

## Chapter 9

# FORMS & INPUTS

- A **form** is a way to transmit information to a server in HTML.
- The **<form>** tag signifies the beginning of a form. Its important attributes are **action** and **method**.
- The **action** attribute tells the form where (URL) to send the data to, once it is submitted.
- The **method** attribute tells the form how to send the data entered in it when the form is submitted. This attribute has 2 values: **get** and **post**.
- The **get** method involves sending the form data embedded into the URL. It isn't suitable for sending sensitive data. It is also not suitable for sending a large amount of data as the maximum URL length is limited to 3000 characters. This method is used when the user wants to bookmark the result. It is useful for submitting Google query strings.
- The **post** method appends form data in the body of the HTTP request and not in the URL. There isn't any limit on the length of the data that can be sent using this method. The form submission using this method can't be bookmarked.

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- A form has **labels** and **inputs**.
  - A **label** indicates the purpose of an **input** to the user.
  - The **<label>** tag is used to create a label. **for** is an important attribute in **<label>**.
  - The **for** attribute in a **<label>** must match the corresponding **<input>** tag's **id**.

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- The important attributes in an **<input>** tag are: **id**, **type**, **name**, **placeholder**, **autocomplete** and **autofocus**. **<input>** has no closing tag.
  - The **id** is a unique name for each input tag.
  - The **type** of an input tag indicates what type of input it is: An input can be of types **text**, **number**, **tel** (phone number) and **password**.
  - The **placeholder** attribute defines the placeholder text in the input.
  - The **autocomplete** attribute defines whether past input values should be used to complete the user's input. It can be set to **on** or **off**.
  - The **autofocus** attribute defines which input field should be focussed on. Only one input in a form can have autofocus on it. It can be set to **true** or **false**.

- The **<select>** tag can create a list of options using an **<option>** tag for each option.
- The **<option>** tags in a **<select>** tag can be grouped together using the **<optgroup>** tag.
- The **<option>** tag has a closing tag. It has an attribute called **value** which gives semantic meaning to the value provided in the **<option>** tag.
- The **<select>** tag with options produces a list of options in a drop down.
- The **size** attribute can be used to display more than 1 option with **<select>**.
- The **multiple** attribute can be used to allow more than 1 option to be selected in the drop down. It can be set to **true** or **false**.

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- An input that allows options to be searched while also allowing them to be selected via dropdown can be achieved using an **<input>** and a **<datalist>**.
  - The **<datalist>** can also be used to provide **autocomplete** for the options.
  - The **<datalist>** consists of its options provided as **<option>** tags with the **value** attribute containing the option name.

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- The **<fieldset>** tag is used to group elements together into boxes.
  - The **<legend>** tag is used to provide a caption for the **<fieldset>** tag.

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- The **<button>** tag creates a button. A few important attributes of it are: **type**, **formaction** and **formmethod**.
  - The **type** attribute specifies the button's type. It can be **submit** or **reset**.
  - The **formaction** attribute specifies the URL to which the data is submitted.
  - The **formmethod** attribute specifies the method in which the form will be submitted. This can be **get** or **post**.