Web Development

Forms, HTML5

The Form Element

The HTML <form> element defines a form that is used to collect user input.
An HTML form contains **form elements**.

Form elements are different types of **input** elements, like **text fields**, **checkboxes**, **radio buttons**, **submit buttons**, and more.

Method attribute

The method attribute specifies the HTTP method (**GET** or **POST**) to be used when submitting the form data.

```
1 <form action="/result_page.php" method="get">
2
3   OR:
4
5 <form action="/result_page.php" method="post">
```

GET

The default method when submitting form data is GET.
However, when GET is used, the submitted form data will be visible in the **page address field**:

/result_page.php?firstname=Mickey&lastname=Mouse

GET must NOT be used when sending sensitive information! GET is best suited for short, non-sensitive, amounts of data, because it has size limitations too.

POST

Always use POST if the form data contains sensitive or personal information. The POST method does not display the submitted form data in the page address field.

POST has no size limitations, and can be used to send large amounts of data.

Main differences: POST vs. GET

	GET	POST
Bookmarked	Can be bookmarked	Cannot be bookmarked
Restrictions on data length	Maximum URL length is 2048 characters	No restrictions
Visibility	Data is visible to everyone in the URL	Data is not displayed in the URL
Restrictions on data type	Only ASCII characters allowed	No restrictions. Binary data is also allowed

See more differences

The Name Attribute

Each input field must have a **name** attribute to be submitted.

If the name attribute is omitted, the data of that input field will not be sent at all.

```
<form action="/action_page.php">
  First name:<br>
  <input type="text" value="Mickey"><br>
  Last name:<br>
  <input type="text" name="lastname" value="Mouse"><br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

Input Element - Text

Defines a one-line input field for **text input**:

```
1 <form>
2   <label for="firstname">First name:</label><br>
3   <input type="text" id="firstname" name="firstname"><br>
4   <label for="lastname">Last name:</label><br>
5   <input type="text" id="lastname" name="lastname">
6 </form>
```

HTML Label Tag

The <label> tag defines a label for an <input> element.

It provides a usability improvement for mouse users, because if the user clicks on the text within the **<label>** element, it toggles the control.

The **for attribute** of the <label> tag should be **equal** to the **id attribute of the related element** to bind them together.

Input Element - Password

<input type="password"> defines a password field.

```
1  <form>
2    <label for="password">Password:</label><br>
3    <input type="password" id="password" name="password">
4  </form>
```

More Form Elements

- Radio button (input)
- Checkbox (input)
- Textarea
- Button
- Select

DEMO!

HTML5 - New Input types

- color
- date
- datetime-local
- email
- month
- number
- range
- search
- tel
- time
- url
- week

Resources

- [W3Schools](#)