ACS-1809-051
Web Design and Development
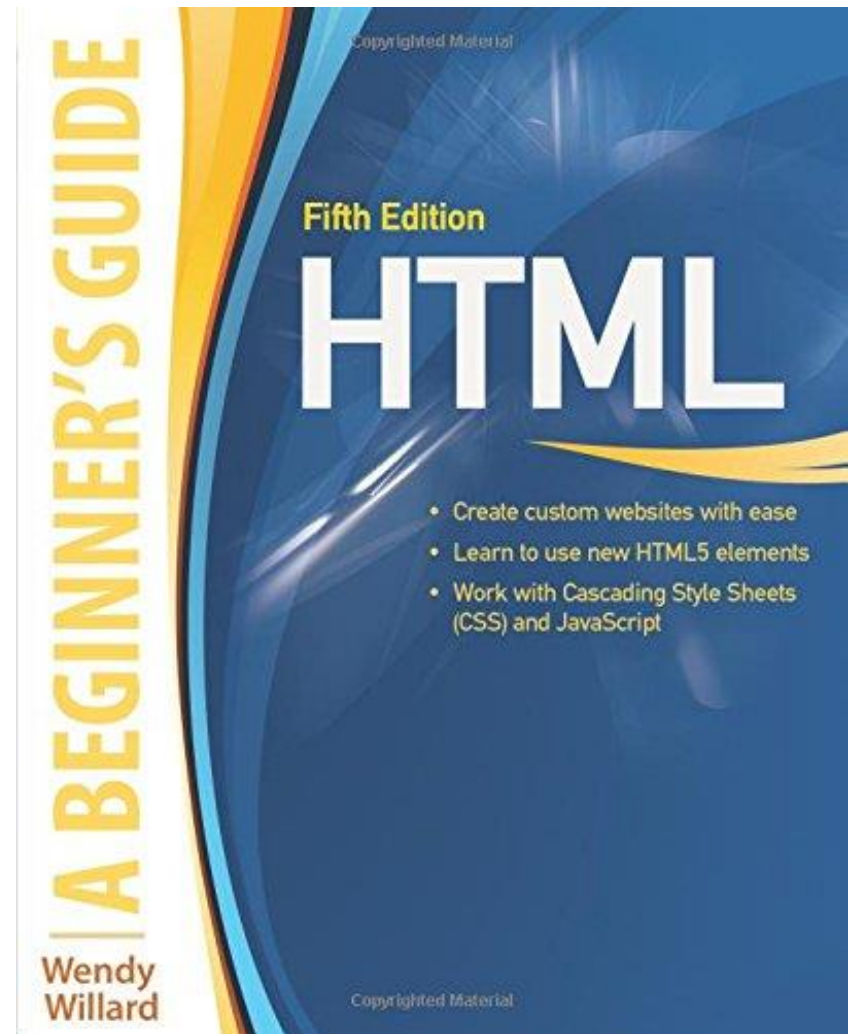
Chapter 13

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Using Forms

- Apply Tables to Forms

- Make forms more user friendly

- Style forms for layout

- Style forms for client-side validation

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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>

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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 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
    - Top-aligned
    - Left-aligned
    - Right-aligned

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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

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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 will 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
      - The <datalist> tag is not supported in Internet Explorer 9 and earlier versions, or in Safari 12.0 and earlier versions.

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Make Forms More User Friendly

- Show progress
  - With the *progress* and *meter* elements
  - Note on using these two elememts:
    - The <progress> tag is not supported in Internet Explorer 9 and earlier versions
    - The <meter> tag is not supported in Internet Explorer, Edge 12, Safari 5 and earlier versions.

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Style the Forms

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

Questions?