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## WEEK 9 – FORMS AND PRODUCTION READINESS

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**CA** GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# FEWD



Joe Bliss

Can't believe that movie is over 10 years old ...

# AGENDA

Embedding Fonts

Forms

Next Steps (Making your code Production-Ready)

- Meta Tags
- Minifying JS / CSS
- HTML5 Shiv
- Google Analytics
- Cross-Browser Testing
- FTP / Hosting

# EMBEDDING FONTS

1) Use a font that is hosted elsewhere where a @font-face rule is provided for you.

- Free sites like Google Fonts
- For-pay sites like MyFonts, Adobe TypeKit

2) Use a font that you host yourself and create your own @font-face rule for. \*

**\*Must be a free font / otherwise legally allowed to be embedded.**

# FORMS

How we get  
data from users.

GA

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sign in

FRONT-END WEB DEVELOPMENT

APPLY NOW

Your Full Name

Your Email

Your Phone Number

Where are you thinking of taking this course?  
New York City

CONTINUE TO APPLICATION

Fill out some basic information and complete the following application to be considered for the course.

# FORMS

The important thing to know about forms:

You can't do anything with the data you collect from your forms unless you are hooked-up to some kind of back-end processing. This is generally done via a Back-End language of some kind (e.g. PHP, Java, Ruby on Rails).

You can validate and manipulate the data on the Front-End, but purely via HTML/CSS/JS alone, you cannot save any data you collect, send an email, create a user account, check a password, etc. ...

# FORMS

There are services that will let you create forms that you can drop onto your site via iframe.

- <http://blog.templatemonster.com/2010/07/08/free-contact-form-services/>
- <http://mashable.com/2012/02/16/web-form-builders/>

There are also plenty of pre-existing contact forms used on popular CMSES, such as Squarespace, Wordpress, Drupal.

# IN RARE <FORM>

<FORM> </FORM>

Similar to a <ul>, the <ul> doesn't have any inherent use, but it encapsulates the list items within it.

- Dropdowns
- Text Fields
- Radio Buttons
- Check Boxes
- Text Areas
- Submit Buttons

# GOOD <FORM>

<form>

<!--Data collection elements go here-->

</form>



# **FORMS - TYPES OF INPUT**

`<input type="text">` or simply `<input>` is a standard textbox. This can also have a value attribute, which sets the initial text in the textbox.

`<input type="password">` is similar to the textbox, but the characters typed in by the user will be hidden.

# **FORMS - TYPES OF INPUT**

`<input type="checkbox">` is a checkbox, which can be toggled on and off by the user. This can also have a checked attribute (`<input type="checkbox" checked>` - the attribute doesn't require a value), and makes the initial state of the check box to be switched on, as it were.

`<input type="radio">` is similar to a checkbox, but the user can only select one radio button in a group. This can also have a checked attribute.

# **FORMS - TYPES OF INPUT**

`<input type="submit">` is a button that when selected will submit the form. You can control the text that appears on the submit button with the value attribute, for example

`<input type="submit" value="Text on a button.">`.

# **FORMS - TYPES OF INPUT**

Textarea is, basically, a large, multi-line textbox. The anticipated number of rows and columns can be defined with rows and cols attributes, although you can manipulate the size to your heart's content using CSS.

```
<textarea rows="5" cols="20">A big load of text</textarea>
```

Any text you choose to place between the opening and closing tags (in this case “a big load of text”) will form the initial value of the text area.

# **FORMS – TYPES OF INPUT**

The select tag works with the option tag to make drop-down select boxes.

```
<select>  
  <option>Option 1</option>  
  <option>Option 2</option>  
  <option value="third option">Option 3</option>  
</select>
```

When the form is submitted, the value of the selected option will be sent. This value will be the text between the selected opening and closing option tag unless an explicit value is specified with the value attribute, in which case this will be sent instead. So, in the above example, if the first item is selected, “Option 1” will be sent, if the third item is selected, “third option” will be sent.

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME?**

All of the tags mentioned above will look very nice presented on the page but if you hook up your form to a form-handling script, they will all be ignored. This is because the form fields need names. So to all of the fields, the attribute name needs to be added, for example `<input type="text" name="firstname">`.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sign-up for our newsletter!

```
<form action="signup.php" method="POST">  
  <label for="name">Name:</label>  
  <input type="text" name="name" id="name">  
  <label for="email">Email:</label>  
  <input type="text" name="email" id="email">  
  <input type="submit" value="Send Message">  
</form>
```

# **SOME WAYS TO GET AROUND HAVING A BACK-END**

Use a Google Form that you embed with an iframe to collect data.

Use a service like <https://formsfree.io/> or <http://www.jotform.com/>

Use a email subscription service like MailChimp / Constant Contact.



# **“ALL RIGHT, MR. DEMILLE, I'M READY FOR MY CLOSE-UP”**

Getting your site  
ready to “Go-Live”



# **ADD META INFORMATION**

`<meta name="keywords" content="trees, pictures of trees, deciduous, coniferous, evergreen">`

`<meta name="author" content="Joseph J. Bliss">`

`<meta name="description" content="A site devoted to beautiful trees.">`

`<meta name="copyright" content="2015 Joseph Bliss">`

# **MINIFY JS AND CSS**

Decrease load time by minifying your JS and CSS.

<http://cssminifier.com/>

<http://jscompress.com/>

<http://www.jsobfuscate.com/>

There are build tools that

# **HTML5 SHIM / HTML5 SHIV**

Ensures that older (i.e. IE) browsers view HTML5 elements as proper HTML elements.

<http://code.google.com/p/html5shiv/>

# **ADD GOOGLE ANALYTICS CODE**

Copy and paste a little snippet of JS on your site and get additional information about your users.

# IMAGES

Ensure Images are **ONLY AS LARGE** as you need them to be.

Responsive Images:

<https://css-tricks.com/which-responsive-images-solution-should-you-use/>

<http://alistapart.com/article/responsive-images-in-practice>

- Various techniques exist to deliver different sized image files based on the browser size.

# TEST

Look at your site on as many different devices as possible, ensuring that all layout is acceptable / all animations and interactions work. Or, at the very least that things aren't "broken".

It's always best at the start of a project to know what browsers you will be targeting. For instance, if you don't care about users on older versions of IE.

# **TEST - FIND ISSUES**

You've done lots of cool stuff with HTML5 and CSS3. Great! However, some (especially older) browsers are going to act-up because of that.

Which ones?

<http://caniuse.com/>



# **TEST - FIND ISSUES**

Browser Stack - <https://www.browserstack.com>

- See quick snapshots of your site on tons of different browsers.

Chrome and Firefox Developer Tools

# **TEST - WINDOWS BROWSERS!**

Virtual Box - <https://www.virtualbox.org/> (free, terrible interface, hard to add VMs)

-or-

VMWare Fusion - <http://www.vmware.com/products/fusion> (\$80, nice interface, easy to install VMs)

Free Windows Virtual Machine Images:

<https://www.modern.ie/en-us/virtualization-tools#downloads>

# **BROWSER HACKS**

Attempt to achieve cross-browser-ness by refactoring to try to fix the issue.

Where you have a problem you can't refactor away, add a "hack":

<http://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/browser-specific-hacks/>

<http://browserhacks.com/>

# IE SPECIFIC HACKS

To target IE specifically, use an IE stylesheet.

Target all IE:

```
<!--[if IE]>
```

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="all-ie-only.css" /> <![endif]-->
```

Target IE 7 and below:

```
<!--[if lte IE 7]>
```

```
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="ie7-and-down.css" />
```

```
<![endif]-->
```

# **GETTING YOUR SITE ONLINE**

# **REMEMBER HOW THE INTERNET WORKS**

Joe's Florist example:

- Hosting Space / Server
- Domain Name Registration

# **FTP**

The File Transfer Protocol is a network protocol whose main task is the transferring of files between two or more host computers.

# **FTP CLIENT**

An app that allows you to connect to a server via FTP and transfer files in a visual file system.

I use Filezilla.





# FTP

host - The URL you use to connect.

username - The user you use to connect.

password - That user's password.

# **FTP – FOR EXAMPLE**

host: s101415.gridserver.com

username: familyfewd@familyfewd.com

password: familyfewd