Web Technology (KCS-602) Unit 2

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HTML Forms

- HTML Forms are required when you want to collect some data from the site visitor. For example registration information: name, email address, credit card, etc.

- A form will take input from the site visitor and then will post your back-end application such as CGI, ASP Script or PHP script etc. Then your back-end application will do required processing on that data in whatever way you like.

- Form elements are like text fields, textarea fields, drop-down menus, radio buttons, checkboxes, etc. which are used to take information from the user.

Syntax of using <form>

<form action="back-end script"
  method="posting method"> form elements
  like input, textarea etc.
</form>

Form attributes

- **name:** This is the name of the form.

- **action:** Here you will specify any script URL which will receive uploaded data.

- **method:** Here you will specify method to be used to upload data. It can take various values but most frequently used are GET and POST.

There are different types of form controls that you can use to collect data from a visitor to your site.

- Text input controls
- Buttons
- Checkboxes and radio buttons
- Select boxes
- File select boxes
- Hidden controls
- Submit and reset button

HTML Forms - Text Input

- Single-line text input controls are created using an <input> element whose type attribute has a value of text.

list of attributes for <input> tag.

- **type:** Indicates the type of input control you want to create. This element is also used to create other form controls such as radio buttons and checkboxes.
- **name:** Used to give the name part of the name/value pair that is sent to the server, representing each form control and the value the user entered.
- **value:** Provides an initial value for the text input control that the user will see when the form loads.
- **size:** Allows you to specify the width of the text-input control in terms of characters.
- **maxlength:** Allows you to specify the maximum number of characters a user can enter into the text box.

Password input controls

- This is also a form of single-line text input controls are created using an <input> element whose type attribute has a value of password.

- <input type="password">

Multiple-Line Text Input Control

- If you want to allow a visitor to your site to enter more than one line of text, you should create a multiple-line text input control using the <textarea> element

Attributes for <textarea> tag.

- **name:** The name of the control. This is used in the name/value pair that is sent to the server.
- **rows:** Indicates the number of rows of text area box.
- **cols:** Indicates the number of columns of text area box.

HTML Forms - Creating Button

- There are various ways in HTML to create clickable buttons. You can create clickable button using <input> tag.

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Button Type

- **submit:** This creates a button that automatically submits a form.

- **reset:** This creates a button that automatically resets form controls to their initial values.

- **button:** This creates a button that is used to trigger a client-side script when the user clicks that button.

HTML Forms - Checkboxes Control

- Checkboxes are used when more than one option is required to be selected.

Checkbox Attributes

- **type:** Indicates that you want to create a checkbox.

- **name:** Name of the control.

- **value:** The value that will be used if the checkbox is selected. More than one checkbox should share the same name only if you want to allow users to select several items from the same list.

HTML Forms - Raidobox Control:

- Radio Buttons are used when only one option is required to be selected.

Radiobox attributes:

- **type:** Indicates that you want to create a radiobox.

- **name:** Name of the control.

- **value:** Used to indicate the value that will be sent to the server if this option is selected.

HTML Forms - Select box Control

- Drop Down Box is used when we have many options available to be selected but only one will be selected.

Attributes of <select>:

- **name:** This is the name for the control.

- **size:** This can be used to present a scrolling list box.

- **multiple:** If set to "multiple" then allows a user to select multiple items from the menu

- **value:** The value that is sent to the server if this option is selected

HTML Forms - File Select Boxes

- If you want to allow a user to upload a file to your web site from his computer, you will need to use a file upload box, also known as a file select box. This is also created using the <input type="file"> element.

Semester Questions

1. What are forms and how they are created in HTML? (2017-18)