

Forms as DOM Elements

Some other important points about handing form data via JavaScript.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING ^

- Accessing Form Fields
- Submitting a Form

Accessing Form Fields

A `<form>` tag corresponds to a DOM element. This `element` has an `elements` property that pulls together all the form input fields. You can use this property to access a field via its `name` attribute or by its index (order of appearance in the form).

The below example shows some information on the input fields of our example form.

Output

JavaScript

HTML

```
// Show some info about the first form element
const formElement = document.querySelector("form");
console.log(`Number of fields: ${formElement.elements.length}`); //
```





Console

Clear

Submitting a Form

A form will be submitted when a user clicks on the submit button, which will have an `<input type="submit">` tag. An `<input type="reset">` tag shows a button that resets the form data.

Here are the two buttons from the sample form.

Output
JavaScript
HTML
<pre><html> <head> </head> <body> <form> <input type="submit" value="Submit"> <input type="reset" value="Cancel"> </form> </body> </html></pre>
 

When a user submits a form, the default behavior of the browser is to contact a web server and request the resource identified by the `action` attribute of the `<form>` tag, sending form data along the way. Prior to this, a `submit` event is triggered on the DOM element corresponding to the form. By adding a handler for this type of event, you can access form data before it gets sent. You can cancel the request to the server by calling the `preventDefault()` method on the `Event` object associated to the event.

The following code shows in the console all user input in the form, then cancels the request to the server.

Output
JavaScript
HTML

```
<html>
<head>
</head>
<body>
  <form>

    <label for="username">Username</label>:
      <input type="text" name="username" id="username" required>

    <label for="password">Password</label>:
      <input type="text" name="password" id="password" required>

    <label for="emailAddress">Email Address</label>:
      <input type="text" name="emailAddress" id="emailAddress" required>
    <br>
      <input type="checkbox" name="confirmation" id="confirmation">
      <label for="confirmation">Send me a confirmation email</label>
    <br>
    <input type="radio" name="subscription" id="newsroom" value="newsroom">
      <label for="newsroom">Subscribe me to newsletters and promotions</label>
    <br>
      <input type="radio" name="subscription" id="news" value="news">
      <label for="news">Subscribe me only to the newsletter</label>
    <br>
      <input type="radio" name="subscription" id="no" value="no" checked>
      <label for="no">No subscriptions</label>
    <br>

    <label for="nationality">Nationality</label>:
      <select name="nationality" id="nationality">
<option value="US" selected>American</option>
<option value="FR">French</option>
<option value="ES">Spanish</option>
<option value="XX">Other</option>
      </select>
    <br><br>

    <input type="submit" value="Submit">
    <input type="reset" value="Cancel">

  </form>
</body>
</html>
```



Console

⊘ Clear