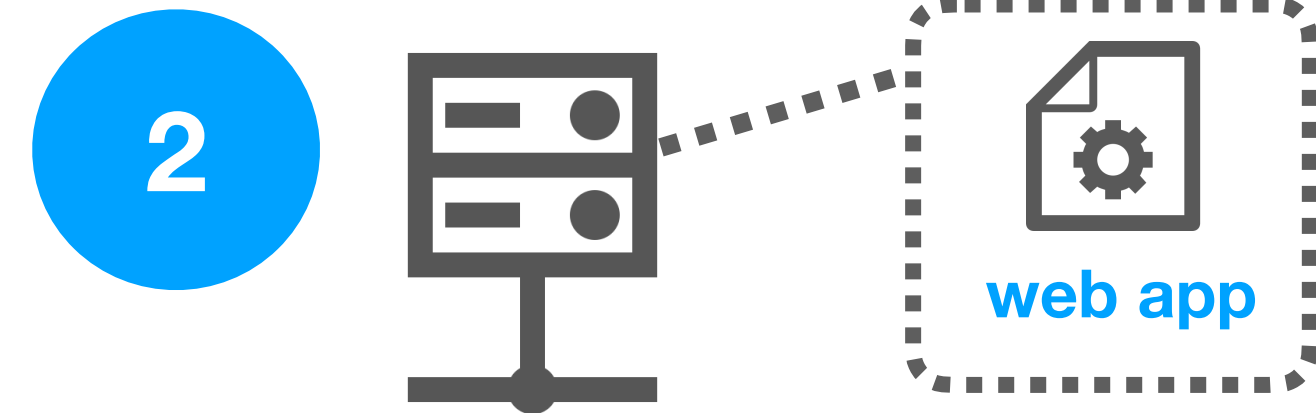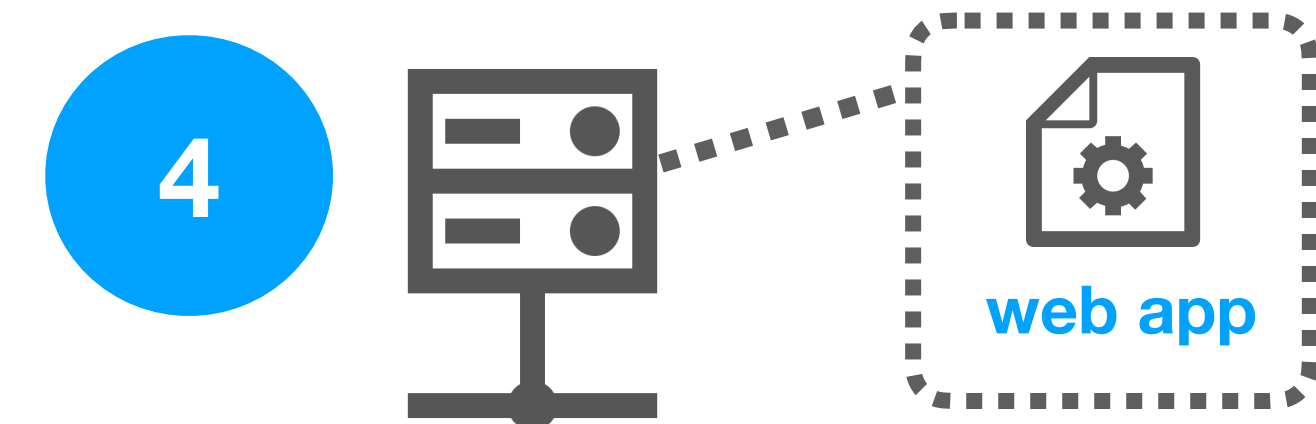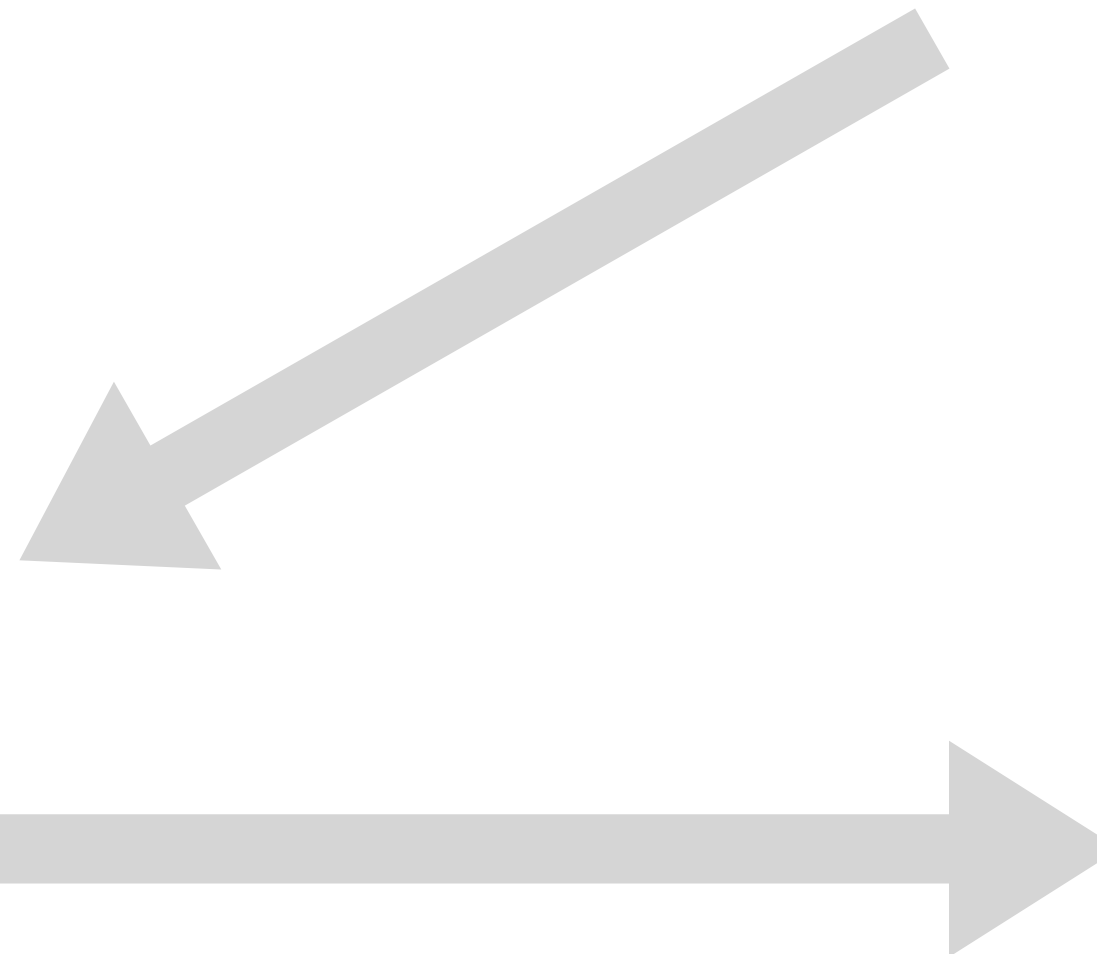# Forms: The Basics

The Timeline of a Form

1 User goes to the URL of a web page with a form.

2 Sinatra maps requested URL to a route for the web page that includes the form.

3 User enters data into form. **Submitting the form causes the browser to generates another web page request.** The browser sends form data as part of the request.

4 Sinatra maps the URL to a route. **Sinatra enters the form data that the user submitted into the** params **hash.**

web app

web app

A Simple Form – HTML

The `method` attribute for the `<form>` HTML tag specifies what HTTP method to use. Until now we've only used `get`.

We can leave this attribute out and the browser will assume we mean `get`.

We need some form fields – HTML elements where the user can enter some data. Here, we have a text field. This is specified by the `type="text"` attribute. The name attribute is also important, as we'll see later.

```html
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Simple Form Example</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style/style.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <form method="get" action="/process-simple-form">
      <p>
        Add some text into this box and press "submit": <br />
        <input type="text" name="text_field" />
      </p>
      <p><input type="submit" value="Submit"></p>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

The `action` attribute for the `<form>` HTML tag specifies the URL that the browser should request when the form is submitted, and where the form data should be sent.

This form field, with `type="submit"`, is the submit button. When the user clicks this button, the browser is directed to the URL of the action parameter of the form, with the form data (i.e., the value in the text field in this example).
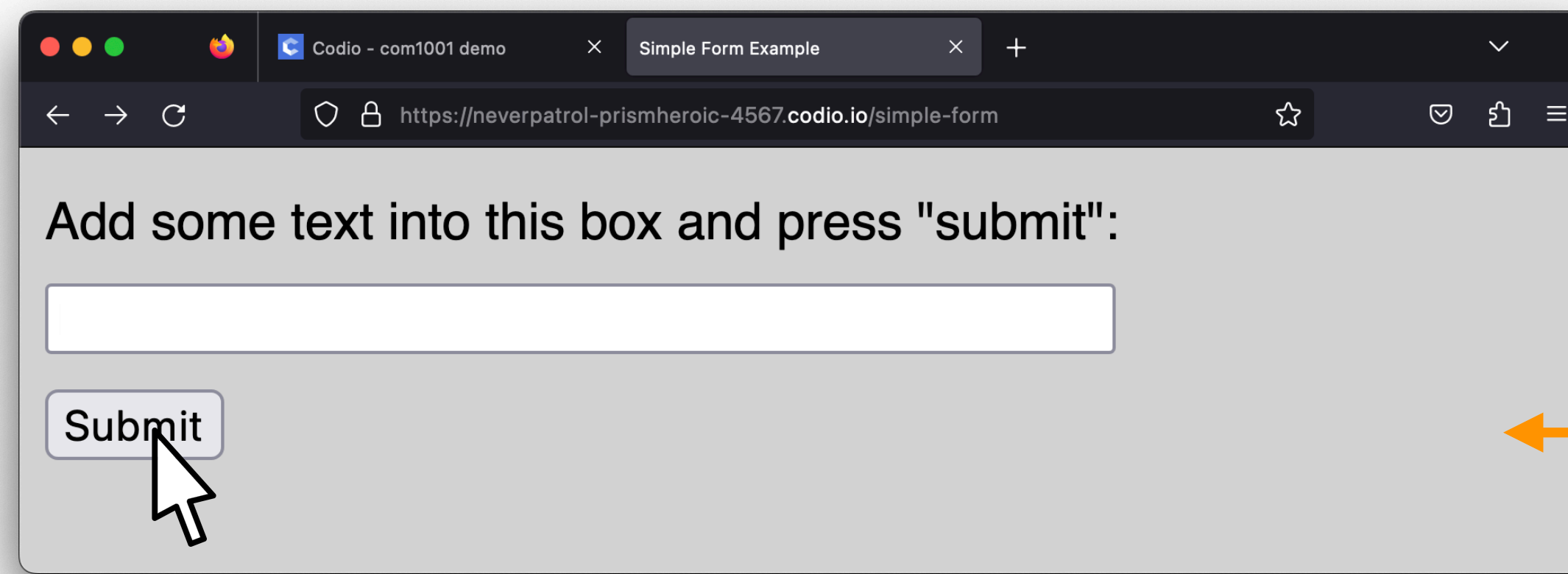
Add some text into this box and press "submit":

[text input box]

Submit

```ruby
get "/simple-form" do
  erb :simple_form
end

get "/process-simple-form" do
  @submitted_text_field_value = params["text_field"]
  erb :process_simple_form
end
```

```html
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Simple Form Example</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style/style.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <form method="get" action="/process-simple-form">
      <p>
        Add some text into this box and press "submit": <br />
        <input type="text" name="text_field" />
      </p>
      <p><input type="submit" value="Submit"></p>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

The form is submitted to /process-simple-form. The Sinatra puts the submitted form data in the params hash. The keys of the hash of the names of the form fields from the original form, and the values consist of the data that the user entered into the form.

https:// [...] /process-simple-form?text_field=Hi!

You submitted the text: **Hi!**

```
get "/simple-form" do
  erb :simple_form
end

get "/process-simple-form" do
  @submitted_text_field_value = params["text_field"]
  erb :process_simple_form
end
```

```html
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Unescaped Form Submission Result</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style/style.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <% unless @submitted_text_field_value.nil? %>
      <p>You submitted the text:<strong>
      <%= @submitted_text_field_value %>
      </strong></p>
    <% end %>
  </body>
</html>
```