

# What are “Web Forms?”

Many websites are not just about presenting (showing) content



Instead, user input is often requested as well

Contact form

Checkout form

Login form

Comment form

And many other kinds of forms...

There are **special HTML elements** for getting and handling user input

## Key Form Elements

`<input type="...">`

The “type” attribute controls which type of input will be shown  
*(e.g. single line text input, number input, email address input, ...)*

`<textarea>`

A multi-line text input field

`<select>`

A dropdown multiple-choice or multi-select input

`<button>`

A button to reset or submit the form

## <input type="...">: Different Input Types

The Default!

```
<input type="text">
```

A single-line text input field.

```
<input type="email">
```

An input field optimized for email input (e.g. by showing an optimized keyboard on mobile phones)

```
<input type="number">
```

Optimized for number (with or without decimals) input

```
<input type="password">
```

A password input field where the entered characters are hidden

```
<input type="date">
```

An input field where the browser opens a date picker overlay

## `<input type="...">`: Different Input Types

`<input type="radio">`

A radio button: Can be used to present multiple options where only one option can be selected simultaneously

`<input type="checkbox">`

A checkbox button: Can be used to present a "toggle" (yes / no) option to the visitor (e.g. "Agree to terms")

`<input type="file">`

A file picker: Allows the user to pick a file (e.g. for image upload)

...

More input types are available, not all are supported in all browsers though (e.g. see MDN reference)

## Browser-Side (Client-Side) Input Validation

Website users should typically not submit invalid or empty forms

Different input fields often require different validation rules

e.g. a valid email address requires a “@” symbol in the entered input text



Built-in and customizable validation rules  
(via HTML attributes)