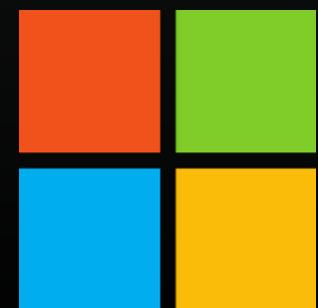


FALLING IN LOVE WITH FORMS



Aaron Gustafson

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Forms suck.

They are incredibly
tedious to create.

They are undeniably
annoying to fill in.

They can be
frustrating to test.

They require logic.

Forms suck.

can
Forms[↖]suck.

don't have to
Forms[^]suck.

can
Forms¹suck,
a lot less

Forms can be...
easy to build
predictable
effortless to use
and **accessible**

It's all in how you
look at them.

HELPFUL HINT

Break large,
complex forms into
smaller, simpler,
reusable patterns

Code Examples

http://is.gd/ag_forms

How about a
common example?
Let's look
at a contact form.

Contact Us

If you have something on your mind, share it with us here.

ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED

Your Name

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Purpose of Your Message

Question/Comment

Your Message

SEND MY MESSAGE

Contact Us

If you have something on your mind, share it with us here.

ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED

Your Name

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Purpose of Your Message

Your Message

SEND MY MESSAGE

Pattern 1: Label & Field

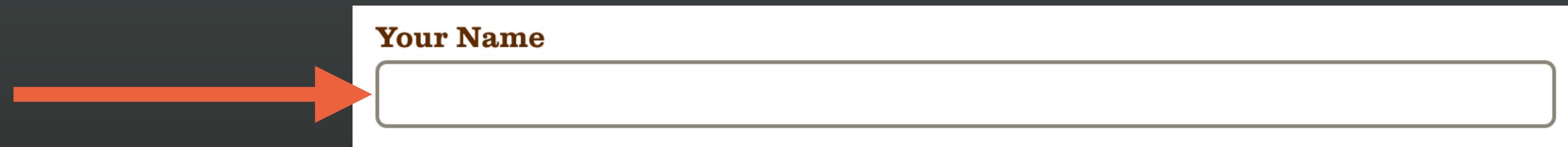
Your Name



Your Name

```
<input type="text" name="full_name">
```

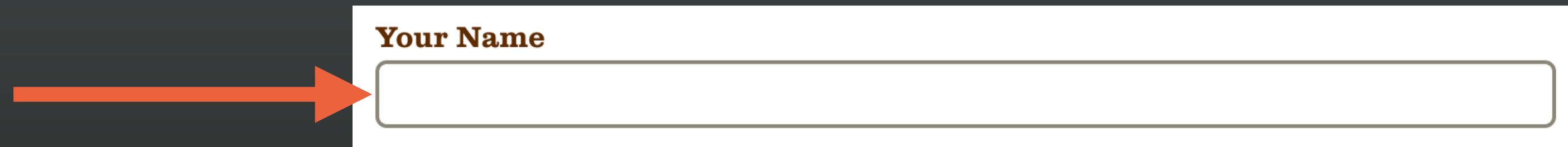
Pattern 1: Label & Field



Your Name

```
<input name="full_name">
```

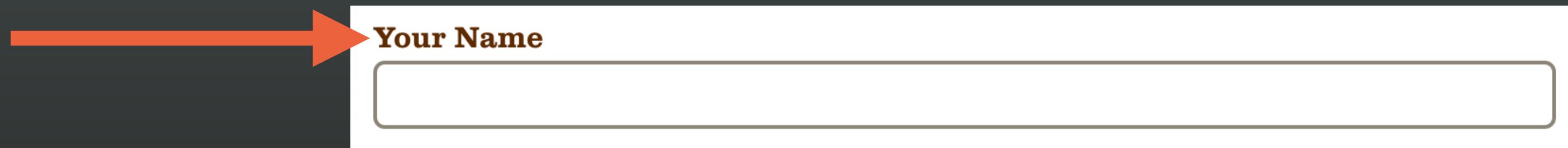
Pattern 1: Label & Field



Your Name

```
<input name="full_name"/>
```

Pattern 1: Label & Field



A diagram illustrating a form pattern. It consists of a white rectangular box containing a label "Your Name" in bold black font above a horizontal text input field. An orange arrow points from the left towards the label.

Your Name

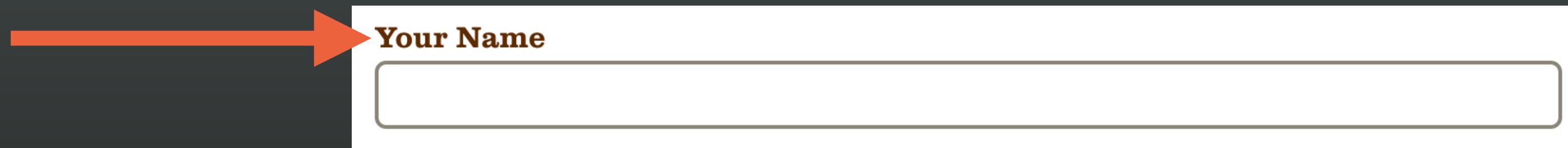
```
<input name="full_name">
```

Pattern 1: Label & Field

A diagram illustrating a form pattern. It consists of a white rectangular box containing a label "Your Name" in bold black font above a horizontal text input field. An orange arrow points from the left towards the label.

```
<label>Your Name</label>
<input name="full_name">
```

Pattern 1: Label & Field



A diagram illustrating a form pattern. It consists of a white rectangular box containing a label "Your Name" in bold black font above a text input field, represented by a grey-bordered rectangle. An orange arrow points from the left towards the label.

```
<label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
<input id="full_name" name="full_name">
```

Pattern 1: Label & Field

Your Name

 **ALL FIELDS ARE REQUIRED**

```
<label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
<input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
```

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input id="email" name="email" required>
```

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input id="email" name="email" required>
```

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input id="email" name="email" required>
```

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input type="email" id="email" name="email" required>
```

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Pattern 2

<label for="email">Y
<input type="email"

We will only use your

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Purpose of Your Message

Question/Comment

...

q w e r t y u i o p
a s d f g h j k l
↑ z x c v b n m ⌫
⚙ &123 ☺ .com = @ . ↵

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Carrier ⌘ 3:52 PM webstandardssherpa.com

REQUIRED

Your Name

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

< > Done

Q W E R T Y U I O P
A S D F G H J K L
Z X C V B N M ↶
_123 space @ . Go

Browsers ignore
what they don't
understand

Progressive Enhancement

Read Free at
<http://is.gd/awd1st>



**Available
Dec 6th**

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input type="email" id="email" name="email" required>
<em>
  We will only use your email address to respond to your message.
</em>
```

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input type="email" id="email" name="email" required>
<em class="note">
  We will only use your email address to respond to your message.
</em>
```

Pattern 2: Label, Field & Note

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input type="email" id="email" name="email" required
       aria-describedby="email-note">
<em class="note" id="email-note">
  We will only use your email address to respond to your message.
</em>
```

Rinse & Repeat

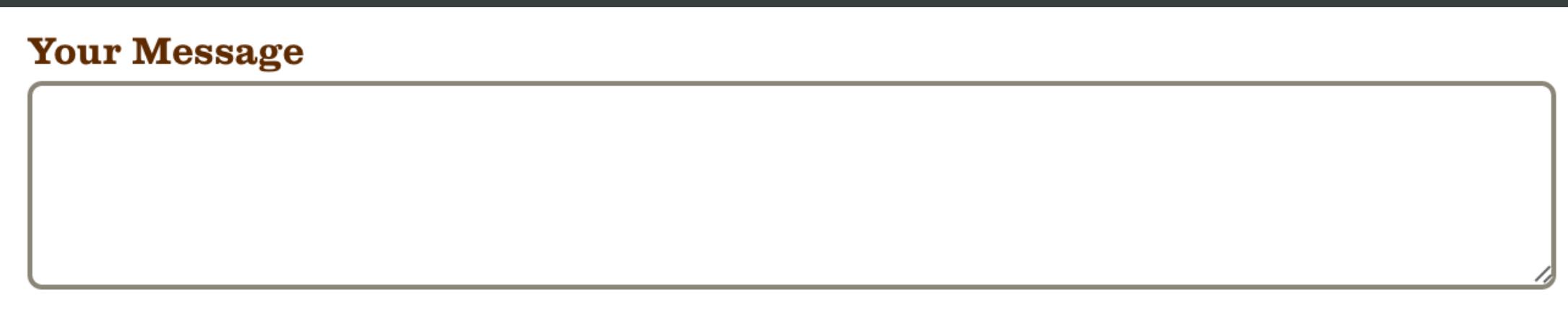
Purpose of Your Message

Question/Comment

```
<label for="subject">Purpose of Your Message</label>
<select id="subject" name="subject">
  <option>Question/Comment</option>
  <option>Article Error</option>
  <option>Website Bug Report</option>
  <option>Ask the Sherpas a question</option>
</select>
```

Rinse & Repeat

Your Message



A screenshot of a web form. It features a label "Your Message" in a dark brown font, positioned above a large, empty text area input field. The input field has a thin gray border and a small double-headed arrow icon in the bottom right corner, indicating it's a resizable text area.

```
<label for="message">Your Message</label>
<textarea id="message" name="message"></textarea>
```

Buttons

SEND MY MESSAGE

```
<input type="submit" value="Send My Message">
```

Buttons

SEND MY MESSAGE

```
<button type="submit">Send My Message</button>
```

HELPFUL HINT

A button element
can contain pretty
much **anything**
(within reason)

That new email field
looks cool, can we
see more of that
fancy HTML5 stuff?

Requesting URLs

URL

```
http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section
```

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed

```
<label for="url">URL</label>
<input type="url" id="url" name="url" required
       aria-describedby="url-note"
       >
<em class="note" id="url-note">
  Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area
  you want reviewed.
</em>
```

Requesting URL

URL

ex. 123-456-7890

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed.

1 + 1 = ?

...

q w e r t y u i o p
a s d f g h j k l
↑ z x c v b n m ⌫
&123 ☺ .com = . →

URL

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed.

1 + 1 = ?

...

q w e r t y u i o p
a s d f g h j k l
↑ z x c v b n m ⌫
&123 ☺ .com = . →

Requesting URLs

Carrier 12:42 PM local.webstandardssherpa.com

URL

http://www.yoursite.com/spec

Please provide the URL for the .

Your Email

URL

http://www.yoursite.com/specific-pa

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed

What aspect of your page do you want reviewed?

< > Done

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L

Z X C V B N M

@123 . / .com Go

```
<label for="url">URL</label>
<input type="url" id="url" aria-describedby="url-note" />
<em class="note" id="url-note">Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed.</em>
```

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed.

Requesting URLs

URL

```
http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section
```

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed

```
<label for="url">URL</label>
<input type="url" id="url" name="url" required
       aria-describedby="url-note"
       >
<em class="note" id="url-note">
  Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area
  you want reviewed.
</em>
```

Providing hints

URL

`http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section`

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed

```
<label for="url">URL</label>
<input type="url" id="url" name="url" required
       aria-describedby="url-note"
       placeholder="http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section"
       >
<em class="note" id="url-note">
  Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area
  you want reviewed.
</em>
```

HELPFUL HINT

Placeholders are just
that: placeholders
for actual content.
They are **not labels!**

Providing hints

URL

`http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section`

Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed

```
<label for="url">URL</label>
<input type="url" id="url" name="url" required
       aria-describedby="url-note"
       placeholder="http://www.yoursite.com/specific-page#anchored-section"
       >
<em class="note" id="url-note">
  Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area
  you want reviewed.
</em>
```

Requesting phone numbers

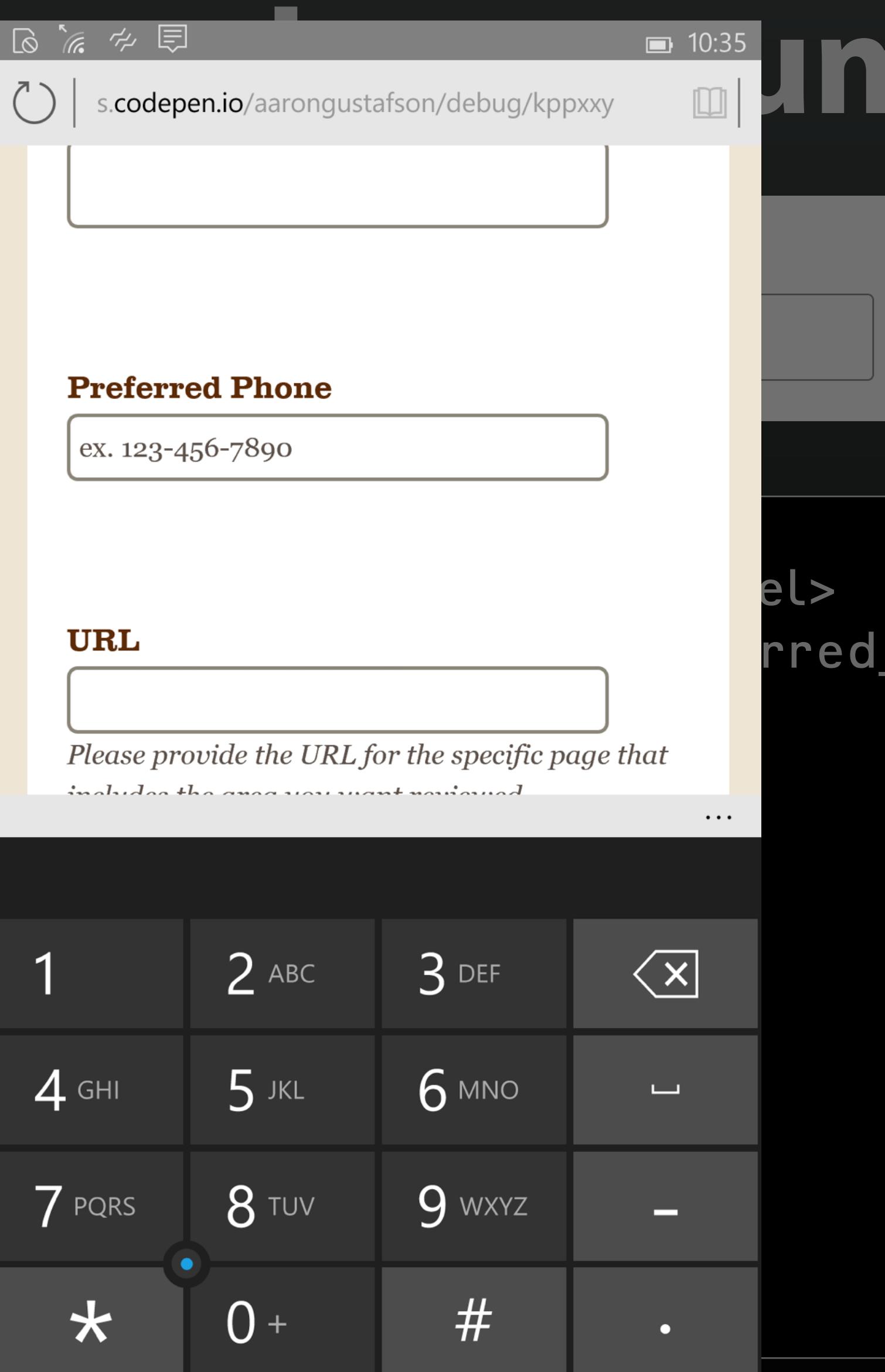
Preferred Phone

ex. 123-456-7890

```
<label for="preferred_phone">Preferred Phone</label>
<input type="tel" id="preferred_phone" name="preferred_phone"
placeholder="ex. 123-456-7890"
>
```

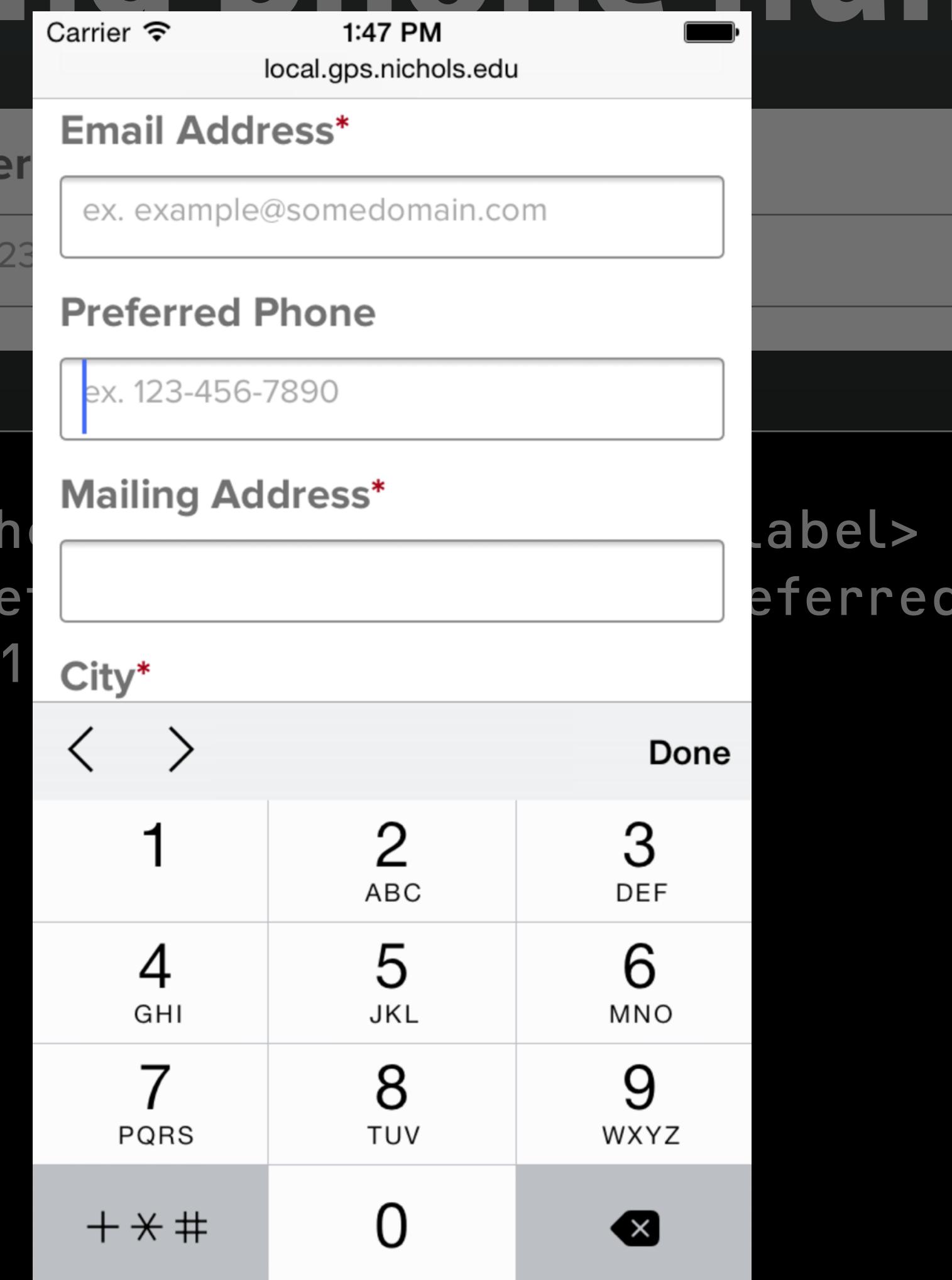
Requesting numbers

```
<label for="preferred_phone">  
<input type="tel" id="preferred_phone" placeholder="ex. 123-456-7890" />
```



Requesting phone numbers

```
<label for="preferred_phone">  
<input type="tel" id="preferred_phone" placeholder="ex. 123-456-7890" />
```



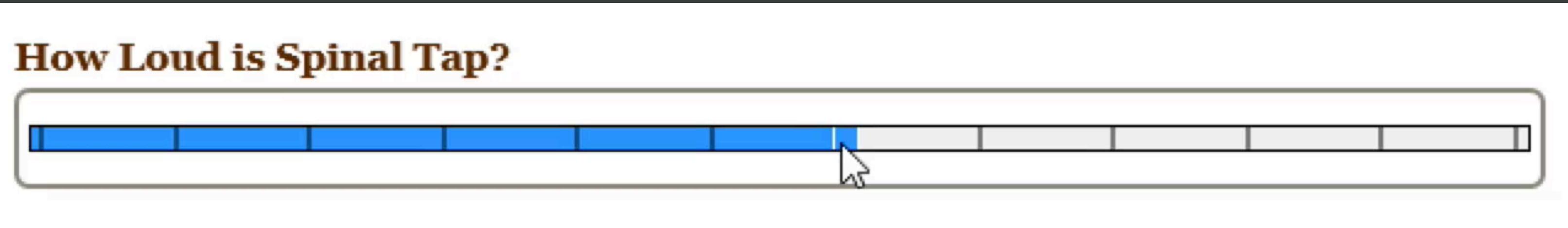
Requesting numbers

1 + 1 = ?



```
<label for="test">What is 1 + 1?</label>
<input id="test" type="number" name="test">
```

Requesting numbers



```
<label for="volume">How Loud is Spinal Tap?</label>
<input id="volume" type="range" name="volume"
      min="0" max="11" step="1"
      >
```

Requesting numbers

1 + 1 = ?

```
<label for="test">What is 1 + 1?</label>
<input id="test" type="number" name="test"
       pattern="[0-9]*" 
       min="0" max="9"
       >
```

Requesting dates & times

Preferred Date to Visit

mm/dd/yyyy

```
<label for="preferred_dates">Preferred Date to Visit</label>
<input id="preferred_dates" type="date" name="preferred_dates"
       required
     >
```

Requesting dates & times

Preferred Date to Visit*

mm / dd / yyyy

September 2014 ▾

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

—Friday at 9:30am, 11:00am,

Requesting dates & times

```
<label for="preferred_date">  
<input id="preferred_date" type="text" value="Sep 4, 2014" required>  
</label>
```

Carrier 2:18 PM local.nichols.edu

Preferred Date to Visit*
The best time to visit campus is Monday–Friday from early September through early May when classes are in session.

Sep 4, 2014 ▾

Tour Time Requested
Tours are offered Monday–Friday at 9:30am.

< > Clear Done

Month	Date	Year
May	1	2010
June	2	2011
July	3	2012
August	4	2013
September	5	2014
October	6	2015
November	7	2016
December	8	2017

Requesting dates & times

Preferred Date to Visit

mm/dd/yyyy

```
<label for="preferred_dates">Preferred Date to Visit</label>
<input id="preferred_dates" type="date" name="preferred_dates"
       required
       min="2014-09-10" max="2014-12-19"
       >
```

Requesting dates & times

12 / 14 / 2014 🕒 ▼

December 2014 ▾

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

–Friday at 9:30am, 11:00am,

Requesting dates & times

Tour Time Requested

--:-- --

```
<label for="requested_tour_time">Tour Time Requested</label>
<input id="requested_tour_time" type="time" name="requested_tour_time">
```

Requesting dates & times

Carrier 2:18 PM local.nichols.edu

Tour Time Requested

--:-- --

Sep 4, 2014 ▾

Tour Time Requested

Tours are offered Monday–Friday at 9:30am, 11:00am, 1:30pm, and 3:00pm.

9:30 AM ▾

SUBMIT FORM

< > Clear Done

6	27
7	28
8	29
9	30 AM
10	31 PM
11	32
12	33

```
<label for="requested_tour_time">
<input id="requested_tour_time" type="text" value="---:--- ---" />
</label>
<button type="button">SUBMIT FORM</button>
```

requested</label>
<input id="requested_tour_time" type="text" value="---:--- ---" />

Mentalism

State

```
<label for="state">State</label>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
<datalist id="states">
  <option>Alabama</option>
  <option>Alaska</option>
  <option>Arizona</option>
  <option>Arkansas</option>
  <!-- options continue -->
</datalist>
```

Mentalism

State

```
<label for="state">State</label>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
<datalist id="states">
  <option>Alabama</option>
  <option>Alaska</option>
  <option>Arizona</option>
  <option>Arkansas</option>
  <!-- options continue -->
</datalist>
```

Mentalism

State

```
<label for="state">State</label>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
<datalist id="states">
  <option value="AL">Alabama</option>
  <option value="AK">Alaska</option>
  <option value="AZ">Arizona</option>
  <option value="AR">Arkansas</option>
  <!-- options continue -->
</datalist>
```

Mentalism: smart fallbacks

```
<label for="state" id="state_label">State</label>
<datalist id="states">

    <select name="state" aria-labelledby="state_label">
        <option>Alabama</option>
        <option>Alaska</option>
        <option>Arizona</option>
        <option>Arkansas</option>
        <!-- options continue -->
    </select>

    If other, please specify

</datalist>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
```

Mentalism: smart fallbacks

```
<label for="state" id="state_label">State</label>
<datalist id="states">
```

State

Alabama

If other, please specify

If other, please specify

```
</datalist>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
```

Mentalism: smart fallbacks

```
<label for="state" id="state_label">State</label>
<datalist id="states">

  <select name="state" aria-labelledby="state_label">
    <option>Alabama</option>
    <option>Alaska</option>
    <option>Arizona</option>
    <option>Arkansas</option>
    <!-- options continue -->
  </select>

  If other, please specify

</datalist>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
```

Mentalism: smart fallbacks

```
<label for="state" id="state_label">State</label>
<datalist id="states">

  <select name="state" aria-labelledby="state_label">
    <option>Alabama</option>
    <option>Alaska</option>
    <option>Arizona</option>
    <option>Arkansas</option>
    <!-- options continue -->
  </select>

  If other, please specify

</datalist>
<input id="state" name="state" list="states">
```

Ok, I get it: forms in
HTML5 are awesome.
But how should we
organize our forms?

Do we divide it up?

Your Name

```
<div>
  <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
  <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
</div>
```

Do paragraphs make sense?

Your Name

```
<p>
  <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
  <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
</p>
```

Is it a list of questions?

Your Name

```
<ol>
  <li>
    <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
    <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
  </li>
</ol>
```

Is it a list of questions?

Your Name

```
form ol,  
form ul {  
    list-style: none;  
    margin: 0;  
    padding: 0;  
}
```

Control Group Classification

Your Name

```
<li class="text">
  <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
  <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

Your Name

```
<li class="form-control form-control--text">
  <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
  <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

Your Name

```
<li class="text">
  <label for="full_name">Your Name</label>
  <input id="full_name" name="full_name" required>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<li class="email">
  <label for="email">Your Email</label>
  <input type="email" id="email" name="email" required
         aria-describedby="email-note">
  <em class="note" id="email-note">
    We will only use your email address to respond
    to your message.
  </em>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

Purpose of Your Message

Question/Comment

```
<li class="select">
  <label for="subject">Purpose of Your Message</label>
  <select id="subject" name="subject">
    <option>Question/Comment</option>
    <option>Article Error</option>
    <option>Website Bug Report</option>
    <option>Ask the Sherpas a question</option>
  </select>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

Your Message



```
<li class="textarea">
  <label for="message">Your Message</label>
  <textarea id="message" name="message"></textarea>
</li>
```

Control Group Classification

SEND MY MESSAGE

```
<li class="buttons">
  <button type="submit">Send My Message</button>
</li>
```

Makes sense.
What about more
complex form
constructs?

Pattern 3: Confirmations



Sign me up for this newsletter

```
<input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" value="yes">  
Sign me up for this newsletter
```

Pattern 3: Confirmations



Sign me up for this newsletter

```
<input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" value="yes"  
      id="newsletter">  
<label for="newsletter">Sign me up for this newsletter</label>
```

Pattern 3: Confirmations



Sign me up for this newsletter

```
<label>
```

```
  <input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" value="yes">
  Sign me up for this newsletter
</label>
```

Pattern 3: Confirmations



Sign me up for this newsletter

```
input {  
  /* Styles for most normal input types */  
}  
  
label input {  
  /* Styles for checkbox and radio controls */  
}
```

Pattern 3: Confirmations



Sign me up for this newsletter

```
<label for="newsletter">  
  <input type="checkbox" name="newsletter" value="yes"  
        id="newsletter">  
    Sign me up for this newsletter  
</label>
```

Pattern 4: Multiple Choice

Tablets (9 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- iPad 2
- Microsoft Surface RT

Tablets (9 available)

```
<label for="asus-nexus-7">
  <input type="checkbox" name="device[]" id="asus-nexus-7">
  Asus Nexus 7
</label>

<!-- more options -->
```

Pattern 4: Multiple Choice

Tablets (9 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- iPad 2
- Microsoft Surface RT

Tablets (8 available)

```
<ul>
  <li><!-- Asus Nexus 7 --></li>
  <!-- more options -->
</ul>
```

Pattern 4: Multiple Choice

Tablets (9 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- iPad 2
- Microsoft Surface RT

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Tablets (9 available)</legend>
  <ul>
    <li><!-- Asus Nexus 7 --></li>
    <!-- more options -->
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

Pattern 4: Multiple Choice

Tablets (9 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- iPad 2
- Microsoft Surface RT

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Tablets <em>(9 available)</em></legend>
  <ul>
    <li><!-- Asus Nexus 7 --></li>
    <!-- more options -->
  </ul>
</fieldset>
```

Pattern 4: Multiple Choice

Tablets (9 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- iPad 2
- Microsoft Surface RT

```
<li class="grouped checkboxes">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Tablets <em>(9 available)</em></legend>
    <ul>
      <li><!-- Asus Nexus 7 --></li>
      <!-- more options -->
    </ul>
  </fieldset>
</li>
```

Pattern 5: Related Entry

Requested Day and Time

Monday, May 4  10:00 AM 

Requested Day and Time

```
<label for="requested_date">Requested Day</label>
<select id="requested_date" name="requested_date" required="">
  <!-- options -->
</select>

<label for="requested_time">Requested Time</label>
<select id="requested_time" name="requested_time" required="">
  <!-- options -->
</select>
```

Pattern 5: Related Entry

Requested Day and Time

Monday, May 4 ▼ 10:00 AM ▼

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Requested Day and Time</legend>

  <label for="requested_date">Requested Day</label>
  <select id="requested_date" name="requested_date" required=""><!-- options --></select>

  <label for="requested_time">Requested Time</label>
  <select id="requested_time" name="requested_time" required="">
    <!-- options --></select>

</fieldset>
```

Pattern 5: Related Entry

Requested Day and Time

Monday, May 4 ⏪ 10:00 AM ⏪

```
<li class="grouped date-time-selects">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Requested Day and Time</legend>

    <label for="requested_date">Requested Day</label>
    <select id="requested_date" name="requested_date"
      required=""><!-- options --></select>

    <!-- continued... -->

  </fieldset>
</li>
```

Pattern 5: Related Entry

Requested Day and Time

Monday, May 4  10:00 AM 

```
/* Hide the labels in an accessible way */
form .date-time-selects label {
  position: absolute;
  height: 1px;
  width: 1px;
  overflow: hidden;
  clip: rect(1px 1px 1px 1px); /* IE6 & IE7 */
  clip: rect(1px, 1px, 1px, 1px);
}
```

HELPFUL HINT

Focus on
making the form
read naturally
and easily.

HELPFUL HINT

You can't always
make an interface
perfect, but you can
make it **usable**.

Ok, I think I'm
getting it, but
small screens still
scare me a little.

Tap-friendly hit targets



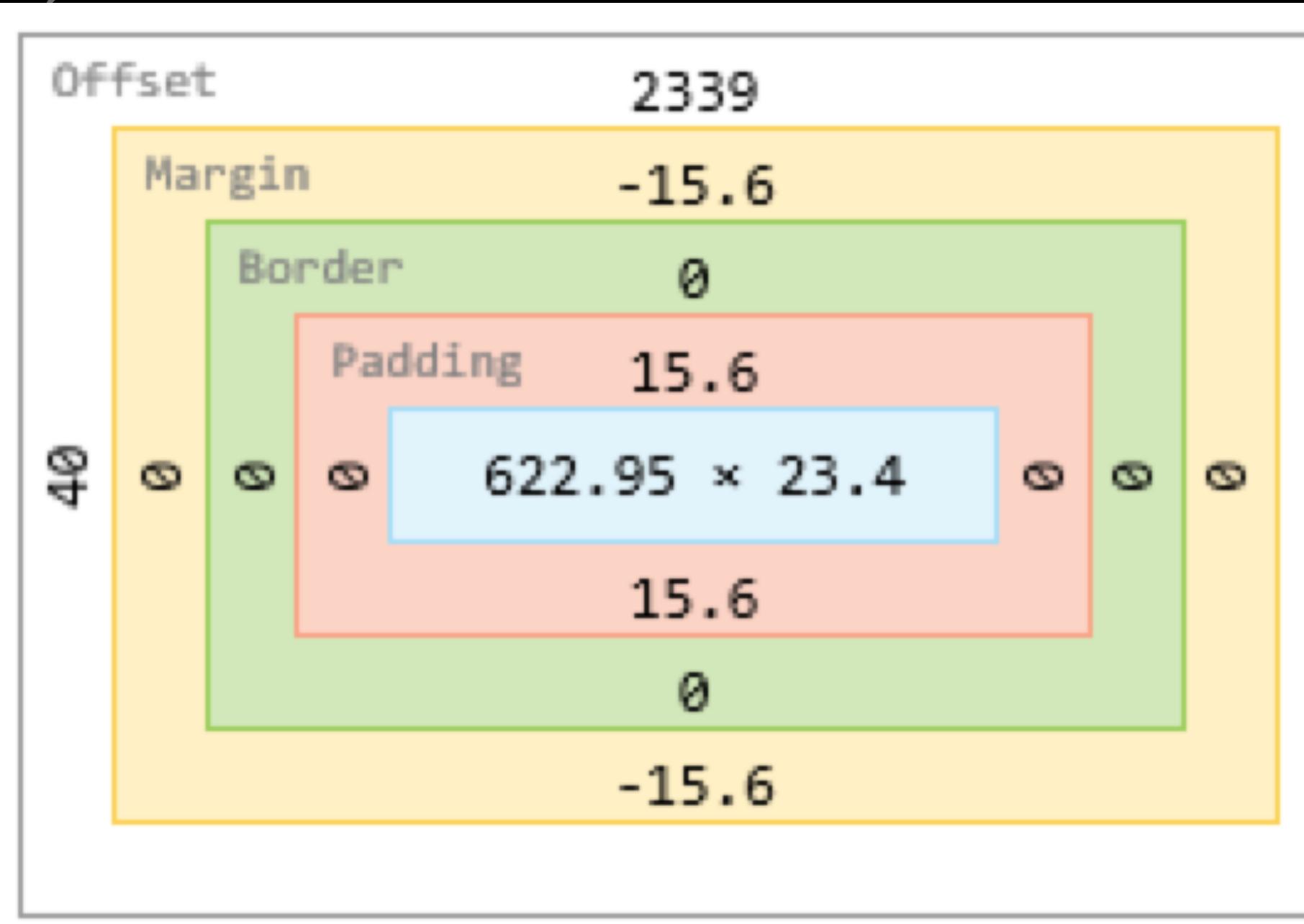
Sign me up for this newsletter

```
.confirm label,  
.radios label,  
.checkboxes label {  
  margin: -1em 0;  
  padding: 1em 0;  
}
```

Tap-friendly hit targets



```
.confirm label,  
.radios label  
.checkboxes  
margin: -1px;  
padding: 1px;  
}
```



No layout before its time

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address* ex. example@somedomain.com

```
.form-control {  
    clear: both;  
}  
.form-control label,  
.form-control input {  
    float: left;  
    width: 34%;  
}  
.form-control input {  
    width: 63%;  
}
```

No layout before its time

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address*

```
.form-control label,  
.form-control input {  
    display: block;  
    margin-bottom: .328em;  
}
```

No layout before its time

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address*

```
.form-control label,  
.form-control input {  
    display: block;  
    margin-bottom: .328em;  
}  
  
@media only screen and (min-width: 60em) {  
    /* Side by Side Layout */  
}
```

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address*

YMQMV

No layout before its time

▼ Tablets (8 available)

- Asus Nexus 7
- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- BlackBerry Playbook
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- Dell Streak 7
- Kindle Fire
- Microsoft Surface RT
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10

Tablets (8 available)

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- Barnes & Noble Nook Color
- Datawind UbiSlate 7cz
- Kindle Fire
- Samsung Galaxy Tab 10

```
@media only screen and (min-width:30em) {
```

```
form .grouped ul li {  
  float: left;  
  width: 50%;  
}  
}
```

YMQMV

Makes sense.
Could we talk a bit
about validation?

Requiring a field

Fields marked with a * are **required**.

First Name*

```
<p>Fields marked with a * are required.</p>

<p>
  <label for="first_name">
    First Name <abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input id="first_name" name="first_name" required>
</p>
```

Requiring a field

Fields marked with a * are **required**.

First Name*

```
<p>Fields marked with a * are required.</p>

<p>
  <label for="first_name">
    First Name <abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input id="first_name" name="first_name" required>
</p>
```

Requiring a field

Fields marked with a * are **required**.

First Name*

```
<p>Fields marked with a * are
  <strong id="required">required</strong>.</p>

<p>
  <label for="first_name">
    First Name
    <abbr title="required" aria-labelledby="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input id="first_name" name="first_name" required>
</p>
```

Requiring a field

Fields marked with a * are **required**.

First Name*

```
<p tabindex="0">Fields marked with a * are required.</p>

<p>
  <label for="first_name">
    First Name <abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input id="first_name" name="first_name" required
        aria-required="true">
</p>
```

HELPFUL HINT

Focus on
making the form
read naturally
and easily.

Native validation

Your Email

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

```
<label for="email">Your Email</label>
<input type="email" id="email" name="email" required>
```

We will only use your email address to respond to your message.

Non-native format validation

1 + 1 = ?

```
<label for="test">What is 1 + 1?</label>
<input id="test" type="number" name="test"
       pattern="[0-9]*"
       >
```

Non-native format validation

Enter three numbers followed by two letters

e.g. 123ab

```
<label for="test">Enter three numbers  
followed by two letters</label>  
<input id="test" name="test"  
placeholder="e.g. 123ab"  
pattern="\d{3}[a-zA-Z]{2}"  
>
```

HELPFUL HINT

Don't forget about
server-side
validation either.

Provide a list of errors

Contact Us

There were errors with your form submission:

- Message is a required field
- Name is a required field
- Email is a required field

The image shows a contact form with three fields: 'Message*', 'Name*', and 'Email*'. The 'Message' field is highlighted with a red background, indicating an error. The 'Name' and 'Email' fields also have red backgrounds, suggesting they are required fields. To the right of the form is a button labeled 'Send Postcard Now'.

Provide a list of errors

There were errors with your form submission:

- Message is a required field
- Name is a required field
- Email is a required field

```
<div role="alert">
  <p>There were errors with your form submission:</p>
  <ol>
    <li><a href="#message">Message</a> is a required field</li>
    <li><a href="#name">Name</a> is a required field</li>
    <li><a href="#email">Email</a> is a required field</li>
  </ol>
</div>
```

Provide easy access to them

There were errors with your form submission:

- Message is a required field
- Name is a required field
- Email is a required field

```
<div role="alert">
  <p>There were errors with your form submission:</p>
  <ol>
    <li><a href="#message">Message</a> is a required field</li>
    <li><a href="#name">Name</a> is a required field</li>
    <li><a href="#email">Email</a> is a required field</li>
  </ol>
</div>
```

Provide easy access to them

There were errors with your form submission:

- Message is a required field
- Name is a required field
- Email is a required field

```
<label for="message">  
  Message <abbr title="required">*</abbr>  
</label>  
<textarea id="message" name="message" required></textarea>
```

Provide field-level help

x Email *

Your email address is required

```
<li class="text validation-error">
  <label for="email">Your Email <abbr title="required">*</abbr>
  </label>
  <input id="email" type="email" name="email"
    required="" aria-required="true"
    aria-invalid="true"
    aria-describedby="email-error"
    >
  <strong id="email-error" class="validation-error-message">
    Your email address is required</strong>
</li>
```

Provide field-level help

x Email *

Your email address is required

```
li.validation-error {  
  color: #922026;  
}  
  
li.validation-error input,  
li.validation-error textarea,  
li.validation-error select {  
  border-color: #922026;  
}
```

Provide field-level help

x Email *

Your email address is required

```
.validation-error label::before {  
  content: "x ";  
  font-family: Verdana, sans-serif;  
  speak: none; /* The future! */  
}
```

Provide field-level help

Please Enter Your Email *

Your email address is required

```
.validation-error label::before {  
  content: "Please Enter ";  
  font-family: Verdana, sans-serif;  
}
```

One More Thing...

Form Examples

A handful of form fields I like to demo for people.

There were errors with your form submission:

1. **Message** is a required field
2. Name is a required field
3. Email is a required field

1. Your Name _____

2. Your Email _____ **We will only use your email address to respond to your message.**

3. Purpose of Your Message [Question/Comment_____]

4. Your Message

5. Preferred Phone _____

6. URL _____ **Please provide the URL for the specific page that includes the area you want reviewed.**

7. $1 + 1 = ?$ _____

8. How Loud is Spinal Tap?

9. Preferred Date to Visit _____

10. Preferred Date to Visit _____

11. Tour Time Requested _____

12. State _____

13. State [Alabama] If other, please specify _____

14. [] Sign me up for this newsletter

15.

Tablets (**9 available**)

+ [] Asus Nexus 7

Forms suck.

can
Forms¹suck,
a lot less

Forms can be...
easy to build
predictable
effortless to use
and **accessible**

Questions?

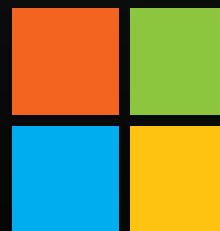
Tweet me at
@AaronGustafson

Thank you!

@AaronGustafson

aaron-gustafson.com

slideshare.net/AaronGustafson



Microsoft