# Forms

- What are forms?

  - An HTML form is an area of the document that allows users to enter information into fields.

  - A form may be used to collect personal information, opinions in polls, user preferences and other kinds of information.

# Forms

- There are two basic components of a Web form: the shell, the part that the user fills out, and the script which processes the information

- HTML tags are used to create the form shell. Using HTML you can create text boxes, radio buttons, checkboxes, drop-down menus, and more...

# Example: Form

First Name: _____ ⟵————————— Text Box

Last Name: _____

**Type of Shirt:** [ Sleeveless ◆ ] ⟵————— Drop-down Menu

**Size:** ○ Large ◉ Medium ○ Small ⟵————— Radio Buttons

**Color:** ☐ Red ☑ Navy ☐ Black ⟵————— Checkboxes

**Comments?**

[                    ] ⟵————————— Text Area

[Buy Now!] [Reset]

Reset Button

Submit Button

# The Form Shell

- A form shell has three important parts:
  - the <form> tag, which includes the address of the script which will process the form
  - the form elements, like text boxes and radio buttons
  - the submit button which triggers the script to send the entered information to the server

# Creating the Shell

- To create a form shell, type <form method=post action="script_url"> where "script_url" is the address of the script
- Create the form elements
- End with a closing </form> tag

# Creating Text Boxes

- to create a text box, type <input type="text" name="name" value="value" size=n maxlength=n>

- the name, value, size, and maxlength attributes are optional

# Text Box Attributes

- The NAME attribute is used to identify the text box to the processing script
- The VALUE attribute is used to specify the text that will initially appear in the text box
- The SIZE attribute is used to define the size of the box in characters
- The MAXLENGTH attribute is used to define the maximum number of characters that can be typed in the box

# Example: Text Box

first name: <input type="text" name="firstname" value="first name" size=20>

<br><br>

last name: <input type="text" name="lastname" value="last name" size=20>

<br><br>

- Here's how it would look on the Web:

First Name: First Name

Last Name: Last Name

# Creating Larger Text Areas

- To create larger text areas, type <textarea name="name" rows=n1 cols=n2 wrap> default text </textarea>, where n1 is the height of the text box in rows and n2 is the width of the text box in characters
- The WRAP attribute causes the cursor to move automatically to the next line as the user types

# Example: Text Area

\<b\>comments?\</b\>

\<br\>

\<textarea name="comments" rows=10 cols=50 \>

\</textarea\>

# Creating Radio Buttons

- to create a radio button, type <input type="radio" name="name" value="data">label, where "data" is the text that will be sent to the server if the button is checked and "Label" is the text that identifies the button to the user

# Example: Radio Buttons

\<b\> size: \</b\>

\<input type="radio" name="size"
  value="large"\>large

\<input type="radio" name="size"
  value="medium"\>medium

\<input type="radio" name="size"
  value="small"\>small

# Creating Checkboxes

- to create a checkbox, type <input type="checkbox" name="name" value="value">label

- If you give a group of radio buttons or checkboxes the same name, the user will only be able to select one button or box at a time

# Example: Checkboxes

<b> color: </b>

<input type="checkbox" name="color" value="red">red

<input type="checkbox" name="color" value="navy">navy

<input type="checkbox" name="color" value="black">black

# Creating Drop-down Menus

- To create a drop-down menu, type <select name="name" size=n multiple>

- then type <option value= "value">label

- in this case the size attribute specifies the height of the menu in lines and multiple allows users to select more than one menu option

# Example: Drop-down Menu

**&lt;b&gt;**which is favourite fruit**:&lt;/b&gt;**

**&lt;select&gt;**

**&lt;option** value="mangoes"&gt;mangoes **&lt;/option&gt;**

**&lt;option** value="papaya"&gt;papaya **&lt;/option&gt;**

**&lt;option** value="guava"&gt;guava **&lt;/option&gt;**

**&lt;option** value="banana"&gt; banana **&lt;/option&gt;**

**&lt;option** value="pineapple"&gt;pineapple **&lt;/option&gt;**

**&lt;/select&gt;**

# Creating a Submit Button

- to create a submit button, type <input type="submit">
- if you would like the button to say something other than submit, use the value attribute
- for example, <input type="submit" value="buy now!"> would create a button that says "buy now!"

# Creating a Reset Button

- to create a reset button, type <input type="reset">
- the value attribute can be used in the same way to change the text that appears on the button

# Tables

- Tables can be used to display rows and columns of data, create multi-column text, captions for images, and sidebars
- the <table> tag is used to create a table; the <tr> tag defines the beginning of a row while the <td> tag defines the beginning of a cell
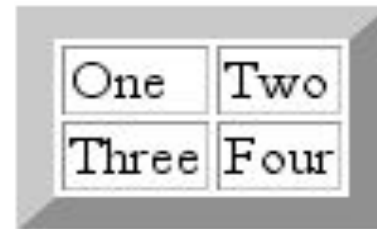
# Adding a Border

- the border=n attribute allows you to add a border n pixels thick around the table
- to make a solid border color, use the bordercolor="color" attribute
- to make a shaded colored border, use bodercolordark="color" and bordercolorlight="color"

# Creating Simple Table

```
<table border=10>
    <tr>
     <td>one</td>
     <td>two</td>
    </tr>
    <tr>
     <td>three</td>
     <td>four</td>
    </tr>
</table>
```

- Here's how it would look on the Web:

# Adjusting the Width

- When a Web browser displays a table, it often adds extra space. To eliminate this space use the width =n attribute in the <table> and <td> tags

- Keep in mind - a cell cannot be smaller than its contents, and if you make a table wider than the browser window, users will not be able to see parts of it.

# Centering a Table

- There are two ways to center a table
  - type &lt;table align=center&gt;
  - enclose the &lt;table&gt; tags in opening and closing &lt;center&gt; tags

# Spanning Cells Across Columns

- It is often necessary to span one cell across many columns. For example, you would use this technique to span a headline across the columns of a newspaper article.

- To span a cell across many columns, type <td colspan=n>, where n is the number of columns to be spanned

# Aligning Cell Content

- Use align=direction to change the horizontal alignment where "direction" is left, center, or right