HTML Forms

An HTML form is used to collect user input. The user input is most often sent to a server for processing.

The HTML <form> element is used to create an HTML form for user input.

Form Attributes:

* Action: The action attribute defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.

<form action="/action\_page.php">

* Target: The target attribute specifies where to display the response that is received after submitting the form.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

1. \_blank: The response is displayed in a new window or tab
2. \_self: The response is displayed in the current window
3. \_parent: The response is displayed in the parent frame
4. \_top: The response is displayed in the full body of the window

* Framename: The response is displayed in a named iframe
* Method: The method attribute specifies the HTTP method to be used when submitting the form data.

1. The form-data can be sent as URL variables (with method="get") or as HTTP post transaction (with method="post").
2. The default HTTP method when submitting form data is GET.

* Autocomplete: The autocomplete attribute specifies whether a form should have autocomplete on or off.
* When autocomplete is on, the browser automatically complete values based on values that the user has entered before.
* Novalidate: The novalidate attribute is a boolean attribute.
* When present, it specifies that the form-data (input) should not be validated when submitted.
* accept-charset: Specifies the character encodings used for form submission.
* Autocomplete: The autocomplete attribute specifies whether a form should have autocomplete on or off.
* Rel: Specifies the relationship between a linked resource and the current document.

Input Types

Here are the different input types you can use in HTML:

* <input type="button">
* <input type="checkbox">
* <input type="color">
* <input type="date">
* <input type="datetime-local">
* <input type="email">
* <input type="file">
* <input type="hidden">
* <input type="image">
* <input type="month">
* <input type="number">
* <input type="password">
* <input type="radio">
* <input type="range">
* <input type="reset">
* <input type="search">
* <input type="submit">
* <input type="tel">
* <input type="text">
* <input type="time">
* <input type="url">
* <input type="week">

Input Restrictions

Here is a list of some common input restrictions:

* Checked: Specifies that an input field should be pre-selected when the page loads (for type="checkbox" or type="radio")
* Disabled: Specifies that an input field should be disabled
* Max: Specifies the maximum value for an input field
* Maxlength: Specifies the maximum number of character for an input field
* Min: Specifies the minimum value for an input field
* Pattern: Specifies a regular expression to check the input value against
* Readonly: Specifies that an input field is read only (cannot be changed)
* Required: Specifies that an input field is required (must be filled out)
* Size: Specifies the width (in characters) of an input field
* Step: Specifies the legal number intervals for an input field
* value : Specifies the default value for an input field

HTML Form Elements:

The HTML <form> element can contain one or more of the following form elements:

* <input>: One of the most used form element is the <input> element.
  + The <input> element can be displayed in several ways, depending on the type attribute.
* <label>: The <label> element defines a label for several form elements.
  + The for attribute of the <label> tag should be equal to the id attribute of the <input> element to bind them together.
* <select>: The <select> element defines a drop-down list.
  + The <option> elements defines an option that can be selected.
* <textarea>: The <textarea> element defines a multi-line input field (a text area).
  + The rows attribute specifies the visible number of lines in a text area.
  + The cols attribute specifies the visible width of a text area.
* <button>: The <button> element defines a clickable button.
* <fieldset>: The <fieldset> element is used to group related data in a form.
* <legend>: The <legend> element defines a caption for the <fieldset> element.
* <datalist>: The <datalist> element specifies a list of pre-defined options for an <input> element.

Users will see a drop-down list of the pre-defined options as they input data.

The list attribute of the <input> element, must refer to the id attribute of the <datalist> element.

* <output>: The <output> element represents the result of a calculation (like one performed by a script).
* <optgroup>: Defines a group of related options in a drop-down list.