

HTML Forms

ICS4U - Mr. Emmell

HTML Forms

- An HTML form is a section of a document containing normal content plus some controls
 - Checkboxes, radio buttons, menus, text fields, etc
- Every form in a document is contained in a FORM tag
 - The FORM tag specifies the action that takes place when the form is submitted

The FORM Tag

- The FORM tag has two important attributes:
 - ACTION – A URI specifying where the information is sent
 - METHOD – How the data is sent (GET or POST)

```
<form action="receivingPage.php" method="GET">
  <p>Enter your name:
    <input type="text"
      name="yname"
      placeholder="Your name here"
      maxlength="50">
  </p>
  <input type="submit" value="Click to Submit">
</form>
```

GET or POST

- Forms should use METHOD="GET" when the form does not modify anything on the server:
 - A search engine query
 - A database search
- Forms should use METHOD="POST" when the form actually modifies something on the server or sends a large amount of data
 - Entering a message on a forum
 - Uploading a file
- GET and POST transport the form data in different ways

Controls

- The devices that allow input of data onto a form are called the controls
- These include
 - Checkboxes and radio buttons
 - Menus
 - Text inputs
 - File selectors
 - Hidden controls
 - Buttons

The INPUT Tag

- The INPUT tag is a multipurpose tag that creates many different types of controls
- The type of input is controlled by the TYPE attribute
 - Can be TEXT, PASSWORD, CHECKBOX, RADIO, SUBMIT, RESET, FILE, HIDDEN, IMAGE, or BUTTON
- Almost all of these should have a NAME attribute
- Their initial state can be set with a VALUE attribute
- They can all be disabled with DISABLE
- An INPUT tag is never closed (no </input>)

Many Input Types

```
<input type="button">
<input type="checkbox">
<input type="color">
<input type="date">
<input type="datetime-local">
<input type="email">
<input type="file">      https://www.w3schools.com/html/
<input type="hidden">    html_form_input_types.asp
<input type="image">
<input type="month">
<input type="number">
<input type="password">
<input type="radio">
<input type="range">
...
```

Summary

- HTML forms allow users to input data that is submitted to a web server
- Many types of controls are possible
- Other options
 - File selection (for upload)
 - Tabbing navigation (TABINDEX attribute)
 - Access keys (ACCESSKEY attribute)
 - Disabled and read-only controls
- For more information and options, see
 - <https://learn.shayhowe.com/html-css/building-forms/>
 - https://www.w3schools.com/html/html_forms.asp