**Tutorial 11 - HTML forms (**creating and styling HTML forms**)**

This tutorial covers the HTML form elements. Forms lets you build interactive web pages that collect information from a user and process it on the web server. You can use forms to gather information and create databases or to send customized responses to your users. Forms collect- but do not process- data. The data processing is performed by an application on the web server. Forms are the basis for online commerce; without them, users would not be able to enter their order choices, shipping addresses, and credit card information while shopping on the web.

The <form> Element

HTML forms are used to collect user input.

The **<form>** element defines an HTML form:

<form>  
.  
*form elements*  
.  
</form>

HTML forms contain **form elements**.

Form elements are different types of input elements, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, and more.

## The <input> Element

The **<input>** element is the most important **form element**.

The <input> element has many variations, depending on the **type** attribute.

Here are the types used in this tutorial:

**Type Description**

text Defines normal text input

radio Defines radio button input (for selecting one of many choices)

submit Defines a submit button (for submitting the form)

## Text Input

**<input type="text">** defines a one-line input field for **text input**:

<form>  
  First name:<br>  
  <input type="text" name="firstname"><br>  
  Last name:<br>  
  <input type="text" name="lastname">

</form

## Radio Button Input

**<input type="radio">** defines a **radio button**.

Radio buttons let a user select ONE of a limited number of choices:

<form>  
  <input type="radio" name="gender" value="male" checked> Male<br>  
  <input type="radio" name="gender" value="female"> Female<br>  
  <input type="radio" name="gender" value="other"> Other  
</form>

## The Submit Button

**<input type="submit">** defines a button for **submitting** a form to a **form-handler**.

The form-handler is typically a server page with a script for processing input data.

The form-handler is specified in the form's **action** attribute:

<form action="action\_page.php">  
  First name:<br>  
  <input type="text" name="firstname" value="Mickey"><br>  
  Last name:<br>  
  <input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse"><br><br>  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>

## The Action Attribute

The **action attribute** defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.

The common way to submit a form to a server, is by using a submit button.

Normally, the form is submitted to a web page on a web server.

In the example above, a server-side script is specified to handle the submitted form:

<form **action="action\_page.php**">

If the action attribute is omitted, the action is set to the current page.

## The Method Attribute

The **method attribute** specifies the HTTP method (**GET**or **POST**) to be used when submitting the forms:

<form action="action\_page.php" **method="get"**>

or:

<form action="action\_page.php" **method="post"**>

## When to Use GET?

You can use GET (the default method):

If the form submission is passive (like a search engine query), and without sensitive information.

When you use GET, the form data will be visible in the page address:

action\_page.php?firstname=Mickey&lastname=Mouse

**NB:** GET is best suited to short amounts of data. Size limitations are set in your browser.

## When to Use POST?

You should use POST:

If the form is updating data, or includes sensitive information (password).

POST offers better security because the submitted data is not visible in the page address.

## The Name Attribute

To be submitted correctly, each input field must have a name attribute.

This example will only submit the "Last name" input field:

<form action="action\_page.php">  
  First name:<br>  
  <input type="text" value="Mickey"><br>  
  Last name:<br>  
  <input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse"><br><br>  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>

## Grouping Form Data with <fieldset>

The **<fieldset>** element groups related data in a form.

The **<legend>** element defines a caption for the <fieldset> element.

<form action="action\_page.php">  
  <fieldset>  
    <legend>Personal information:</legend>  
    First name:<br>  
    <input type="text" name="firstname" value="Mickey"><br>  
    Last name:<br>  
    <input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse"><br><br>  
    <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
  </fieldset>  
</form>

## HTML Form Attributes

An HTML <form> element, with all possible attributes set, will look like this:

<form action="action\_page.php" method="post" target="\_blank" accept-charset="UTF-8"  
enctype="application/x-www-form-urlencoded" autocomplete="off" novalidate>  
.  
*form elements*  
.  
</form>

Reference: To learn more about basic style sheet, visit: **http://www.w3schools.com/html/html\_forms.asp**

Exercises:

1. Create an HTML form and add three <input> elements, one each for the user’s name, email address, and telephone number. Set the size and name attribute values.

\*Size specifies visible width in characters

<form>

<input type="text" name="username" value="neo" size="10"><br>

<input type="text" name="email"> <br>

<input type="text" name="telephone" size="8"><br>

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

</form>

1. Add label elements for the label of each text box. Make sure to associate the label with the form element by adding the attribute that matches the form input’s id value

<form>

Username : <input type="text" name="username" value="neo" size="10"><br>

Email : <input type="text" name="email"> <br>

Telephone: <input type="text" name="telephone" size="8"><br>

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

</form>

1. Group this set of fields with a <fieldset> and accompanying <legend> element for contact information.

<form>

<fieldset>

<legend> Contact Info </legend>

Username : <input type="text" name="username" value="neo" size="10"><br>

Email : <input type="text" name="email"> <br>

Telephone: <input type="text" name="telephone" size="8"><br>

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

</fieldset>

</form>

1. Add the 5 check box <input> elements to collect information from the user. Later you will add a list box of job positions options, where users can make only one selection from the list. The name attribute groups the check boxes together in the job title category. Each check box is identified with a unique value. Contain the check boxes in two <p> elements, the first with two job titles and second with three.
2. Add label elements for each check box (Account Executive, Business Development, Inside Sales, Sales Manager and VP Sales)
3. Associate the labels with each checkbox input element by adding ***for*** and ***id*** attributes to the <label> and <input> elements

\*ID is used to identify an element for css styling or java script . Must be unique

\*name must match the form element, it is what is sent back to the server

<form>

<fieldset>

<legend> Contact Info </legend>

Username : <input type="text" name="username" value="neo" size="10"><br>

Email : <input type="text" name="email"> <br>

Telephone: <input type="text" name="telephone" size="8"><br>

<label for="accounts">Account Executive: </label><input type="checkbox" id="accounts" name="accounts" ><br>

Business Executive: <input type="checkbox" id="job">

Inside Sales: <input type="checkbox" >

Sales Management: <input type="checkbox" >

VP Sales: <input type="checkbox" >

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

</fieldset>

</form>

1. Group this set of fields with a <fieldset> and accompanying <legend> element for Select your Area(s) of Interest.
2. <form>
3. <fieldset>
4. <legend> Contact Info </legend>
5. Username : <input type="text" name="username" value="neo" size="10"><br>
6. Email : <input type="text" name="email"> <br>
7. Telephone: <input type="text" name="telephone" size="8"><br>

</fieldset>

<fieldset>

<legend>Select your area of interest </legend>

1. <label for="accounts">Account Executive: </label><input type="checkbox" id="accounts" name="accounts" ><br>
2. Business Executive: <input type="checkbox" id="job">
3. Inside Sales: <input type="checkbox" >
4. Sales Management: <input type="checkbox" >
5. VP Sales: <input type="checkbox" >
6. <input type="submit" value="Submit">
7. </fieldset>
8. </form>
9. Add a list box for the ‘type of the position you desire’ (part-time contract, part-time permanent, full-time contract and full-time permanent options), radio buttons for ‘Are you willing to relocate’ yes and no options, submit and reset buttons.
10. Style your HTML form
    1. Align the form elements
    2. Style the <fieldset> and <legend> elements by providing a border and color
    3. Add a background image
11. Specify that the form is submitted using the "post" method.

*Congratulations in completing the HTML form of your website. It feels good, doesn’t it…?*

See you on the Next Tutorial 12 »»» **Java Script**