

# OVERVIEW: HTML FORMS

## IN THIS LESSON

What are forms?

Basic form: `<form>` `<input>`

Submit a form to a server

`<input>` attributes

`<input>` types

## WHAT ARE FORMS?

Can be short or long - ex.: Google basic search vs advanced

Forms have one or more input fields/dropdowns/or other ways to enter data, along with a way to submit that data to the website, typically through a button

Usually data is sent to web server, which handles it & sends a response

Examples: Google's web servers will retrieve search results and send them back to the browser, a shopping site's credit card information form will try to validate the card, etc

## BASIC FORM: <form> <input>

```
<form>
  <input type="text" />
  <input type="submit" value="Go" />
</form>
```

**<form>** is a container element, formally defines contents as a form

**<input>** is a versatile element commonly used in forms

- attribute **type="text"** creates text box for user input
- attribute **type="submit"** creates button to submit the form

This code does not show a fully working example!

## SUBMIT A FORM TO A SERVER

`<form action="URL to send data to" method="get or post">`

**action** attribute: URL on a server that should run a server-side script (a small program) to handle the form submission

**method** attribute: "**get**" or "**post**"

- "**get**" to send requests for data from server, such as a search query
- "**post**" to send data to server, both text and binary data such as images, any sensitive data that needs to be encrypted such as passwords



form.html X

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4   <meta charset="utf-8" />
5   <title>HTML Form Example</title>
6 </head>
7 <body>
8   <form action="https://learn.nucamp.co/show_everything.php" method="post">
9     Enter your avatar name:
10    <input type="text" name="avatarName" />
11    <input type="submit" value="Go" />
12  </form>
13 </body>
14 </html>
```

0 0 Live Share

Ln 10, Col 28 (17 selected)

Spaces: 4

UTF-8

CRLF

HTML

Port : 5500

127.0.0.1:5500/form.html

Enter your avatar name:


Go

```

7 </body>
8 <form action="https://learn.nucamp.co/show_everything.php" method="POST">
9   Enter your avatar name:
10  <input type="text" name="avatarName" />
11  <input type="submit" value="Go" />
12 </form>
13 </body>
14 </html>

```

https://learn.nucamp.co/show\_ev x +

← → ↻  learn.nucamp.co/show\_everything.php

```

array(1) {
  ["avatarName"]=>
  string(7) "Harriet"
}

```

## <input> ATTRIBUTES

**type:** text, submit, many others (next slide)

**name:** required, single word, tells server what the data is

**value:** default value to submit, also used for submit button text

**placeholder:** hint text to user about what to enter

**required:** - Boolean, inputs with this attribute must be given a value before the form can be submitted



## MORE <input> TYPES

**text:** default input type, single line text field

**submit:** submit button with input's **value** as button text, sends form data to URL specified in form's **action** attribute

**checkbox:** click to select, can be one or multiple  
- for one checkbox, only **name** is needed; for a group of checkboxes, multiple selections can be made, and they can share the same name but must have different **values**

**radio:** click to select, use two or more grouped together  
- if in the same group, should have the same **name** but different **values**

```

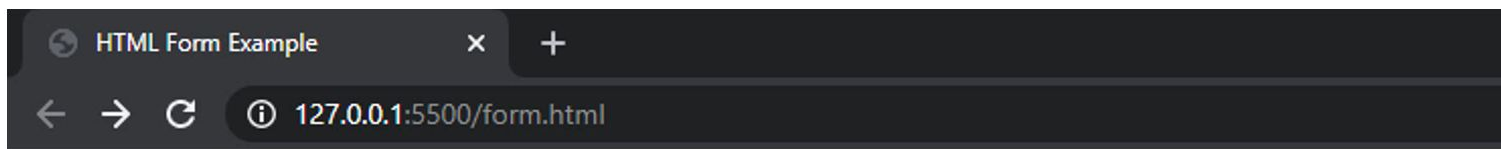
<form action="https://learn.nucamp.co/show_everything.php" method="post">
  <!-- Single Checkbox Input -->
  <div>
    Delivery? <input type="checkbox" name="delivery" />
  </div>

  <!-- Group of Multiple Checkbox Inputs -->
  <div>
    Milk <input type="checkbox" name="groceries" value="milk" />
    Eggs <input type="checkbox" name="groceries" value="eggs" />
    Bread <input type="checkbox" name="groceries" value="bread" />
  </div>

  <!-- Group of Multiple Radio Inputs -->
  <div>
    Pay by Cash <input type="radio" name="payment" value="cash" required />
    Pay by Check <input type="radio" name="payment" value="check" />
  </div>

  <input type="submit" value="Submit" />
</form>

```



Delivery? ☐

Milk ☒ Eggs ☒ Bread ☒

Pay by Cash ☐ Pay by Check ☐

## MORE <input> TYPES

**range**: slider for a range between min & max values

**color**: color picker

**file**: file upload

```
<form action="handleForm.php" method="post" enctype="multipart/form-data">

....<!-- Range --->
....<div>
....|....My Rating <input type="range" name="myRating" min="1" max="10" />
....</div>

....<!-- Color --->
....<div>
....|....Choose a color: <input type="color" name="myColor" />
....</div>

....<!-- File --->
....<div>
....|....Upload your file: <input type="file" name="myFile" />
....</div>
....
....<input type="submit" value="Submit" />

</form>
```