

# A12 Contact Form

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## The Benefits of a Contact Form

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A contact form is an essential part of a site. It helps friends, customers, and others get in contact with you whether they're on their own computer or not. In this exercise, you'll implement, and style, a simple contact form.

- Download the assignment resource file (contact-lastname.zip) from the website.
  - Uncompress the folder
  - Rename the folder *contact-lastname* to include your own lastname
    - Example: *contact-michaud*
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## A Message of Thanks

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In your text editor, create a new, simple, HTML document (using the HTML5 doctype and the global elements you've learned). This document will load after the user has submitted the form and provide a message thanking them for contacting you and when they should expect a reply to any inquiry.

- Save the document as: *thanks.html*
- It should be located in the *contact-lastname* assignment folder
- The content, in the *thanks.html* document, should inform the user the form has been processed and you'll respond as soon as possible (hopefully within 24 hours).

Example:

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<p>Thank you for contacting me.</p>
<p>I will respond to your email as soon as possible</p>
```

... or something similar and professional.

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## Auto Response Message

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In the *autoresponse* folder, you'll find a plain text document *sample.txt*.

- On the last line, change "Your Name Here" to your name.

## Contact Form

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Now open the *contact.html* document to make the following changes:

1. LINE 6: In the `meta` element for the author, make sure you replace the value "your name here" with your own name.
  2. LINE 7: Replace the content for the `title` element with "Contact | Your Name" (placing your own name in the appropriate place).
  3. LINE 17: In the first paragraph, make sure your name replaces the text between the `b` element.
  4. LINE 34: Create an `input` field for the user to enter their name.
    - **Note:** The *contact.html* document has more instructions for you on the lines 24 thru 33.
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## Processing the Form

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Since this class is about HTML and CSS, I'm not expecting you to know or learn about the basics of PHP. So the changes to the PHP document will be minimal.

Open *contact\_process.php* in your text editor and make the necessary changes:

1. LINE 25: enter in your email address.
2. LINE 28: enter the name of your Web Site
  - Example: Thomas Michaud | Web Designer
3. LINE 32: There's no need to touch this line, as the *contact.html* document already has a link to the *thanks.html* document.

That's it! no more—no less.

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## Styling the Form

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While you can start applying the styles for the form—in the *form.css* document—it wouldn't be a bad idea to test your work online ... skip to the "Test, Test, Test" section, and then come back to styling your form, after you know it works!

- First, remember to insert a `link` element—within the `head` element—in the *contact.html* document that links to your *form.css* document!
- Using the information you’ve learned from the book and video demonstrations, you must style three form elements ... view the CSS for more information.

I'll supply links to help you gain ideas of how to style your form on the website.

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## TEST, TEST, TEST

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In order for your form to work, you must test it on a Web Server—it will not work on your computer!

- Upload the uncompressed assignment folder onto your server

### Testing your form:

- Use your email (or a friends or a secondary email) address when testing the form.
- You (or your friend) should get a success message on screen (*thanks.html*) and an email (from the *autoresponse > sample.txt* docuemnt) within 20 minutes

### Unsuccessful

- Review the steps, make needed changes, and test again

### Success

- Make sure you complete the CSS requirements. Then test again ... After everything works after styling, post the link the assignment page.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Contact'. The address bar displays the file path: file:///C:/Users/JohnDoe/Desktop/contact-form/contact.html. The form content includes a heading 'Contact', a note 'Filling out this form will send the form data to John Doe.', and a section titled 'Contact Form' containing four input fields: 'Your Name', 'Your Email Address', 'Subject', and 'Your Message'. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom of the form.

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## Example Solution

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