

HTML Forms



How do they work?

What happens when you click “SUBMIT” on a form?

The form will do what is specified in the action attribute of the HTML form

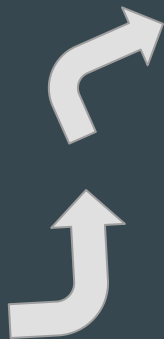


```
<form method="post" action="somephp.php">
```

Usually it's some PHP file that looks something like this

```
<?php
$EmailFrom = "chriscoyier@gmail.com";
$EmailTo = "CHANGE-THIS@YOUR-DOMAIN.com";
$Subject = "Nice & Simple Contact Form by CSS-Tricks";
$Name = Trim(stripslashes($_POST['Name']));
$Tel = Trim(stripslashes($_POST['Tel']));
$Email = Trim(stripslashes($_POST['Email']));
$Message = Trim(stripslashes($_POST['Message']));

// validation
$validationOK=true;
if (!$validationOK) {
    print "<meta http-equiv='refresh' content='0;URL=error.html'>"
    exit;
}
```



```
// prepare email body text
$Body = "";
$Body .= "Name: ";
$Body .= $Name;
$Body .= "\n";
$Body .= "Tel: ";
$Body .= $Tel;
$Body .= "\n";
$Body .= "Email: ";
$Body .= $Email;
$Body .= "\n";
$Body .= "Message: ";
$Body .= $Message;
$Body .= "\n";

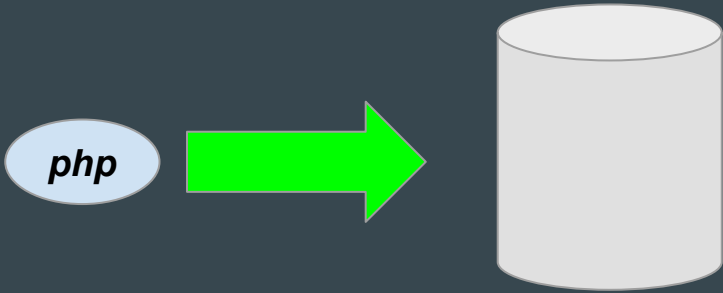
// send email
$success = mail($EmailTo, $Subject, $Body, "From: <$EmailFrom>");

// redirect to success page
if ($success){
    print "<meta http-equiv='refresh' content='0;URL=contactthanks.php'>";
}
else{
    print "<meta http-equiv='refresh' content='0;URL=error.html'>";
}
?>
```

php

Then the data from the form will go

To a database



And if that went well, then

Best practices indicate that some kind of “success message” will be shown to the user



And if it didn't, then

Best practices indicate that some kind of “error message” will be shown to the user...



...with a chance to edit the responses in the form again