

Summary

In this lesson, we will summarize what we learned in this chapter.

Putting it All Together

HTML provides you a set of controls to create forms on web pages, collect the data your users specify, and send that information to a web page that can process them. The key element is `<form>` that wraps all fields to be sent to the server-side. Most form elements can be defined with the `<input>` tag, and you can specify the type attribute to describe the kind of control, such as text, number, file, email, checkbox, and many more. With `<select>`, you can define dropdown lists. The `<fieldset>` element provides a way to organize controls within your form into logical groups.

The form is sent to the server as a collection of name and value pairs. Only those inputs are sent to the server-side that provides a name attribute. The form data can be sent to the server either with GET or POST verbs. The GET verbs put the data into the request URL (so it is visible to users), while POST verbs add form data to the request body (so it's hidden from the user).

Before sending the data to the server side, the browser can validate input fields. Should the form have any invalid information, the data would not be sent. HTML5 specifies several validation attributes, so you can avoid writing validation code (JavaScript) in most common situations.

