HTML FORM BASICS

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AFTER THIS PRESENTATION

- You'll be able to create an HTML form

- You'll appreciate the two most common form elements

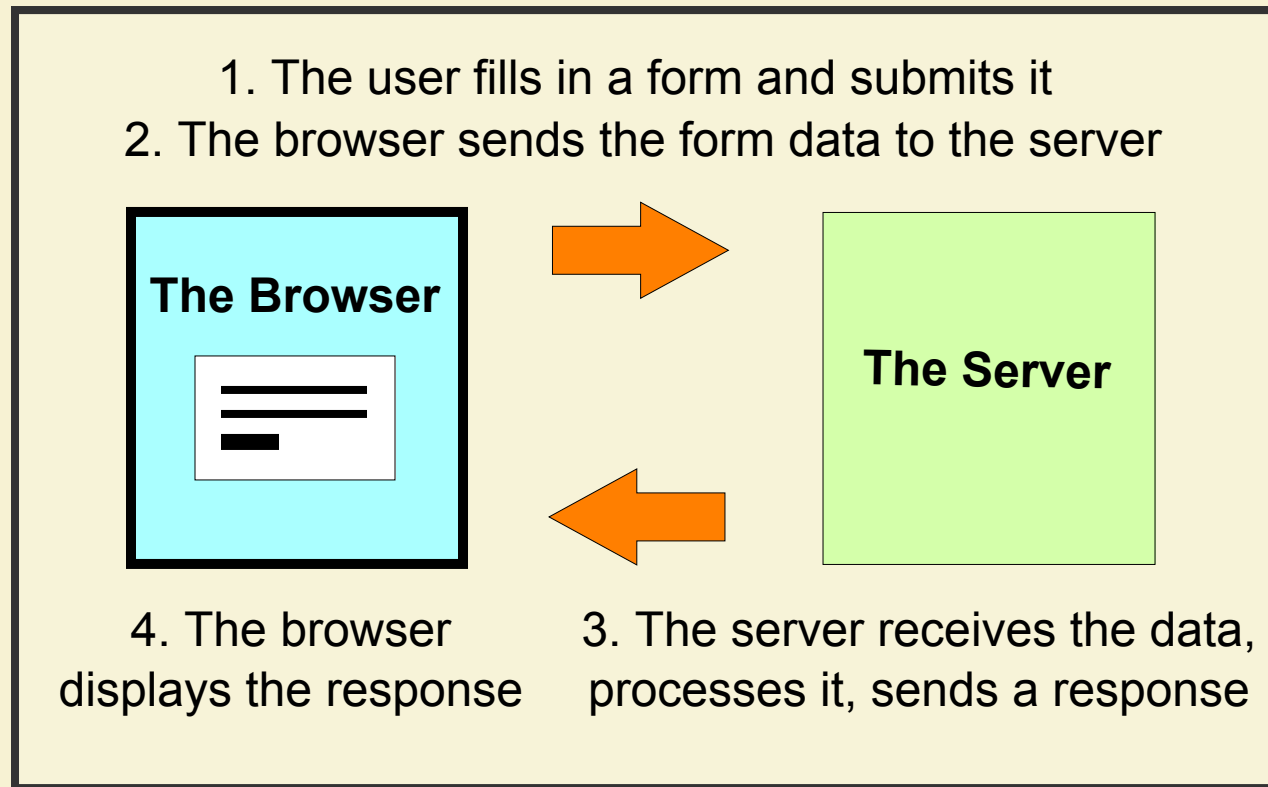# ELEMENTS & ATTRIBUTES WE WILL LOOK AT

\<form\>

method attribute

action attribute

\<textarea\>

\<input type="submit"\>

FROM BROWSER TO SERVER

Forms are the simplest method

1. The user fills in a form and submits it
2. The browser sends the form data to the server

The Browser

The Server

4. The browser
displays the response

3. The server receives the data,
processes it, sends a response

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

```html
<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