Forms

> **Note:** Modern browser try to be helpful with form and store values entered in to the form. To see a clean version of the page (non cached) hold down the SHIFT key and click the RELOAD button on the browser tool bar. The page will reload and not longer have values entered in the form files.
>
> **Note:** The display of form elements vary from browser to browser and operating system to operating system. Very little style changes can applied to form elements.

form Tag - <form></form>

The <form> tag is used to create an HTML form for user input.

Required Attributes

Attribute	Value	Description
action	URL	A URL that defines where to send the data when the submit button is pushed

Optional Attributes

Attribute	Value	Description
method	**get** post	The HTTP method for sending data to the action URL. Default is **get**. **method="get":** This method sends the form contents in the URL: URL?name=value&name=value. **Note:** If the form values contains non-ASCII characters or exceeds 100 characters you MUST use method="post". **method="post":** This method sends the form contents in the body of the request. **Note:** Most browsers are unable to bookmark post requests.
name	form_name	Defines a unique name for the form

Example

<form action="/contact/form.jsp" method="get" name="contactUs">   Content and form elements

Content and form elements

</form>

Input - <imput/>

The <input> tag is used to select user information.

An input field can vary in many ways, depending on the type attribute. An input field can be a text field, a checkbox, a password field, a radio button, a button, and more.

Attribute	Value	Description
type	button checkbox file hidden password radio reset submit text	Indicates the type of the input element. The default value is "text"
name	field_name	Defines a unique name for the input element. **Note:** This attribute is required with type="**button**", type="**checkbox**", type="**file**", type="**hidden**", type="**image**", type="**password**", type="**text**", and type="**radio**"

type="text"

Defines a standard one line form element

Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	Disables the input element when it first loads so that the user can not write text in it, or select it. **Note:** Cannot be used with type="hidden"
maxlength	number	Defines the maximum number of characters allowed in an input field. **Note:** Only used with type="text" or type="password"
readonly	readonly	Indicates that the value of this field cannot be modified. **Note:** Only used with type="text" or type="password"
size	number_of_char	Defines the size of the input element. **Note:** Cannot be used with type="hidden"
value	value	Defines the default value of the element.

Example

<input type="text" name="name"/>

<input type="text" name="name" value="value" maxlength="10"/>

<input type="text" name="name" readonly="readonly" value="value"/>

<input type="text" name="name" disabled="disabled" value="value"/>

type="password"

Defines a password element

Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	Disables the input element when it first loads so that the user can not write text in it, or select it. **Note:** Cannot be used with type="hidden"
maxlength	number	Defines the maximum number of characters allowed in an input field. **Note:** Only used with type="text" or type="password"
readonly	readonly	Indicates that the value of this field cannot be modified. **Note:** Only used with type="text" or type="password"
size	number_of_c har	Defines the size of the input element. **Note:** Cannot be used with type="hidden"
value	value	Defines the default value of the element.

Note: text and password have the same attribues

Example

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

```
<input type="password" name="name"
value="value" maxlength="10"/>
```

```
<input type="password" name="name"
readonly="readonly" value="value"/>
```

```
<input type="password" name="name"
disabled="disabled" value="value"/>
```

type="radio" (Radio Buttons)

Radio Buttons are used when you want the user to select one of a limited number of choices.

Attribute-requi red	Value	Description
name	field_name	Defines a unique name for the input element. **Value groups radio buttons by having the same**

		name. **Note:** This attribute is required with type="**button**", type="**checkbox**", type="**file**", type="**hidden**", type="**image**", type="**password**", type="**text**", and type="**radio**"
value	*value*	**For checkboxes and radio buttons:** Defines the result of the input element when clicked. The result is sent to the form's action URL.

Attribute-optional	Value	Description
checked	*checked*	Indicates that the input element should be checked when it first loads (only used with type="checkbox" and type="radio")
disabled	*disabled*	Disables the input element when it first loads so that the user can not write text in it, or select it (cannot be used with type="hidden")

Example

```
<form>
<input type="radio" name="sex"
value="male"/> Male
<br/>
<input type="radio" name="sex"
value="female"/> Female
</form>
```

○ Male
○ Female

```
<form>
<input type="radio" name="sex"
value="male" checked="checked">
Male
<br/>
<input type="radio" name="sex"
value="female"> Female
</form>
```

◉ Male
○ Female

type="checkbox" - (Checkbox)

Checkboxes are used when you want the user to select one or more options of a limited number of choices.

Attribute-required	Value	Description

name	field_name	Defines a unique name for the input element. **Value groups radio buttons by having the same name.** **Note:** This attribute is required with type="**button**", type="**checkbox**", type="**file**", type="**hidden**", type="**image**", type="**password**", type="**text**", and type="**radio**"
value	*value*	**For checkboxes and radio buttons:** Defines the result of the input element when clicked. The result is sent to the form's action URL.
Attribute-optional	**Value**	**Description**
checked	*checked*	Indicates that the input element should be checked when it first loads (only used with type="checkbox" and type="radio")
disabled	*disabled*	Disables the input element when it first loads so that the user can not write text in it, or select it (cannot be used with type="hidden")

Note: Attributes are the same of both checkbox and radio buttons

Button Tag (new way)

The <button> tag defines a push button. The button tag creates a button displayed on the page. It is a standard HTML tag so the value of the button is wrapped with the button tag.

The button tag can be used in place of the INPUT type button/reset/submit.

If a button in in a valid form the default type will be submit otherwise it will be button.

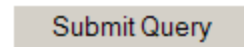| Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	Specifies that a button should be disabled
name	*name*	Specifies the name for a button
type	button reset submit	Specifies the type of a button

Example

```
<form>
      <button>Submit Query</button>
</form>
```
Submit Query

```
<form>
      <button
type="submit">GO!</button>
</form>
```
GO!

Type	Definition
submit	form is submitted to the url in the action
reset	form is change back to the default values when page loaded
button	when clicked nothing happens often used for javascript

type="submit" (out dated)

When the user clicks on the "Submit" button, the content of the form is sent to the server. The form's action attribute defines the name of the file to send the content to. The file defined in the action attribute usually does something with the received input.

Attribute	Value	Description
value	*value*	Button label. Default value "submit" or "submit query" based on the browser.

Example

```
<form>
      <input type="submit"/>
</form>
```
Submit Query
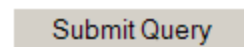
```
<form>
      <input type="submit"
value="GO!"/>
</form>
```
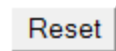GO!

type="reset" - (reset button)

When the user clicks on the "Reset" button, the content in the form is reloaded to the values they had when the page loaded.

Attribute	Value	Description
value	*value*	Button label. Default value "reset"

```
<form>
<input type="reset"/>                    Reset
</form>

<form>                                    clear
       <input type="reset" value="clear"/>
</form>
```

type="file"

Used to create a form element to update a file. There needs to back end support for uploading the file. We will not cover the back end support.

```
<form>                                    [            ]  Browse...
       <input type="file" name="name"/>
</form>
```

type="button"

Just alike a submit or reset but when the user clicks nothing happens

Attribute	Value	Description
value	*value*	Button label. Default value "reset"

type="hidden"

Used to set a value of a form element that needs to be passed along with out making it viewable to the end user. An example of this would be setting the users language on the page the user cannot change it but it needed by the next page to handle the information.

Select Box - (<select>, <option>)

The <select> tag is used to create a select list (drop-down list).

The <option> tags inside the select element define the available options in the list.

<select>

Defines the select container. Must add option tag

Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	pecifies that a drop-down list should be disabled
multiple	multiple	Specifies that multiple options can be selected
name*	*name*	Specifies the name of a drop-down list
size	*number*	Specifies the number of visible options in a drop-down list

*required

<option>

Option tag add items to the select box. Option tag will always be a child of the select tag.

Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	Specifies that an option should be disabled
label	*text*	Specifies a shorter label for an option
selected	selected	Specifies that an option should be selected by default
value*	*text*	Specifies the value to be sent to a server when a form is submitted

*required

Example

```
<select name="cars">
  <option value="Volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="Saab">Saab</option>
  <option value="Mercedes">Mercedes</option>
  <option value="Audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

```
<select name="cars">
  <option value="Volvo">Volvo</option>
  <option value="Saab" selected="selected">Saab</option>
  <option value="Mercedes">Mercedes</option>
  <option value="Audi">Audi</option>
</select>
```

Textarea - <textarea></textarea>

Defines a text-area (a multi-line text input control)

Unlike other form elements text area does not have a value attribute instead the value or text would be wrapped with the text area.

Required Attributes

Attribute	Value	Description
cols	*number*	Specifies the visible width of a text-area
rows	*number*	Specifies the visible number of rows in a text-area
name	*name*	Specifies that a text-area should be disabled

Optional Attributes

Attribute	Value	Description
disabled	disabled	Specifies that a text-area should be disabled
readonly	readonly	Specifies that a text-area should be read-only

Example

<textarea name="message" rows="2" cols="30"></textarea>

<textarea name="message" rows="2" cols="30">With test inside</textarea>

Label - <label></label>

Defines the text form element. Label is an option inline that can be used to help organize the text with the form element.

When using label tag you can replace the NAME with an ID for each element but the name will work just fine.

Attribute	Value	Description
for	element_id	Specifies which form element a label is bound to

```
<form>
        <label for="male">Male</label>
        <input type="radio" name="sex" id="male" />
        <br />
        <label for="female">Female</label>
        <input type="radio" name="sex" id="female" />
</form>
```