

Forms in HTML

Overview

HTML Forms are used to **collect different kinds of input from the user**. Through these forms, a user enters the data, which is either processed by the browser itself (using Javascript) or the data goes to the servers where it gets processed.

A form is an area that can contain **form elements**. A form is defined with the **<form>** tag.

Syntax :

```
<form>
  // Form Elements
</form>
```

The <form> element contains different types of input elements, such as text fields, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit buttons, etc.

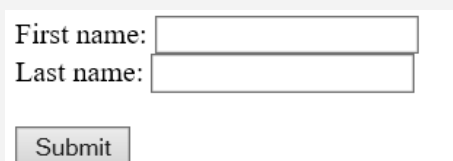
Basic form Example

Let's consider a basic form asking for the first name and the last name of the user.

Example :

```
<form action="/index.html">
  <label for="fname">First name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="firstname">
  <br>
  <label for="lname">Last name:</label>
  <input type="text" id="lname" name="lastname">
  <br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

Output :



- ❖ In the above example, you can see that several tags and attributes are used. We will cover them all in the upcoming modules.
- ❖ Firstly let's learn about the form attributes or the functions in submitting the form.

Form Attributes

When the form is submitted, the page gets reloaded, and we know that the form gets submitted. But actually, the form input data is not being submitted to the server. To get the form to send the input data to the server, we need to set 2 attributes in the form:

- action attribute
- method attribute

Example : `<form action="/index.html" method="post"> </form>`

action Attribute

The action attribute defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted. It tells where the form data is sent when the form is submitted. This contains the address (i.e. URL) of the file where the data is sent. The URL can be provided in an **absolute and relative path**.

NOTE: If the action attribute is not mentioned, the action is set to the current page URL.

Example : `<form action="/index.html">
 <label for="fname"> Full Name: </label>
 <input type="text" id="fname" name="fullname">
 <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>`

- ❖ In the above example, the form data is submitted to the index.html present relative to the path.

For **absolute path** : action = "<https://www.xyz.com/index.html>"

method Attribute

The method attribute defines how the form data is sent. It specifies the HTTP method to be used when submitting the form data.

The form-data can be sent as URL variables (with **method="GET"**) or as HTTP post transaction (with **method="POST"**).

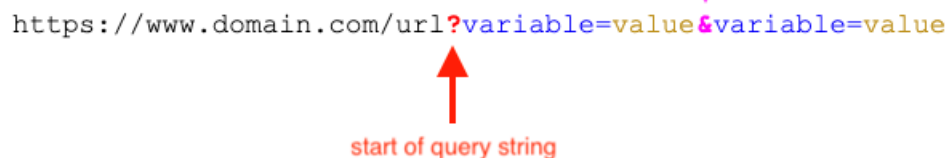
NOTE: The default HTTP method when submitting form data is GET.

GET method

This method appends the data into the URL with '?' as a separator in name-value pairs. Since this data will be visible, so **sensitive data (like passwords) should not be sent**. This can be used to send query strings.

Syntax : URL?name=value&name=value

Example :



https://www.domain.com/url?variable=value&variable=value

Syntax : <form action="/index.html" **method="GET"**>

POST Method

This method appends the data inside the body of the HTTP request. The post is used to **send the sensitive data** (the submitted form data is not shown in the URL).

Syntax : <form action="/index.html" **method="POST"**>

formaction Attribute

The input formaction attribute specifies the URL of the file that will process the input when the form is submitted using that specific button.

NOTE : This attribute overrides the action attribute of the <form> element.

Example :

```
<form action="/index.html">
  <label for="fname"> Full Name: </label>
  <input type="text" id="fname" name="fname">

  <input type="submit" value="Submit as User">
  <input type="submit" formaction="/index2.html" value="Submit as Admin">
</form>
```

Output :



- ❖ In the above example, if you submit by clicking the **“Submit as User”** button, the form will be submitted to **index.html** but submitting by **“Submit as Admin”** will submit the form at **index2.html**.