Article 6 – HTML Forms and Inputs

HTML Forms are the primary way web applications gather input from the user. Whether it’s logging in, submitting feedback, or submitting a survey. Forms are what bridge the gap between user interactions and server-side processing.

**Anatomy of a Form**

Every form starts with the <form></form> element, which wraps all the controls and defines how and where to submit the data once collected.

<form action="/submit" method="post">

<!-- Form controls -->

</form>

action: URL where the form data is to be sent.

method: HTTP method to use.

**Core Form Controls**

1) Text Input

<label for="username">Username:</label>

<input type="text" id="username" name="username" required>

2) Password Input

<label for="pwd">Password:</label>

<input type="password" id="pwd" name="password" required>

3) Email Input

<label for="email">Email:</label>

<input type="email" id="email" name="email">

4) Number, Age, Color and Other Inputs

<input type="number" name="age" min="0" max="120">

<input type="date" name="birthday">

<input type="color" name="favcolor">

5) Text Area (multi-line input)

<label for="comments">Comments:</label>

<textarea id="comments" name="comments" rows="4" cols="40"></textarea>

6) Select Dropdown

<label for="country">Country:</label>

<select id="country" name="country">

<option value="us">United States</option>

<option value="ca">Canada</option>

</select>

7) Checkboxes and Radios

<fieldset>

<legend>Interests</legend>

<label><input type="checkbox" name="interests" value="coding"> Coding </label>

<label><input type="checkbox" name="interests" value="music"> Music</label>

</fieldset>

<fieldset>

<legend>Gender</legend>

<label><input type="radio" name="gender" value="male"> Male </label>

<label><input type="radio" name="gender" value="female"> Female </label>

</fieldset>

*Note: <fieldset> is a semantic field used to group related form controls together, along with a <legend> to caption the group. They help in visually grouping forms as well as breaking complex forms into logical sections (e.g. shipping vs billing address).*

8) Submit and Reset Buttons

<button type="submit">Submit</button>

<button type="reset">Reset</button>

**Important Attributes**

name: key under which the form’s value is sent

for + id: associates label with controls for larger target clicks

disabled, readonly: disable user interaction wherever appropriate

**Built-In Validation**

Required, minlength, maxlength, pattern

<input type="email" name="email" required>

<input type="text" name="zipcode" pattern="[0-9]{5}" title="Five digits">