HTML Forms - Complete Notes (Lecture 8)

Topic: Forms in HTML (Data collection from users)

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1. Introduction: What is a Form?

A Form is a document structure used to collect user input or data. Common examples include:

- Login Page (ID/Password)

- Registration Page (Name, Email, DOB)

- Feedback Form

2. Basic Tags for Forms

a) <form> Tag

This is the container tag that wraps the entire form elements.

```
<form action="server_url"> <!-- All form elements go here --> </form>
```

b) <input> Tag

The most important tag. Its `type` attribute determines how the input field appears.

- `type="text"`: For single-line text input.

- `type="submit"`: Creates a button to submit the form.

c) <label> Tag (Crucial for Accessibility)

Used to define a caption or name for an input item.

> **Best Practice:** The value of the `for` attribute in the label and the `id` attribute in the input must be the **SAME**. This allows the user to click on the text label to activate the input box.

```
<label for="email">Enter Email:</label> <input type="text" id="email"
name="userEmail">
```

3. Important Form Attributes

- **placeholder:** Displays a faint hint text inside the input field (e.g., "Enter your name").
- **value:** Specifies a default value for the input field.
- **name:** A unique identifier used to send data to the backend/server.
- **id:** A unique identifier for the frontend (CSS/JS) and for linking with labels.

4. Advanced Form Elements

a) <textarea> (Multi-line Input)

Used when you need to collect long text from the user (like addresses or feedback comments).

```
<textarea rows="4" cols="50" placeholder="Write your feedback
here..."></textarea>
```

b) <select> and <option> (Dropdown Menu)

Used when the user needs to select one item from a list.

```
<label for="car">Choose a car:</label> <select id="car"> <option
value="volvo">Volvo</option> <option value="saab">Saab</option>
<option value="mercedes">Mercedes</option> </select>
```

c) <fieldset> and <legend>

`fieldset` is used to group related elements (creates a box around them), and `legend` provides a title for that group.

```
<fieldset> <legend>Personal Information</legend> <label>Name:</label>
<input type="text"> </fieldset>
```

5. Different Types of Inputs (Practical Summary)

Input Type	Description
`type="password"`	Hides the characters (displays dots) for security.
`type="radio"`	Used to select **only one** option from a group (e.g., Gender). *(Note: The 'name' attribute must be identical for all options).*
`type="checkbox"`	Used to select multiple options (e.g., Hobbies, Languages).
`type="date"`	Opens a calendar widget to pick a date.
`type="file"`	Allows the user to upload a file from their device.
`type="image"`	Uses an image as a submit button.

Homework Solution: In Radio buttons, if you want the user to select only one option at a time, you must keep the `name` attribute the **same** for all related buttons.
Example: `name="gender"` for both Male and Female inputs.