

COMP 1017

HTML Forms

Most modern websites have *some*
type of **form**.

These can include contact forms,
search features, email
subscriptions, logins, and more.

Today, we're going to learn the markup and how to style forms.

However, our forms are going to lack back-end functionality.

This means that we aren't going to cover how to set up a database or server or table to actually capture and record the data in the form.

We're going to focus exclusively
on the front-end and the
aesthetics of it.

Form Markup

Follow along and you'll be in fine form!

All forms must start with the
`<form>` element.

`<form>` has two attributes we should set, which tells our browser where and how the data will be sent.

action attribute tells the browser
where the submitted data will go.

method tells the browser **how** the submitted data will be sent (**GET** or **POST**).

GET: is used for viewing something or retrieving data.

POST: is used to insert/update data.

Input

Better in than out, I always say.

Inside of `<form>`, we can write all sorts of elements, such as ...

- ❑ input
- ❑ Textarea
- ❑ Label
- ❑ Checkbox
- ❑ Radio buttons
- ❑ Fieldset
- ❑ Submit

- ❑ Button
- ❑ Legend
- ❑ Select
- ❑ Option
- ❑ Optgroup
- ❑ Datalist
- ❑ Output

`<input>` is the most important form element. It can be displayed in a number of ways.

It is one of very few **void elements**
(it does not need a closing tag).

How it's **displayed** depends upon
what **value** we give its **type** attribute.

There are many input types,
including ...

☐ text

☐ email

☐ password

☐ checkbox

☐ submit

☐ radio

☐ range

☐ min

☐ max

☐ button

☐ reset

☐ number

☐ tel

☐ url

☐ search

☐ time

☐ color

☐ date

☐ file

☐ hidden

☐ image

☐ month

☐ week

```
<input type="text" id="firstname" />  
<input type="email" id="email" />  
<input type="tel" id="phone" />  
<input type="password" id="password" />
```

The type attribute defines and controls the way input elements behave.

... hold up! Sublime Text
automatically generates 'type' and
'name' attributes.

And, furthermore, what's the difference between the two?

The **ID** of a form input element has nothing to do with the data contained within the element.

ID's are for hooking the element
with JavaScript and CSS.

The **name** attribute, however, is used in the HTTP request sent by your browser to the server as a variable name.

On top of all of those **type** attributes, there are a number of other attributes.

- ❑ **Name:** used to specify a name for the input field.
- ❑ **Type:** defines and controls the input field behaviour
- ❑ **Value:** specifies what the input field values are.
- ❑ **Placeholder:** describes/hints at the expected value for the field
- ❑ **Disabled:** disables a form field
- ❑ **Required:** The user must complete the field before submitting.