HTML Forms

September 13

Today's Goal: running your code on a local server; HTML5 forms and how to process them in JavaScript.

Running Your Code on a Local Server

Download Node.js from https://nodejs.org/en/ and install

Open up a command prompt of your choice

Type `npm install -g http-server` to "globally" install the http-server program to your machine

Then whenever you want to develop, instead of opening the html file in a web browser like we have been doing in the past, open the folder it belongs to in a command prompt of your choice and type:
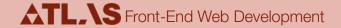
`http-server`

The `<form>` Tag

An HTML form is a collection of multiple different form controls wrapped up into a single `<form>` tag.

The tag is essentially another one of those special `<div>`s, except it comes with even more attributes to change its functionality.

The `action` attribute can be combined with JavaScript to perform an action upon form submission, but it is better practice to use event listeners (two classes ago) instead.

The `<fieldset>` and `<legend>` Tags

If you want to further group and divide your form into smaller pieces, it is better practice to use `<fieldset>` tags instead of `<div>`s.

Fieldsets can then be described using `<legend>` tags.

The `<label>` Tag

`<label>` tags are important for letting users know what each individual element in the form is intended for.

Label tags have a `for` attribute, which when tied to the `id` of an element in the form, will link the two together.

The `<input>` Tag

The `<input>` tag is the most versatile tag of all the form elements (sometimes called form widgets).

The `<input>` tag can have many `type`s, which change how it behaves:

```
text
Password
checkbox
radio
email
number
range
time
color
```
…and more!

Other Form Elements

The `<textarea>` tag will create a multi-line text input.

The `<select>` tag creates a drop-down menu out of its `<option>` tag children.

The `<datalist>` tag combined with `<option>` tag children helps you create auto-complete options for regular `<input type="text">` tags.

The `<progress>` tag lets you display a progress bar to the user. The `<meter>` tag lets you display any generic kind of meter bar (anything other than form progress).

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