FORM BASICS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

‣ Be able to differentiate the different types of inputs and why/where we would use each

‣ Explain how to group elements by name.

‣ Integrate Bootstrap to create a multi-column layout

FORMS

How we get data from users

FORMS

1. The user fills out the form and presses the submit button

FORMS

2. The **name** of each form field is sent to the server along with the **value** the user entered or selected

FORMS

3. The server processes the data using a language such as PHP, C# or Java. It may also store the information in a database

3
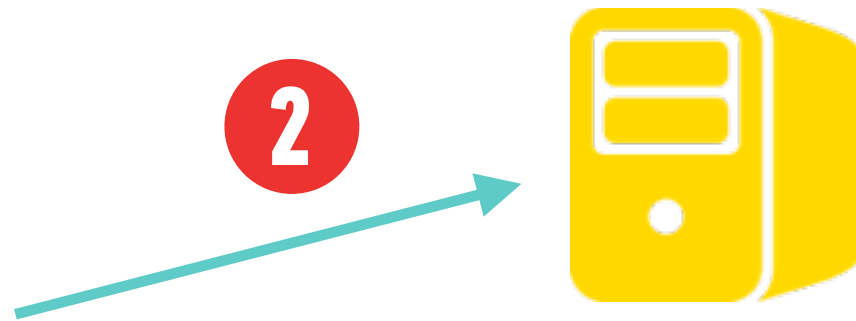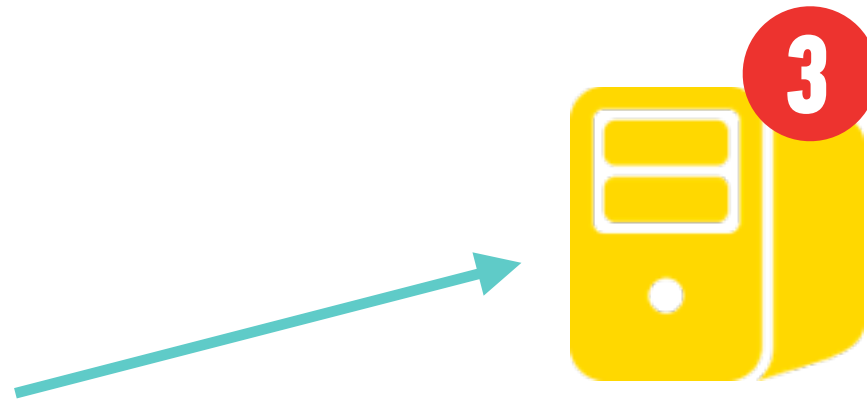
FRONT-END WEB DEVELOPMENT

APPLY NOW

Your Full Name

Your Email

Your Phone Number

Fill out some basic information and complete the following application to be considered for the course.

Where are you thinking of taking this course?

New York City ⬍

CONTINUE TO APPLICATION

4. The server creates a new page to send back to the browser based on the information received.

FORMS

Form controls live inside the <form element>

```
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
  <!--Data collection elements go here-->
</form>
```

FORMS

Form attributes:

```html
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
  <!--Data collection elements go here-->
</form>
```

FORMS

Form attributes:

ACTION (REQUIRED)
Where to send the data (URL)

```
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
   <!--Data collection elements go here-->
</form>
```

FORMS

Form attributes:

ACTION (REQUIRED)
Where to send the data (URL)

METHOD (WILL USUALLY HAVE)
How to send it (post or get)

```html
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
    <!--Data collection elements go here-->
</form>
```

FORMS — METHODS

POST

‣ Data is not shown in URL
‣ Can contain sensitive data
‣ No size limitations
‣ Adds information to, or deletes info from a database

GET

‣ Short forms (such as search fields)
‣ Appended to URL in name/value pairs
‣ Never use for sensitive info!!!
‣ Useful for form submissions when user wants to bookmark results

GA Gallery   ×

gallery.ga.co/FEWD?metro=new-york-city
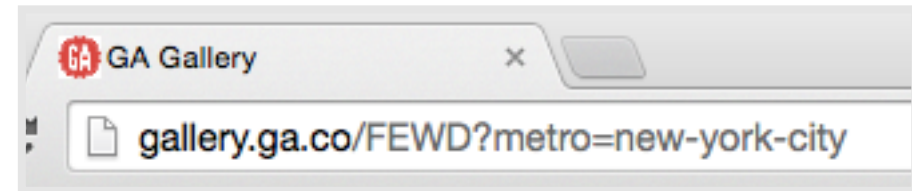
```
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
    <!--Data collection elements go here-->
</form>
```

GETTING INFORMATION FROM USER

GETTING INFO — INPUTS

```
<form action="http://www.example.com/login.php" method="post">
    <input type="text" name="fullName" placeholder="Enter your full name">
</form>
```

‣ Allow us to get content from users.
‣ Should live inside our form tags.

A few attributes inputs will usually have:

  ‣ **type** — What type of input is it?
  ‣ **name, value** — The name attribute is sent to the user along with the value the user selects.
  ‣ **placeholder** — For text inputs - hint for what user should enter in field

FORM — TYPES OF INPUTS

ADD TEXT

MAKE CHOICES

SUBMIT

Your Email

Where are you thinking of taking this course?

Chicago

Continue

INPUTS — TEXT

```
<input type="text" name="username" placeholder="Your Full Name">
```

Your Full Name

```
<input type="email" name="email" placeholder="Your Email">
```

Your Email

```
<input type="password" name="password">
```

••••••••••••

Can also carry a maxlength attribute to limit the number of characters the user may enter

LABELS

Information about the input field should be put in a <label> tag:

```
<label for="yourName">Name</label>
<input type="text" name="name" id="yourName">
```

To tie the two together:

```
<label for="yourName">Name</label>
<input type="text" name="name" id="yourName">
```

Note: Clicking the label text places the focus in the input field (great for radio buttons)

ACTIVITY

EXERCISE

KEY OBJECTIVE

▸ Identify input types, add styles to a form

TYPE OF EXERCISE

▸ Individual/partner

TIMING

15 min
1. Review contact_form.png
2. Look up the texture element
3. Write html for contact form
4. Style the form

BONUS

▸ Style the placeholder text. You'll need to Google this! "Style placeholder text CSS"

MAKE CHOICES

```
<input type="checkbox" name="store_credentials">
```

☐ Remember me

Radio buttons are *grouped together by their name attribute*

```
<input type="radio" name="color" value="red">
<input type="radio" name="color" value="green"checked="checked">
```

○ Red

◉ Green

SELECT AND OPTION

Where are you thinking of taking this course?

Chicago

```
<select name="referral">
 <option value="friend">Friend</option>
 <option value="instructor">Instructor</option>
 <option value="online">Online</option>
</select>
```

Atlanta
Austin
Boston
✓ Chicago
Hong Kong
London
Los Angeles
Melbourne
New York City
San Francisco
Seattle
Sydney
Washington D.C.

SUBMIT FORM

```html
<input type="submit" value="Continue">
```

Continue

NAME/VALUE PAIRS

▸ Information is sent from the browser to the server using name/value pairs.

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

sarahbethholden@gmail.com|

NAME   **VALUE**

username=sarahbethholden@gmail.com

```
<input type="radio" name="color" value="red">
<input type="radio" name="color" value="green" checked="checked">
```

○ Red
◉ Green

NAME **VALUE**

color=green

ACTIVITY

EXERCISE

KEY OBJECTIVE

▸ Identify input types, add styles to a form

TYPE OF EXERCISE

▸ Individual/partner

TIMING

5 min	1. Review Screenshots for the course application form and discuss with a partner
45 min	2. Write HTML for the form
	3. Style the form with CSS. Focus on getting the form centered and getting the information on the right rows, and then add other styles if you have time.

* You will need to look up the textarea element

* Optional: Look up fieldset element

CONTACT FORM

BUILDING A FUNCTIONAL CONTACT FORM

1. I recommend FormSpree for contact forms that send you an email without having to use PHP.
2. Your site will need to be hosted on a server in order to test emails.