

HTML FORM BASICS

PROF. DAVID ROSSITER

AFTER THIS PRESENTATION

- You'll be able to create an HTML form
- You'll appreciate the two most common form elements

ELEMENTS & ATTRIBUTES WE WILL LOOK AT

`<form>`

method attribute

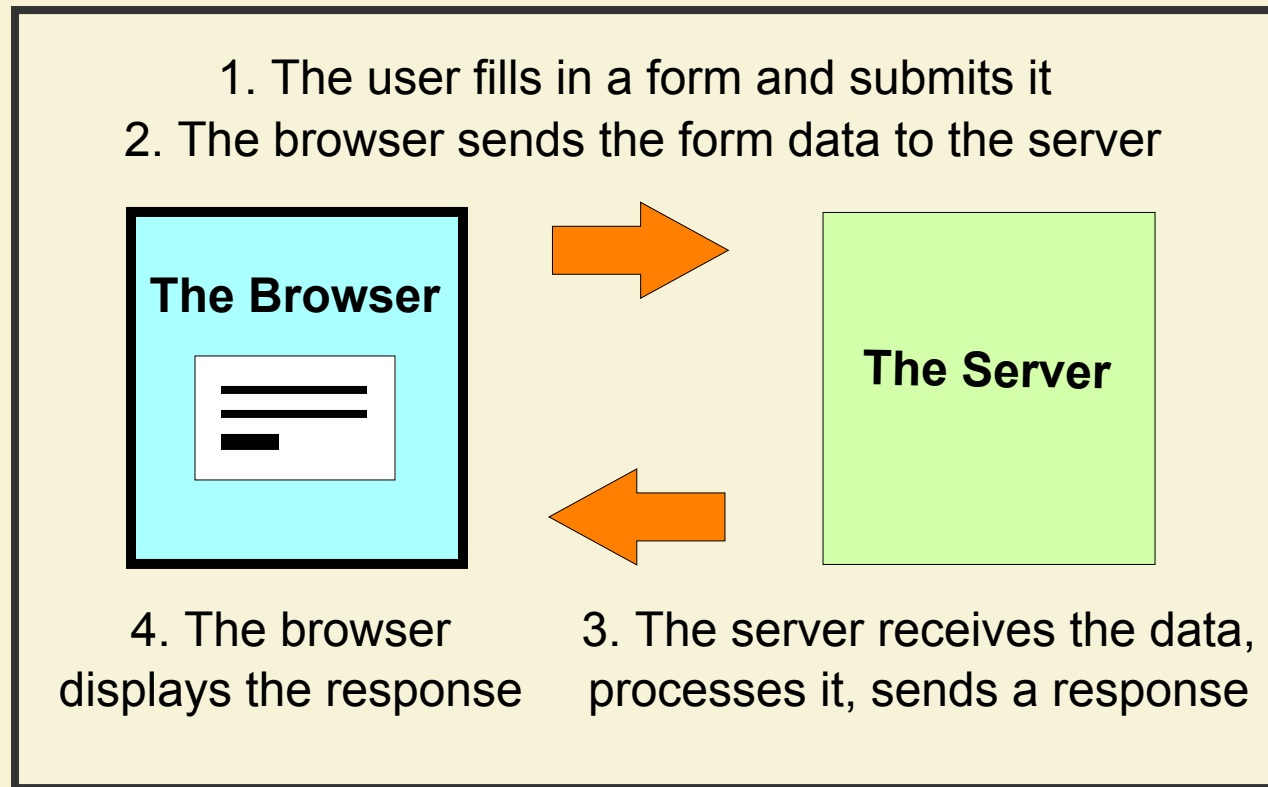
action attribute

`<textarea>`

`<input type="submit">`

FROM BROWSER TO SERVER

Forms are the simplest method



BASIC FORM STRUCTURE

```
<form action="destination" method="get or post">
```

... form elements go here ...

```
<input type="submit">
```

```
</form>
```

DESTINATION

`action="destination"` tells the browser what program to send the form data to e.g.:

```
<form action="http://www.server.com/subdirectory/program.php">
```

If the program is on same server as the html file:

```
<form action="subdirectory/program.php">
```

If the program in same directory as the html file:

```
<form action="program.php">
```

GET OR POST

`method="get"`

get is the default method

Example: search for *cats* using **bing.com**

The URL will be *http://www.bing.com/search?q=cats...*

THE GET METHOD

For a project you are developing, using get is a good idea

Seeing the form data in the URL is useful

However, you cannot keep any secrets

get can only handle a small transmission

e.g. a few hundred letters/characters

THE POST METHOD

```
method="post"
```

The main difference to get is you cannot see any data

Using post is better for keeping secrets

post can handle a big transmission e.g. files

SIMPLE EXAMPLE - TEXTAREA

```
<form>

  <p>Please enter any feedback you have.</p>

  <textarea rows="3" cols="60" name="feedback" >
Please enter your text here
</textarea>

</form>
```

Please enter any feedback you have.

Please enter your text here



ADDING A SUBMIT BUTTON

```
<form action="http://ihome.ust.hk/~rossiter/cgi-bin/show_everything.php"
method="get">
  <p>Please enter any feedback you have.</p>

  <textarea rows="3" cols="60" name="feedback" >
Please enter your text here
</textarea>
<br>
<input type="submit" value="Send">
</form>
```

Select [here](#) to open the HTML file

Please enter any feedback you have.

Please enter your text here

Send