

Reminders/Notes on Practice

Relative URLs

Make sure to use relative URLs (e.g. `HREF = "media/"`, i.e. not starting with `http://` and not starting with a `/`).

If you use a URL that includes the full file path (`/users/.../public_html/...`) there are things that won't work, because the webserver does not see the same top-level that you see.

File-naming conventions

Don't use the extension `".html"` for folders, because this makes no sense and may confuse some programs/tools.

Also he suggests it's bad practice to have files that have the same names as folders.

Copies

Do not save files in multiple locations, it makes things very confusing. You may accidentally delete the wrong one, or get confused about which is which and not understand why you aren't seeing your changes.

It may be helpful to have temporary copies when trying to find errors in your code, but make sure to delete them when you're done.

Forms (cont.)

Just like links

Forms are essentially no different from links, with the exceptions that the URL is not completely hard-coded, but includes input from the user within it.

Note that this applies if the method is GET only. Things are slightly different if the method is POST.

Google and static pages

Google (and other search engines) know that pages with ? symbols in them are not static pages, and gives them a lower rank than static pages.

It is possible to fool this mechanism by using server-side software to turn a link like ".../userinfo/51" into a link with parameters.

Form submission

The form will always be replaced by loading the result page. This is inconvenient if you have made a mistake entering data in a large form, as it'll mean you have to enter all of the info again.

HTML 5 makes it possible to check data entered in forms in multiple ways (e.g. ensure you have entered a date) to avoid this kind of problem.

Computed response

The HTML page sent as a response to form submission is typically computed (e.g. from a database) rather than an existing file on the server.

Secrets/Encryption

There is no encryption or protection in forms, so they should not be used to transmit sensitive information.

Multiple forms

It's possible to have multiple (e.g. login and register) on the same page with separate submit buttons, if desired.

This may confuse users, though.

Input types

There are a number of different input types.

Password

This input type will not show what you type as you type it, instead showing black dots as you type.

Radio

This will give clickable buttons with labels (the round checkbox-type buttons).

Useful if the user won't know all the available options, or if you want to restrict to specific choices.

There are other options which are good for this functionality as well.