topicEleven

HTML Forms

Learning Objectives

- At the end of this chapter the students should be able to:
  - Understand all the tags used in forms.
  - Develop a dynamic web page.
  - Use different type of form effectively.
  - Creating a website that capable to interact with visitors.

Introduction

- A form is simply an area that can contain form fields. Form fields are objects that allow the visitor to enter any kind of information.

- For example text boxes, drop-down menus or radio buttons.

- When the visitor clicks a submit button, the content of the form is usually sent to a program that runs on the server.

- However, there are exceptions. JavaScript is sometimes used to create magic with form fields.

- An example could be when turning options in a drop-down menu into normal links.

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MOHAMAD RAHIMI MOHAMAD ROSMAN | http://rahimi.uitm.edu.my

Forms: CGI-Script

- When submitting a form, we need a program that can receive the information and to do something with it.

- Such programs are sometimes referred to as CGI programs.

- CGI stands for Common Gateway Interface, which is computer latin for a program that translates information

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Forms: CGI-Script

- This translation is necessary because the server might be a UNIX machine while the visitor might be sending information from a Windows platform.

- Windows and UNIX handle information differently - so if there were no CGI, then UNIX machines could only communicate with other UNIX machines.

- Besides that, using PHP and ASP is also a good practice (web programming language).

Forms: Example of Login Form

- This is what happens when the form is submitted:
  - The username and password will be sent to server.
  - The program will search the database for a matching record.
  - If the record is found, user will be redirected to main page.
  - If no record is found, an error message will be displayed.

Forms: Tag

- When a form is submitted, all fields on the form are being sent.

- The **<form>** tag tells the browser where the form starts and ends.

- You can add all kinds of HTML tags between the **<form> and </form>** tags.

- The tags must be included within the **BODY** section of your HTML pages.

```
<form>

~any form fields and HTML elements ~

</form>
```

Forms: Tag

- This form is useless, because there are no form fields and no recipient that will received the contents of the forms.

- This statement is just used to declare that we are using forms in our HTML pages.

- To let the browser know where to send the content we add these properties to the **<form>** tag:

Syntax:

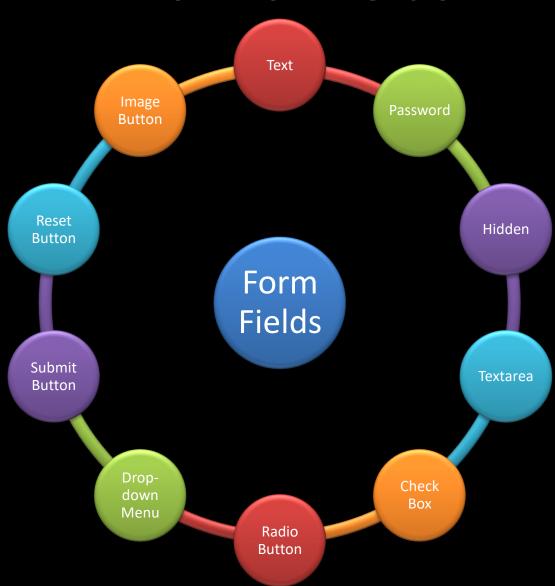action=address

method=post or method=get

Example:

<form action= "login.html" method= "POST">

The **address** is the url of the script the content should be sent to. The **post** and **get** methods are simply two different methods for submitting data to the script.

Forms: Fields

Forms: Text Fields

- Text fields are one line areas that allow the user to input text.

<input type= "text" size= "25" name= "username">

Element	Description	Example
value	- Initial value	
maxlength	- Maximum character allowed	
name	- Name of the field	
align	- Alignment of field	
size	- Characters shown	
tabindex	- Tab order of the fields	

Forms: Password Fields

- Password fields are similar to text fields.
- The difference is that what is entered into a password field shows up as dots on the screen.
- This is, of course, to prevent others from reading the password on the screen.

<input type= "password" size= "25" name= "password">

Element	Description	Example
value	- Initial value	
maxlength	- Maximum character allowed	
name	- Name of the field	●●●●●
align	- Alignment of field	
size	- Characters shown	
tabindex	- Tab order of the fields	

Forms: Hidden Fields

- Hidden fields are similar to text fields, with one very important difference.

- The difference is that the hidden field does not show on the page.

- Therefore the visitor can't type anything into a hidden field, which leads to the purpose of the field which is to submit information that is not entered by the visitor.

<input type= "hidden" size= "25" name= "browser_type">

Element	Description	Example
value	- Initial value	
name	- Name of the field	

Forms: Text Area

- Text areas are text fields that can span several lines.
- Unlike most other form fields, text areas are not defined with an **<input>** tag.
- Instead you enter a ***<textarea>*** tag where you want the text area to start and a closing ***</textarea>*** tag where you want the area to end.
- Everything written between these tags will be presented in the text area box.

<textarea cols= "40" rows= "5" name= "address">Please write your address here</textarea>

Element	Description	Example
rows	- Rows in the field	
cols	- Columns in the field	Please write your address here
name	- Name of the field	
tabindex	- Tab order of the fields	

Forms: Check Boxes

- Check boxes are used when you want to let the visitor select one or more options from a set of alternatives.
- If only one option is to be selected at a time you should use **radio buttons** instead.

<input type= "checkbox" name= "option1" value= "cash">

Element	Description	Example
align	- alignment of the field	
checked	- Default check this text field	
name	- Name of the field	
value	- Value of the fields	

Forms: Radio Buttons

- Radio buttons are used when you want to let the visitor select one - and just one - option from a set of alternatives.

- If more options are to be allowed at the same time you should use **check boxes** instead.

<input type= "radio" name= "gender" value= "male">Male

<input type= "radio" name= "gender" value= "female">Female

Element	Description	Example
align	- alignment of the field	
checked	- Default check this text field	
name	- Name of the field	
value	- Value of the fields	

Forms: Drop Down Menu

- Sometimes you may want to replace text fields with drop-down menus.
- This might be because selecting from a menu is easier than typing.
- But it could also be because the script that handles the form can't interpret just any text entry.

```
<select name= "state">
<option value="Kel">Kelantan</option>
<option value="Ked">Kedah</option>
<option value="Shah">Shah Alam</option>
</select>
```

Option

Element	Description	Example
selected	- Default select the items	
value	- Value to send if selected	

Select

Element	Description	Example
multiple	- Allow multiple option if set to "yes"	
name	- Name of the field	
size	- Visible items in list	

Forms: Submit & Reset Buttons

- **Submit** - When a visitor clicks a submit button, the form is sent to the address specified in the action setting of the <form> tag.
- Reset - When a visitor clicks a reset button, the entries are reset to the default values

<input type= "reset" value= "Reset">
<input type= "submit" value= "Submit">

Element	Description	Example
name	- Name of the button	
value	- Text written on button	Sign In
tabindex	- Tab order of the button	
align	- Alignment of the fields	

Forms: File

- FILE is used for doing file uploads in a form.
- File uploads are a relatively new and still not well-standardized type of form input, but they show great promise once the bugs are ironed out.
- File uploads allow you to send an entire file from your computer to the web server as part of your form input.

<input type= "file" name= "gambar">

MOHAMAD RAHIMI MOHAMAD ROSMAN | http://rahimi.uitm.edu.my

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Example: Email Form

```html
<html>
<head></head>
<body>
<form name="form1" method="post"
    action="mailto:is110@uitm.kelantan.my">
Name: <input name="name" type="text">
Subject: <input name="subject" type="text">
Message: <textarea name="message"></textarea>
<input name="submit" type="submit" value="submit">
</form>
</body>
</html>
```

Exercise

- ***Construct HTML codes based on the following statement:***

❑ Create HTML codes that request certain information from the visitors. The script should be able to:
  - Collect name, age, gender, address, campus, mentor and visitor picture.
  - Information on gender can be inputted using either radio button or drop down list.
  - Used multiline for address and drop down/radio button for campus and mentor.
  - Data for campus is Kelantan, Johor, Shah Alam, Sarawak and Kedah.
  - Data for mentor is En Zulkharnain, En Ghazali, Dr Nasir, En Farouk, En Khalid, En Rashid, En Azhan, En Idzwan, Cik Fatimah, Pn Nor Rahmawati, and Pn Haslinda.
  - The form should be submitted to an email address which is admin@kelantan.uitm.edu.my using a POST method.