Web Development

Practical 3: Forms Creation

Preparation:

Read the **Basic Guide** section of https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Forms

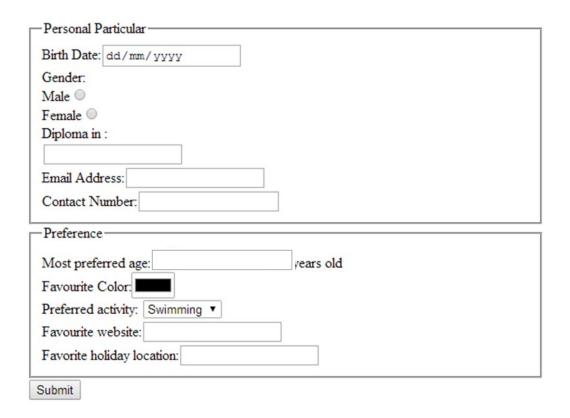Review lecture notes and examples given in the lecture.

Part A – Activity 1

Download the following files:

Formprocessor.html

Formprocessor2.html

Create a **storyform.html** with the following content and save it in the same folder as the downloaded files:

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Field/Label	Name	Other requirements	Validation
Birth Date	bdate		Mandatory, Default by type
Gender(Male, Female)	gender	Value for male is boy, for female is girl	Mandatory, Default by type
Diploma in	diploma	With datalist. List contains All diplomas in SIT	Mandatory
Email	email		Mandatory, Default by type
Contact	contact	When hover over the field this [8 digits telelphone number] should appear	Mandatory, 8 digits telephone number
Most Preferred Age	age	From 1 to 120. Default is 17	Mandatory
Favourite Color	color		Mandatory
Preferred Activity	activity	Swimming is the default selected activity	Mandatory
Favourite Website	website	Use placeholder to indicate input format. E.g. Favourite website: http://www.google.com	Mandatory
Favourite Holiday Location	location		Mandatory

Display the form, fill in the form and press submit. Write down the URL displayed after the submit button is pressed.

Briefly explain the content of URL after the question mark (?).

There are 2 methods to send the form. Which are the 2 methods? By default which method has been used to submit the form that you created? How can you change the method?

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Add another attribute to the form – **action** as below:

<p style="text-align: center;"><form method="get" action="FormProcessor.html"></p>

What is the usage of this attribute?

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                         │
│                                                         │
│                                                         │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Display the form, fill in the form and press submit. What do you see?

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                         │
│                                                         │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Modify the form such that it sends the form data to **FormProcessor2.html**. Upon submission of the form, you should get a short write up about data entered. If you are not getting it, you might have not created the form based on the requirements stated. Write down one thing you have learnt from this step.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                         │
│                                                         │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

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Check Points

Here are a few points to remember:

Point 1: HTML <input> name attribute

The name attribute specifies the name of an <input> element. It is very important to know that only form elements with a name attribute will have their values passed when submitting a form.

Also, when dealing with a group of radio buttons or checkboxes, the name given to each <input> within the same group must be the same.

Point 2: HTML <input> value attribute

For input type like "text" that requires users to **enter** their input, there's no need to specify the value attribute unless you want to specify a default value.

On the other hand, for input types like "radio" or "checkbox" that requires users to **select** one or more options, it is important to include the value attribute indicating the users' selection.

Point 3: HTML <input> action & method attribute

When a form is submitted, the data entered by the user is sent to another document or web server for processing. The action attribute specifies the name of this location.

```
<form name="input" action="processform.html" method="get">
      Username:
      <input type="text" name="user"/>
      <input type="submit" value="Submit"/>
</form>
```

There are two different kinds of methods: "get" and "post".

When the method "post" is used, the user inputs will be sent to web server as name-value pairs in a data file (HTTP post transaction). If there are more than one piece of data, the **&** sign is used to separate them. The name and value of the name-value pair comes from the name and value (refer to point 2) attribute of the <input> element.

When the method "get" is used, the user inputs are sent as URL variables, appended as name-value pairs to the end of the URL indicated in the action attribute. Similarly, if there are more than one piece of data, the **&** sign is used to separate them. As seen below, the method "get" is clearly not a secure way to send confidential data and should be avoided when dealing with such data.   Such string is also known as **query string**.

processform.html?user=john&password=12345

Reflection

What have you learnt?

Which part you need more clarification/help ?