

## THE HTML OF FORMS

### THE HTML OF FORMS

There are three parts to a form.

1. The HTML

That is, how we build a form

2. The CSS.

That is, what it looks like.

3. The Behavior

That is, what we do with or ask the form to do.

The method attribute is used to direct the browser as to what should happen to the information.

Do we have a form posted, do we use a script? If so is it a server sided or client sided script and what are they anyway? More about that latter in the series.

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First the HTML

These are the form elements or tags;

1 button – place elements like text or images into clickable form element eg use an icon as a button

NOTE: There is also a button attribute however the tag button can be styled and have other html elements inside it.

2 fieldset - groups related form controls

3 form- defines a form

4 input - defines input controls

5 isindex - associated keywords

6 label - descriptive text for form element

7 legend - caption text

8 optgroup - group option elements

9 option - defines an element in a select list

10 select - defines selection list

11 text area - creates a multiple line text box h0

Here is a list of the new HTML 5 tags

- <datalist>
- <keygen>
- <output>

[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5\\_form\\_elements.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5_form_elements.asp)

#### Laying out the form

These tags are used to create some layout to the form and the way its information is displayed.

What basic elements make a form?

1 **Text Fields** - areas of a small size for basic information such as "home".

2 **Radio Buttons** - round buttons used for single choice

3 **Check boxes** - allows more than one choice

4 **Text Area** - allows for larger area of text eg a comment area

5 **Button** - used to indicate when a task is needed or if information is available eg submit or help.

6 **Select** - used to create lists of items or drop down menus.

7 **Labels** - Most elements need labels to make sense of what an element is eg two radio buttons and a label male-female

8 **Legends** -Legends are labels that surround groups of labels or elements.

Like a header eg a legend "Personal details"

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would surround the labels  
Name, address and date of birth

### 9 Input

The main tag used to create any form is Input.  
This tag is used to create all the information that goes into a form.

To do this it makes extensive use of attributes  
The main three are

- Type
- Name and
- Value.

Most of the devices we see displayed in a form are actually attributes to the input tag.

<http://reference.sitepoint.com/html>

Anatomy of the code

```
<form></form> <!--creates a form-->
```

```
<label></label> <!--create a label for your input tag-->
```

```
<legend></legend> <!--creates a label that covers a group of input tags-->
```

```
<button name="name">name</button> <!--creates a button which you name eg submit-->
```

```
<select name="name"> <!--use select to create dropdown menus-->
```

```
    <option>name</option> <!--use options to give the dropdown menu it's content-->
```

```
</select>
```

And now the main tag input.

This is the tag you will use to enter data in the form. The type of type of data and method of entry is determined by the "type" attribute you designate.

```
<input></input> <!--use input to create the content of the form ->
```

These are the three main attributes type, name and value

### The Type Attribute

This attribute creates all the major formats in a form, the main ones are

**Button:** creates a clickable button

Code

```
<input name="Button1" type="button" value="A button" />
```

Result

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A button

**Checkbox:** used for yes or no answers NOTE Using checkbox you can have more than one answers

Code

```
<input name="Checkbox1" type="checkbox" />
```

Result

**Radio:** Little round dot.

Code

```
<input name="Radio1" type="radio" />
```

Result

NOTE:

The radio button will only return a single selection out of the range of choices given while a checkbox will deliver all the answers given.

Either must have the same name type but each value should be unique. Eg name =gender value=male or name =gender value=female. The radio button will only return a multiple selection out of the range of choices given if the type name has the different name

**File:** used where a file can be upload eg "Please submit your article"

Code

```
<input name="File1" type="file" />
```

Result

 Browse...

**Hidden:** stores a value you don't want to appear on the page eg a customer ID.

Code

```
<input name="Hidden1" type="hidden" />
```

The result does not show up

**Image:** used to place a image such as an icon or a customised submit image.

Code

```
<input name="Image1" type="image" src="faviconblue.png" />
```

Result



**Password:** inputs a password in a text area but the text is NOT SHOWN.

Code

```
<input name="Password1" type="password" value="password"/>
```

Result

**Reset:** It usually is in the form of a button and will eraser the entire form Use with caution.

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Code

```
<input name="Reset1" type="reset" value="reset" />
```

Result



**Submit**: send the form to the server.

Code

```
<input name="Submit1" type="submit" value="submit" />
```

Result



**Text**: the main form of input in a form. Creates a space to fill in text eg a name.

Code

```
<input name="Text1" type="text" />
```

Result



These are the new HTML 5 types

- color
- date
- datetime
- datetime-local
- email
- month
- number
- range
- search
- tel
- time
- url
- week

[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5\\_form\\_input\\_types.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5_form_input_types.asp)

### **The Name Attribute**

Used to reference the data after it has been submitted. For example a form with name="name" and address="address" would return data indicating what input the user to fill in the text area. name=MYName and address=MyAddress..

### **The Value Attribute**

Used to display details of the input item, that is a value is displayed in the text box.

[http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag\\_input.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_input.asp)

[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html\\_forms.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_forms.asp)

[http://www.w3schools.com/tags/att\\_input\\_type.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/tags/att_input_type.asp)

