

How It Works: Using Controls to Build Web Forms

In this lesson, we'll go through the workings of the previous coding exercise together.
Let's begin! :)

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- HOW IT WORKS
- Complete live demo at your service!

HOW IT WORKS

In the previous exercise, you added a number of text controls to the form. The markup you inserted in **step two** contained two `<fieldset>` sections, each having its own `<legend>`. The first section had `<input>` tags with the “text” type.

The second one has two fields with “password” type, and that is why the related `textboxes` masked the text typed in.

index.html

```
<form action="#">
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Personal Data</legend>
    <label for="fname">First Name:</label>
    <input id="fname" type="text" name="fname" />
    <br />
    <label for="lname">Last Name:</label>
    <input id="lname" type="text" name="lname" />
    <br />
    <label for="email">Email:</label>
    <input id="email" type="text" name="email" />
    <br />
  </fieldset>
  <fieldset>
    <legend>Your Conference Account</legend>
    <label for="login">Login name:</label>
    <input id="login" type="text" name="login" />
    <br />
    <label for="pwd">Password:</label>
```



```
<input id="pwd" type="password" name="pwd" />
<br />
<label for="pwd2">Confirm Password:</label>

<input id="pwd2" type="password" name="pwd2" />
<br />
</fieldset>
<input type="submit" value="Register" />
</form>
```

Code for Our Form

When you clicked the “First Name” label in **step three**, the focus jumped to the next `textbox`, just as if you had clicked the `textbox` itself. This is due to the behavior of the `<label>` control:

```
<label for="fname">First Name:</label>
<input id="fname" type="text" name="fname" />
```



Here, the `for` attribute of `<label>` refers to the ID attribute of the subsequent `<input>`, and that allows the browser to behave like this. Even if `<input>` would not be adjacent with `<label>`, the match between the identifiers would specify this behavior.

In **step 4** you added a multi-line textbox with this definition:

```
<textarea id="comments" rows="3" cols="50"
  name="comments">
</textarea>
```



The `rows` and `cols` attributes set the size of this textbox so that it contains three rows with 50 characters per row. These parameters only set the display size of the field, and do not constrain the number of characters you can type in.

Each control that holds input data has a name attribute with a unique value.

This is crucial: when the form is sent to the action page, form values are sent as key and value pairs, where name is used as the key. If a control has no `name` attribute, its value will not be sent!

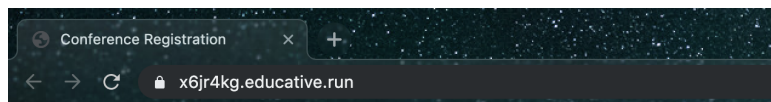
Complete live demo at your service!

The complete implementation of the exercise from the previous lesson is

given below for you to play around and experiment with.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Conference Registration</title>
  <link href="style.css" rel="stylesheet" />
</head>
<body>
  <h2>Fill in this form to register to Visual Studio Smarts Conference</h2>
  <form action="#">
    <fieldset>
      <legend>Personal Data</legend>
      <label for="fname">First Name:</label>
      <input id="fname" type="text" name="fname" />
      <br />
      <label for="lname">Last Name:</label>
      <input id="lname" type="text" name="lname" />
      <br />
      <label for="email">Email:</label>
      <input id="email" type="text" name="email" />
      <br />
    </fieldset>
    <fieldset>
      <legend>Your Conference Account</legend>
      <label for="login">Login name:</label>
      <input id="login" type="text" name="login" />
      <br />
      <label for="pwd">Password:</label>
      <input id="pwd" type="password" name="pwd" />
      <br />
      <label for="pwd2">Confirm Password:</label>
      <input id="pwd2" type="password" name="pwd2" />
      <br />
    </fieldset>
    <fieldset>
      <legend>Sessions</legend>
      <p>What do you expect from sessions?</p>
      <textarea id="comments" rows="3" cols="50"
        name="comments">
      </textarea>
    </fieldset>
    <input type="submit" value="Register" />
  </form>
</body>
</html>
```

The image below shows the expected output of the above code:



Fill in this form to register to Visual Studio Smarts Conference

Personal Data

First Name:
Last Name:
Email:

Your Conference Account

Login name:
Password:
Confirm Password:

Sessions

What do you expect from sessions?

I like to attend sessions that allow attendees to dive deeper into the topics, and not just scratch the surface. ☒

Complete form output

Achievement unlocked! 

Congratulations! You've learned to create web forms with controls.



Good job! Give yourself a round of applause!

In the *next lesson*, we'll use controls to specify various options to the user in web forms.

Stay tuned!