Hands On: Representing Web Forms in HTML

In this lesson, we'll see how web forms are represented in HTML. Let's begin!

> **WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING** ^
>
> - Making use of the `<form>` tag
> - Creating a simple web form in HTML
> - Complete live demo at your service!

Making use of the `<form>` tag

The key HTML element is `<form>`, which defines a web form within a page. The simplest web form takes only a few lines of markup:

HTML index.html

```
<form action="ProcessAtServer.html">
   <input type="submit" value="Do it!"/>
</form>
```

form markup in html5

This `<form>` contains a single `<input>` tag that is decorated with the `type="submit"` attribute, and it represents a submit button.

The action property of `<form>` is set to `ProcessAtServer.html`, so when the user clicks the submit button, the content of the form will be sent to that page.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
   <title> Simplest Form</title>
   <link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>
```

```html
    <form action="ProcessAtServer.html">
      <input type="submit" value="Do it!"/>
    </form>


  </body>
</html>
```

Of course, as shown in the image below, this form does not have any other useful elements, so there is no information to send to the action page.

A very simple and useless web form

Creating a simple web form in HTML

Let's create a form with a few real input fields:

index.html
```html
<form action="#">
  <input name="fname" />
  <br />
  <input name="lname" />
  <br />
  <input type="submit" value="Do it!"/>
</form>
```
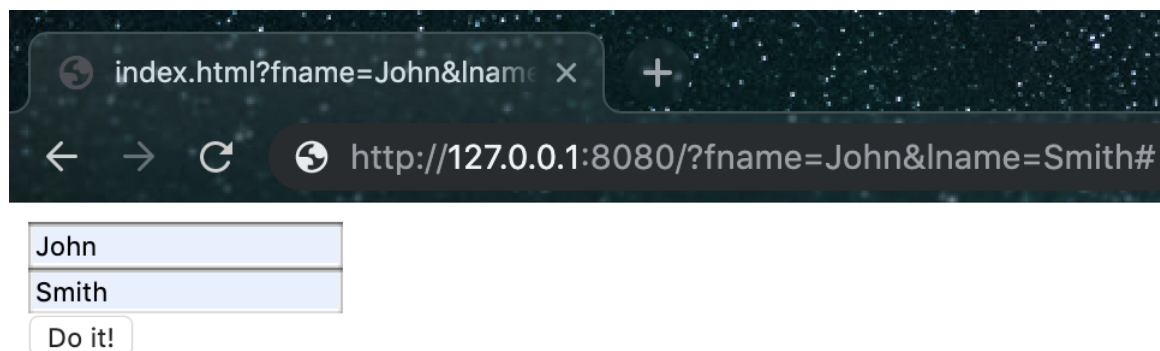
This markup contains two input fields with the names `fname` (first name) and `lname` (last name). Their corresponding `<input>` tags are not decorated with the type attribute, so these fields will be rendered as text boxes. The action attribute of the form is set to `#`, which will send the form data to the page itself.

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<html>
<head>
  <title> Simplest Form</title>

  <link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>
  <form action='#'>
    <!-- add code here -->
    <input type="submit" value="Do it!"/>
  </form>

</body>
</html>
```

Let's assume, you've put the code provided in the snippet earlier into the **index.html** file above. When you display it in the browser by clicking the link given next to the `Your app can be found at` message in the widget above, you can type data into the text boxes, as shown below:

A simple form with two input fields

When you click the submit button, the form sends the data to the form.html file through a web request. The page is displayed again with empty input fields.

Only the address bar of your browser tells you that the page is displayed as a result of a web request from the form. Its URL looks something like this:

```
http://127.0.0.1:8080/?fname=John&lname=Smith#
```

In the URL you can see the form data as `?fname=John&lname=Smith`, indicating that this information was passed through the URL.

> 📄 **Note**: The URL in your case will look something like https://x6jr4kg.educative.run/?fname=John&lname=Smith# depending on the link provided to you by the Educative platform. This appears underneath the exercise widget as follows: ***Your app can be found at:*** *https://x6jr4kg.educative.run*

Complete live demo at your service!

The complete implementation of the exercise from the previous lesson is given below for you to play around and experiment with.
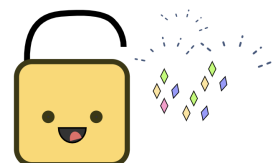
```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title> Simplest Form</title>
  <link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>

  <form action="#">
  <input name="fname" />
  <br />
  <input name="lname" />
  <br />
  <input type="submit" value="Do it!"/>
</form>

</body>
</html>
```

Achievement unlocked! 🎉

Congratulations! You've learned to make your very first web form in HTML!

Good job! Give yourself a round of applause!

In the *next lesson,* we'll see how to use controls in our forms.

Stay tuned! :)