**The INPUT Tag: the CHECKED Attribute and the Reset Button**

Radio buttons and checkboxes may be pre-checked by using the CHECKED attribute of the INPUT tag.

Tag: **INPUT**  
Attribute: **CHECKED**  
Value: **CHECKED**  
Description: cause radio buttons and checkboxes to be pre-checked by setting the CHECKED attribute of the INPUT tag. Note that XHTML requires a value of "checked", whereas HTML requires no value.

Example (abbreviated):

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="cat" checked="checked" />

Example:

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="cat" checked="checked" />

Example (in context):

<html>

<head>

<title>Example Form</title>

</head>

<body>

<form>

<p>Choose one or more of your favorite pets:<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="dog" checked="checked" /> Dog<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="cat" checked="checked" /> Cat/<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="bird" /> Bird</p>

<p>Choose your favorite color:<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="red" checked="checked" /> Red<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="green" /> Green<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="blue" /> Blue</p>

<input type="submit" value="Submit Me, Please" />

</form>

</body>

</html>

Here is the above example displayed.

Choose one or more of your favorite pets:  
 Dog  
 Cat  
 Bird

Choose your favorite color:  
 Red  
 Green  
 Blue  
  


**Remember**: only ONE radio button may be pre-checked, while as many checkboxes as you like may be pre-checked.

Pre-checked checkboxes are common on websites which are soliciting your personal information for mailing lists, as in this brief [example](http://fog.ccsf.edu/~srubin/formPrecheck.html); I don't recommend doing this, however, as it annoys users and adds unhappy people to your database. Make certain to allow users to check their OWN "add me to the mailing list" box, so that they will only receive your mailings if they REALLY want them; this makes for happier users who are more truly interested in hearing about your offerings.

**The Reset INPUT**

Most forms use some sort of "reset" or "clear" button to allow users to reset a form to its default state. The reset INPUT is created by setting the TYPE attribute of the INPUT tag equal to **"reset"**; you would also set the VALUE attribute of the INPUT tag equal to whatever text you wanted to have appear inside the reset button.

Example (abbreviated):

<input type="reset" value="Clear Me, Please" />

Example (in context):

<html>

<head>

<title>Example Form</title>

</head>

<body>

<form>

<p>Choose one or more of your favorite pets:<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="dog" checked="checked" /> Dog<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="cat" checked="checked" /> Cat<br>

<input type="checkbox" name="pets" value="bird" /> Bird</p>

<p>Choose your favorite color:<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="red" checked="checked" /> Red<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="green" /> Green<br>

<input type="radio" name="colors" value="blue" /> Blue</p>

<input type="submit" value="Submit Me, Please" />

<input type="reset" value="Clear Me, Please" />

</form>

</body>

</html>

Here is the above example [displayed](http://fog.ccsf.edu/~srubin/formReset.html). The reset button does NOT completely empty a form; it merely resets a form to its initial state, whatever that is.

You will notice that, even though this button is technically a RESET button, most web programmers call it a "clear" button, and use "Clear This Form" or "Clear" as the VALUE for the reset INPUT tag; this does not affect its functionality.

Most forms include both a submit button and a reset button.