

HTML Forms

Topics Covered:

- What are HTML Forms and its purpose?
- What are the important attributes of form tag?
- What are input elements and their types?
- What are the important attributes of input elements?
- What are the important HTML elements included in Forms?

Topics in Detail:

HTML Forms:

- HTML Form is a part of a document, used to collect and store user information/data.
- The collected information is often sent to the server for processing.
- Form can contain the input elements like input text boxes, input text areas, labels, checkboxes, radio buttons, submit button, etc...
- The form can contain different elements for collecting username, password, email id, Date of birth, check box, radio buttons...
- HTML Forms can be created by using <form></form> tag.
- Code:

```
<form>
  <label for="username">User Name</label><br>
  <input type="text" name="username">
  <br>
  <label for="email_id">Email id</label><br><br>
  <input type="email" name="email_id">
  <br><br>
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">
</form>
```

- Output:

User Name

Email id

HTML Form Attributes:

Attributes	Purpose										
action	Defines the action to be performed when the form is submitted.										
method	<p>Defines the HTTP method to be used while submitting the form.</p> <table> <tr> <th>Method</th><th>Description</th></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">get</td><td>After submission of form, form values will be visible in the address bar of the browser tab. So for sending sensitive information the get method should not be used.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Length of the url is limited.(2048 characters)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Form submission with get method can be bookmarked.</td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">post</td><td>After submitting the form the values will not be visible in the address bar.</td></tr> <tr> <td>No size limitations, large amounts of data can be sent.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Form submission with post method cannot be bookmarked.</td></tr> </table>	Method	Description	get	After submission of form, form values will be visible in the address bar of the browser tab. So for sending sensitive information the get method should not be used.	Length of the url is limited.(2048 characters)	Form submission with get method can be bookmarked.	post	After submitting the form the values will not be visible in the address bar.	No size limitations, large amounts of data can be sent.	Form submission with post method cannot be bookmarked.
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post	After submitting the form the values will not be visible in the address bar.										
	No size limitations, large amounts of data can be sent.										
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target	<p>Defines the place where the response(received after submitting the form) is to be displayed.</p> <table> <tr> <th>Value</th><th>Response displayed in</th></tr> <tr> <td>_blank</td><td>New tab.</td></tr> <tr> <td>_self</td><td>Current window.</td></tr> <tr> <td>_parent</td><td>Parent frame.</td></tr> <tr> <td>_top</td><td>Full body of the window.</td></tr> </table>	Value	Response displayed in	_blank	New tab.	_self	Current window.	_parent	Parent frame.	_top	Full body of the window.
Value	Response displayed in										
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autocomplete	<p>Defines whether the form should have autocomplete on or off.</p> <table> <tr> <td>on</td><td>Browser automatically completes values based on previous inputs.</td></tr> <tr> <td>off</td><td>Browser will not support autocomplete functionality.</td></tr> </table>	on	Browser automatically completes values based on previous inputs.	off	Browser will not support autocomplete functionality.						
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Input element in HTML Forms:

The `<input>` element is used to get input from the user. The `<input>` element can be displayed in many ways depending on the **type** attribute. The default value of the type attribute is **text**.

Some of the important values of type attribute are described as follows:

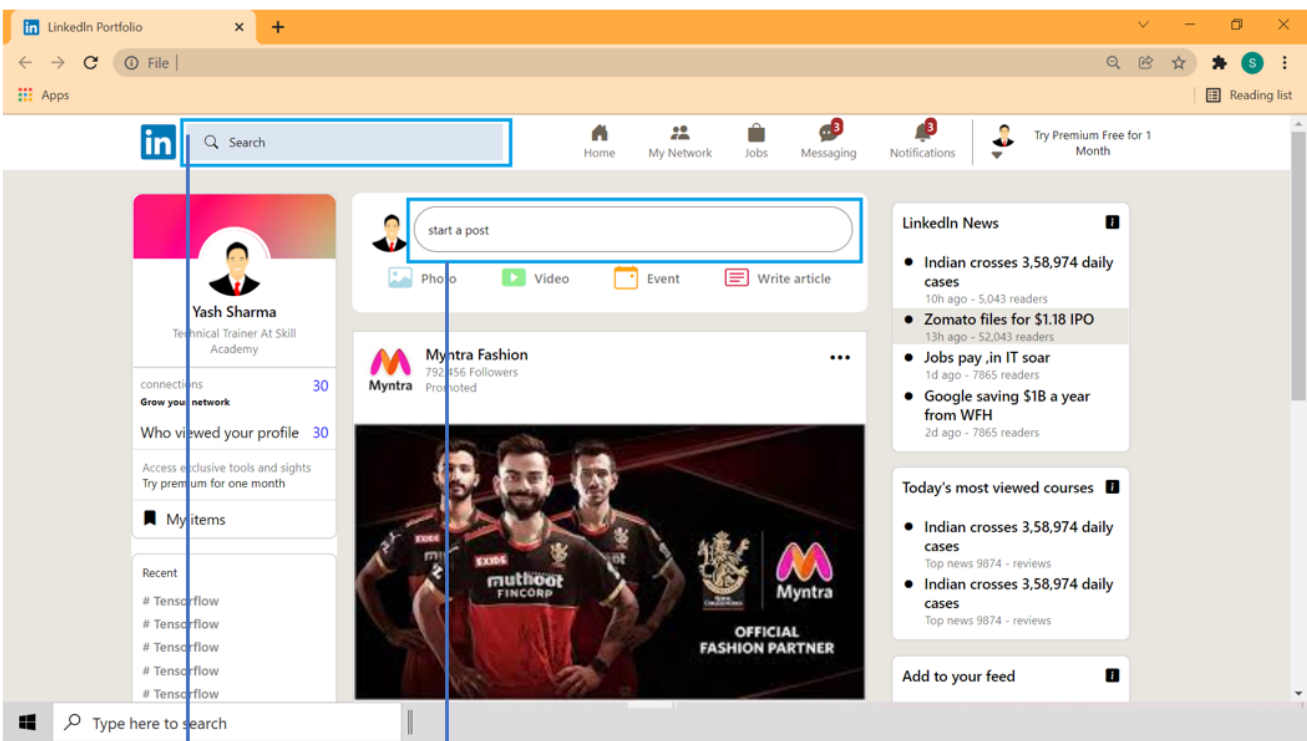
type attribute values	Description
<code><input type= "text"></code>	Text input field
<code><input type= "email"></code>	The user input should contain an email address when submitting the email validation will be done automatically.
<code><input type= "submit"></code>	Displays a submit button, for submitting a form.
<code><input type= "button"></code>	Displays a clickable button.
<code><input type= "radio"></code>	Displays radio button, to select one of multiple options.
<code><input type= "checkbox"></code>	Displays checkbox, to select zero/one/multiple options.
<code><input type= "date"></code>	The user field should contain a date, it does date validations
<code><input type= "number"></code>	Numeric input field, the restriction can be made to accept only a specific set of numbers.
<code><input type= "tel"></code>	The user input should contain a telephone number.

Attributes of input element:

Some of the important input attributes are as follows:

Attribute	Values	Description
class	Name of the class	Specifies one or more class names for the element. Used to apply styles.
id	Unique id of the element	Used to apply styles and scripts.
name	Name of the element	Used to refer to the element in JavaScript.
placeholder	Any name	Specifies a short hint of the expected value.
required	When present specifies, the input field must be filled before submitting the form.	
type	text, number, email, button...	Specifies the type of input that the user should enter before submitting the form.

Input elements in Static LinkedIn page:



The screenshot shows a LinkedIn profile for Yash Sharma, Technical Trainer at Skill Academy. Two blue arrows point from specific input fields to their corresponding HTML code snippets below the image:

- An arrow points from the search bar at the top left to the code: `<input type="text" class="search_input" value="Search">`
- An arrow points from the "start a post" text input field to the code: `<input type="text" value="start a post" class="post_input">`

Important HTML elements included in Forms:

<textarea>

- The text area is a multiple-line text input field.
- The text area is often used in a form to collect user information like comments, messages, reviews, etc...
- Example:

```
<textarea rows="5" cols="50" name="Description" id="Description"></textarea>
```

- The Attributes rows and cols are used to specify the size of the text area.

<label>

- Label defines what to be entered in the input fields.
- Labels are optional in forms.
- Example:

```
<label for="username">User Name</label>
```

- The attribute for is used to define for which input field this label is used.

<button>

- The <button> tag defines the clickable button.
- The <button> tag also has the type and class attribute which is the same as the <input> tag.
- Example:

```
<button type="button" onclick="alert('Hello world!')">Click Me!</button>
```

- The attribute onclick defines what should happen on the click of a button. Usually it is used to call JavaScript functions.