

Web Design and Development

ACS-1809

Chapter 13

Using Forms

Chapter 13: Employing Forms

-  Understand the concept and uses of forms in web pages
-  Create a basic form
-  Make forms more user friendly

Form

Email a Camper

You can use this form to send email to the camper or staff member of your choice. You are required to enter your name and email address, in case the person you're writing would like to reply. Enter your phone number if you want the person to respond by phone.

Email is downloaded each evening and given to the recipients each morning at breakfast. Camp activities keep all everyone quite busy, and it is normal for emails to go unanswered for a few days.

Your Name:

Your E-mail:

Your Phone:

Who is this message for?

Please Select

Your Message:

Would you like a response?

- No response necessary, just have fun!
- E-mail me back, please
- Give me a call when you can

Basic Form Structure

`<form>`

content goes here

`</form>`

Input controls

 Ways for users to enter data

 Text inputs

 Check boxes

 Radio buttons

 Select menus

 File selects

 Buttons (submit/reset/push buttons)

 Hidden controls

Text Input

Text input

Single line text input

<form>

Please enter your name: <input type="text">

</form>

Attributes

-  Name – identifies the text input control so that the data can be processed (Do not put space within)
-  Size – specifies the length of the text field (default is about 20)
-  Maxlength – max. number of characters that can be entered in this field
-  Value – initial text put in the field
-  Placeholder – describes the expected value of the input (placed in the input field)

Text Input

 and others – refer to Table 12-2

Text field for passwords

 The characters entered in this type of text input field will be displayed as bullets

```
<form>
```

```
Enter your password: <input type="password"  
name="password">
```

```
</form>
```

Text field for search boxes

```
<form>
```

```
Enter your search here: <input type="search"  
name="search" placeholder="Enter your search here"  
size="50">
```

```
</form>
```

Text Input

Multiple-line text areas

```
<form>
```

```
Please enter your comments here: <br>
```

```
<textarea name="comments">Your comments  
...</textarea>
```

```
</form>
```

 If you want to give a specific dimension of the text area you can use

 cols

 rows

```
<form>
```

```
Please enter your comments here: <br>
```

```
<textarea name="comments" cols="30" rows="5"></textarea>
```

```
</form>
```

Text Input

- 🖨️ You can use overflow property in CSS to control whether the scroll bar should be displayed for the text area
 - 📁 Overflow: scroll/auto
- 🖨️ To set the initial message in the text area, you can use placeholder but do not use the value attribute
 - 📁 You can simply use the content between the opening tag and closing tag of the textarea as the initial value for the field

Radio Buttons

- Small round buttons that enable users to select a single option from a list of choices.

```
<form>
```

```
How would you like to be contact? <br>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="contact" value="email"  
checked="checked"> email <br>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="contact" value="phone"> phone <br>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="contact" value="regular mail"> phone  
<br>
```

```
</form>
```

- All options use the same name so that browser knows they belong to the same group of radio buttons – only one can be selected
- Attribute "checked": selected by default

Check Boxes

- Little boxes that can be turned on and off
 - Multiple choices can be made here

```
<form>
```

```
Which course(s) are you taking? <br>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="course" value="Java" />Java<br>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="course" value="HTML" />HTML<br>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="course" value="C++" />C++<br> ...
```

```
</form>
```

- Again all names are the same

- Also you can use the "checked" attribute here

Date and Time Input

- ▣ These are new input controls that only appear in HTML 5
 - ☞ They are
 - 📅 Date
 - 📅 Datetime
 - 📅 Datetime-local
 - 📅 Month
 - 📅 Time
 - 📅 Week
 - ☞ Google Chrome, Opera, and Safari are the only browsers that support any of these new controls, and Opera is the only one that supports all six
 - 📅 The browser will display a text field if can't recognize it

Date and Time Input

```
<form>
```

```
  What is your birthday?<br>
```

```
  <input type="date"><br><br>
```

```
  When would you like your service to begin?<br>
```

```
  <input type="datetime"><br><br>
```

```
  Please specify the date and time of the meeting:<br>
```

```
  <input type="datetime-local"><br><br>
```

```
  Which week will you take off for vacation?<br>
```

```
  <input type="week"><br>
```

```
  Please specify your desired appointment time: <br>
```

```
  <input type="time"><br>
```

```
</form>
```

How this form is displayed in opera – next slide:

Date and Time Input

What is your birthday?

dd/mm/yyyy

When would you like your service to begin?

|

Please specify the date and time of the meeting:

dd/mm/yyyy -- : -- --

Which week will you take off for vacation?

Week --, ----

Please specify your desired appointment time:

-- : -- --

Other Number Inputs

- ▣ These inputs can be used to simply designate a textbox as a number field and use some additional attributes to customize the input

```
<input type="number" min="0" max="12" step="2" value="8">
```

```
Please rate our service (10 is the best!):<br />1<input type="range" min="1" max="10" step="1" value="5">10
```

Contact Methods

 They help identify certain types of contact methods

 Very useful for mobile devices as they could change the displayed keyboard on screen

 Type=

 Email

 url

 tel

Color Selectors

- 🖥️ It gives users the ability to add color pickers to forms

Shirt color: `<input name="shirtcolor" type="color">`
`

`

Ink color: `<input name="inkcolor" type="color">`
`

`

- 🖱️ Many web browsers are not supporting this input type yet

- 🖱️ If not supported, the web browsers simply display the default text box

Select Menu

- ☞ They let users select from a long list of options

- ☞ Also called "drop-down" menu

```
<form>
```

Please pick your favorite color:

```
<select name="favorite color" size="3">
```

```
<option value="blue">blue</option>
```

```
<option value="green">green</option>
```

```
<option value="red">red</option>
```

```
</select>
```

```
</form>
```

- ☞ Use attribute "*multiple*" to enable selecting multiple items from the menu

- ☞ Use "*selected*" to set the default option

Submenus

 `optgroup` element is used to divide long menus into groups of submenus

```
<form>
```

Please pick the day/time that is best to call you:

```
<select name="TimeDay">
```

```
<optgroup label="Monday">
```

```
<option value="Monday AM">Monday AM</option>
```

```
<option value="Monday PM">Monday PM</option>
```

```
</optgroup>
```

```
<optgroup label="Tuesday">
```

```
<option value="Tuesday AM"> Tuesday AM</option>
```

```
<option value="Tuesday PM"> Tuesday PM</option>
```

```
</optgroup>
```

```
</form>
```

Disabled Form Elements

 Use these two attributes when you want to restrict a user's input for a specific element

 Readonly

 Disabled

Your username is: `<input value="www1234" name="UserName" readonly>`

Your username is: `<input value="www1234" name="UserName" disabled>`

Hidden Fields

- Special marks that is not visible to the web users

```
<input type="hidden" name="formmark"  
value="#0003">
```

This value will be passed back to the web server when the form is submitted for processing

File Upload

- ▣ You can use this type of input to upload a file to the server

```
<form>  
  <input type="file" name="photoupload">  
</form>
```

Buttons

- Buttons are used to allow users to interact with the forms

- Three types of buttons

- Submit buttons

- ```
<button type="submit">Submit</button>
```

- Reset buttons

- ```
<button type="reset">Reset</button>
```

- Other buttons

- When pressed, an action or event is triggered, based on a predefined script or function

- ```
<button type="button">Press Here</button>
```

- The buttons can be decorated with images

- ```
<input type="image" src="savenow.gif" name="submit" alt="send message">
```

Process the Form

 In the `<form>` tag you need to tell the browser how to process the form

 The action attribute gives the location where the form's information should be sent

 Either by email

```
<form action="mailto:myname@mydomain.com">
```

 Or to a URL of some script (program)

```
<form action="http://.../cgi-bin/form.cgi">
```

Format the Form With Tables

- Use a table to lay out the inputs of a form neatly
 - You can place each individual element in a table cell

```
<form>
  <table>
    <tr>
      <td>First Name</td>
      <td><input name="FirstName"></td>
    </tr>
    ...
  </table>
</form>
```

Make Forms More User Friendly

Tab order and keyboard shortcuts

 Just like to the links, you can also set the tab order and keyboard shortcuts to inputs in a form

 In the input tag you can use attributes

`tabindex="2"`

`Accesskey="f"`

Enter your first name (Alt+"f"): `<input name="FirstName" tabindex="2" accesskey="f">`

Make Forms More User Friendly

Include labels

 Label is for identify (and associate) the descriptive text before an input

```
<label for="bday">Your Birthday  
(MM/DD/YY):</label><input type="date"  
name="BirthDay" id="bday" >
```

 Position the labels (text-align)

 Top-aligned

 Left-aligned

 Right-aligned

Make Forms More User Friendly

Group-related controls

 Use the ***fieldset*** element

 It lets you to group sets of labels and controls

 Most browsers supporting the fieldset element will add boxes around each group and place caption from the legend element in the outline of the boxes as a headline

Make Forms More User Friendly

Add Data Lists

Use the ***datalist*** element

-  It provides a list of options for the users but also allow custom options to be entered
 -  It also tries to match the values from the option list when the user is typing the custom input
 -  So it could reduce the amount of typing from the users
 -  And less chance for spelling error
 -  Use the value of the "id" attribute to match the value of the "list" attribute for the matching input

Make Forms More User Friendly

Show progress

 With the ***progress*** and ***meter*** elements

Style the Forms

- 📄 You can style forms just like style other text boxes in HTML
 - 🖱️ Font-family, font-size, border, background-color, color, align, ...