choice. Use <fieldset> and to layout wisely.



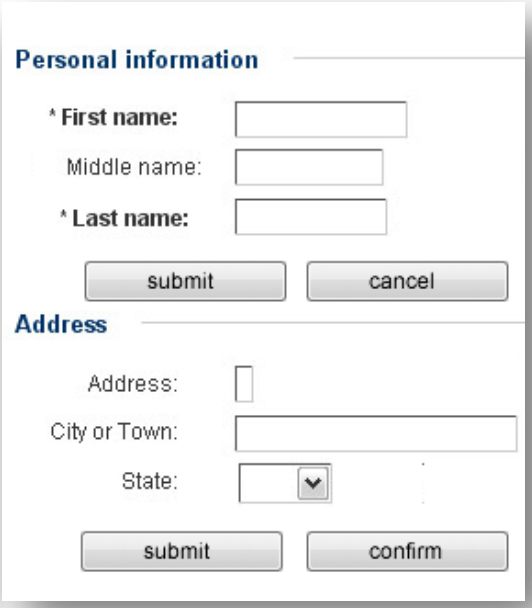
Add styles

HAVE A REST

normal form design



pretty form design



horrible form design

CSS styling Positioning

- <fieldset> is like , and <legend> is hooked to it.
- <label><input><select>… are inline elements. So they will act like text in the container. However, you can specify their **margin, padding, width, height** to better position them.
- Sometimes form elements cannot align vertically even though **vertical-align** is set. You'll have to do some trick to fix this.

CSS STYLING POSITIONING

Type	padding	margin	width	height	border
text	√	√	√	√	√
radio	√	√	x	x	n
checkbox	√	√	x	x	n
button	√	√	√	√	√
file	√	√	√	√	√
select	√	√	√	√	√
textarea	√	√	√	√	√
hidden	n	n	n	n	n

√ = available x = not available n = no need to specify

CSS styling Font Style

- Just like styling normal text, you can apply font-family, font-size, line-height, etc. to form elements.

CSS styling Make a Button

- The default button style is often browser and system dependent, so it is necessary to give it a consistent look so it won't break your site design under different conditions.
- This process is much like making a button using <a>. However, <input type="button"> is preferred in forms instead of <a>.
- We need a sprite sheet and some CSS code to do this.

CSS STYLING MAKE A BUTTON

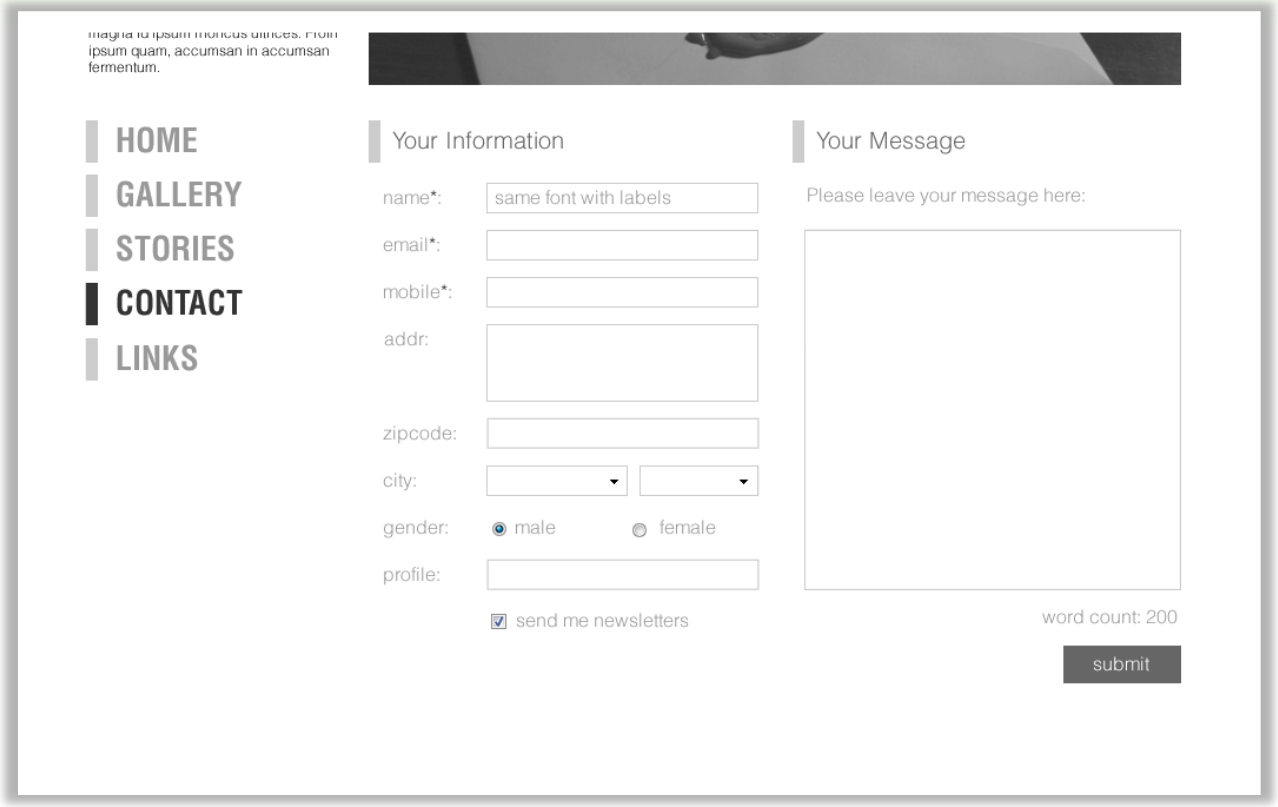
```
.searchbutton {
    width: 82px;
    height: 32px;
    text-indent: -99em;
    border: none;
    /* IE Fix */
    *border: 0 solid #fff;
    line-height: 0;
    /* End IE Fix */
    background: transparent
url('../images/btn_search.png') no-repeat 0 0;
    overflow: hidden;
    display: block;
}
.searchbutton:hover { background-position: 0 -32px; }
.searchbutton:active { background-position: 0 -64px; }
```

All together
You get a nice form

Homework

Code this new page:

contact.html



Zachery Mocha's Portfolio

arcu posuere rhoncus sed non justo

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- HOME
- GALLERY
- STORIES
- CONTACT
- LINKS

Your Information

name*: same font with labels

email*:

mobile*:

addr:

zipcode:

city:

gender: male female

profile:

send me newsletters

Your Message

Please leave your message here:

word count: 200

submit

Reference

- http://www.1stwebdesigner.com/css/51-form-element-resources-and-tutorials-using-css-and-javascript/