How it Works: Catching Data at the Server

In this lesson, we will understand how the previous exercise worked.

HOW IT WORKS

This exercise demonstrated how different kinds of form data are sent to the server. As you saw in the figures, there was always a data entry sent for each text field, however, empty fields contained empty values. The content of password fields is displayed in their clear form, otherwise how would you be able to process them?

When the dropdown list (represented by the `<select>` tag) was sent, you could see the value of the selected option in the form data.

The **first time** (image one) the salutation field was sent with its default option, `"Mr."`.

Property	Value
salutation	Mr.
fname	
lname	
email	
membership	gold
login	
pwd	
pwd2	
dev	on

Form Data

Form data—default values

The **second time** (image two) the field was sent with the first (empty) option value, because you removed the selected attribute in step three.

Form Data

Property	Value
salutation	
fname	
lname	
email	
login	
pwd	
pwd2	
comments	

Form data—No salutation and membership option specified

The **third time** (image three) `"mrval"` was sent, because in step three you modified the value attribute of the "Mr." option to `"mrval"`, and in step six, you selected the `"Mr."` salutation.

Radio button values, like membership in this exercise, are sent to the server only when there is an option selected. In step four you removed the checked attribute from the "gold" option, so when you posted the form in step five, no membership option was selected. No membership property was specified in the form. Please note that a non-specified or missing property is very different from a property with an empty value!

Checkboxes are sent to the server only when they are checked. In this case "on" value is posted in a pair with the name of the checked control. That is why you saw the data for the two checked options in the figure below:
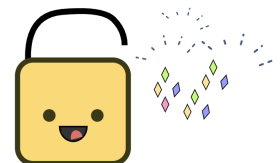
Form Data

Property	Value
salutation	mrval
fname	Istvan
lname	Novak
email	myemail@mycompany.hu
membership	silver
login	istvan
pwd	secret
pwd2	secret
dev	on
csharp	on
comments	Surprise me!

Form Data—all fields have values

Achievement unlocked! 🎉

Congratulations! You've learned to catch data from a form at the server.

Good job! Give yourself a round of applause!

In the *next lesson*, we will learn how to use GET and POST commands in HTML.