



Web design and development 1 (CW1)

Class 9

Forms

Forms are intended to gather user's answers to different questions. The data gathered can then be sent and used in various ways.

Defining a form

To create a form, it first has to be defined in the HTML document using `<form>` `</form>`. Everything placed between these tags will be considered part of the form.

<form> attributes and values:

Data gathered by the form must be sent and, sometimes treated (e.g. by a program). It is mandatory to tell the browser what to do with the data.

method= (variables: get / post)

This attribute tells the browser what to do with the data. How to send it.

The value **get** uses the URL to pass the data. It is limited to a maximum of 255 characters.

The value **post** is the most commonly used. With no limit of characters, it doesn't use the URL to send the data.

action=

This attribute defines what to do with the data which can be sent by email or parsed by a program. It could then be sent by email, added to a HTML document or stored in a database.

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

```
</form>
```

Forms (suite)

Input fields

Except structure components, forms use two types of elements: labels and input fields.

A label is the text that will indicate to user what type of content to enter, and a field is a zone in which it is possible for the user to type the required contents.

`<fieldset> </fieldset>`

Used to group elements, it produces a border and can be identified using `<legend>`.

`<legend> </legend>`

Identifies a fieldset, nesting its content into the border area.

`<label> </label>`

Text preceding and identifying the required content to be typed in a field.

The attribute **for** makes it possible to relate a label to a tag using the proper **id**. It also bring the proper field to focus when the label is clicked.

`<input />`

always using the attribute **type**, this tag makes it possible for user to type or choose information to be submitted by the form.

`<input type="text" />`

Creates a single line text field. Its width can be defined using the attribute **size**. The attribute **password** hides the text typed by the user replacing it with asterisks.

The attribute **id**, else than linking a tag to a label, is very useful when using JavaScript. The attribute **name** allows (in HTML) for the field to be more clearly associated to the data user entered. Finally, the attribute **placeholder** shows its value into the field prior to the user typing something.

`<textarea> </textarea>`

Creates a multiline text field. The attributes **cols** (for width) and **rows** (number of lines) may be used, but we will prefer using CSS.

```
<form method="post" action="mail.php">
<fieldset>
<legend>Personal informations</legend>

<label for="name">Name:</label>
<input type="name" name="name" id="name" />

<label for="address">Address:</label>
<textarea name="address" id="address"> </textarea>

<textarea name="address" id="address" rows="10"
cols="50" placeholder="This shows in the field"> </textarea>

</fieldset>
</form>
```

Forms (suite)

Input fields (suite)

`<input type="radio" />`

Creates an empty circle showing a dot when selected which can be related to a value to be used as data.

If the attribute **name**'s value is the same for each radio button, only one of them may be selected.

The data transferred using a radio button is the text stored in the attribute **value=""**.

`<input type="checkbox" />`

Similar to the radio button, this selection element allows to select more than one possibility from a group.

Choose the size

- ☒ Label of a large checkbox
- ☒ Label of a medium checkbox aligned right
- ☐ Label of a small checkbox
- ☒ Label of a tiny checkbox aligned right

`<select> </select>`

Creates a dropdown selection group using the tag `<option>` along with the attribute **value** for each possibilities.

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

```
<fieldset>
```

```
<legend>Personal informations</legend>
```

```
<label for="sex">Gender:</label>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="sex" id="man" value="man">
```

```
<label for="woman">Woman</label>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="sex" id="woman" value="woman">
```

```
<label for="hobbies">Hobbies:</label>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="hobbies" id="sport" value="sport">Sport<br />
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="hobbies" id="reading" value="reading">Reading<br />
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="hobbies" id="computer" value="computer">Computer<br />
```

```
<select>
```

```
<label for="country">Country:</label>
```

```
<option value="usa">United States</option>
```

```
<option value="germany">Deutschland</option>
```

```
<option value="france">France</option>
```

```
<option value="others">Other</option>
```

```
</select>
```

```
</fieldset>
```

```
</form>
```

Forms (suite)

Input fields (suite)

<button type="submit" />

This attribute used wether with the tags **<input>** or **<button>** creates an input button. Upon clicking, the data gathered is sent using the parameters defined in the tag **<form>**.

<input type="image" />

Creates a submit button using a personal image. We now essentially use **<button>** with a background image instead of **<input>**.

```
<form method="post" action="mail.php">  
<fieldset>  
<legend>Informations personnelles</legend>
```

```
<input type="submit" />
```

OR

```
<input type="image" src="myfolder/myimage.jpg" />
```

OR

```
<button type="submit">Click here</button>
```

```
</fieldset>  
</form>
```