

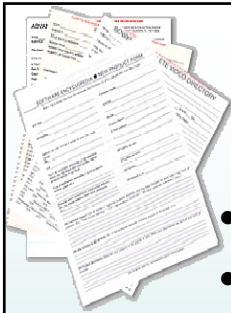
Basic Interactivity and XHTML Forms

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Interactive Features

- Web site: static vs. dynamic publishing environment.
- Software: users can perform tasks and interact with content.
- Forms enable users to submit information that can be used to create an interactive environment.



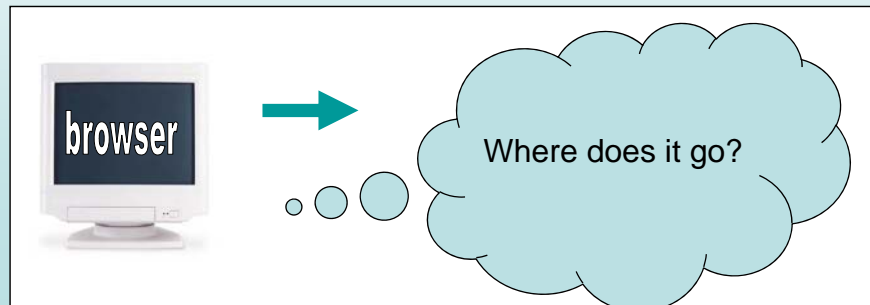
Types of forms used:

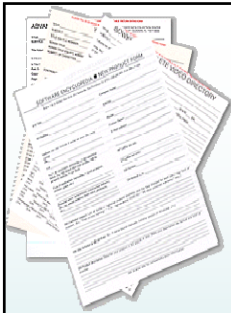
- Comment response
- Order entry
- Subscription
- Registration
- Customization



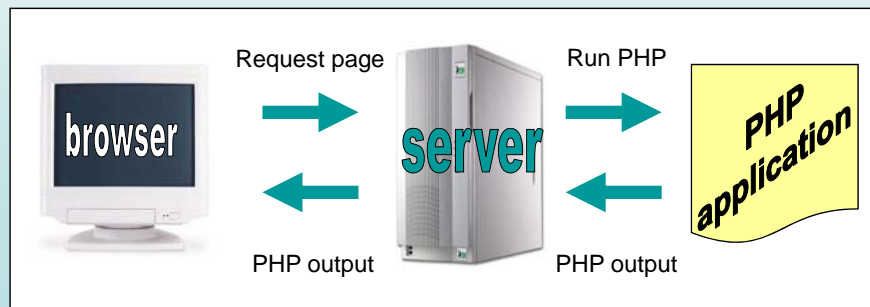
Form preliminaries

- Making the form is easy.
- You just need `<form> ... </form>` elements.
- It is the processing of the forms that can be tricky.



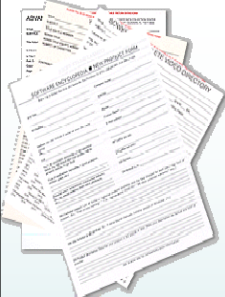


Common Gateway Interface



The <form> element

- A form can be located anywhere in the body of an XHTML document.
- A document can contain multiple forms.
- Forms cannot be nested.
- Other XHTML elements can be contained within the <form> element.



The `action=` attribute

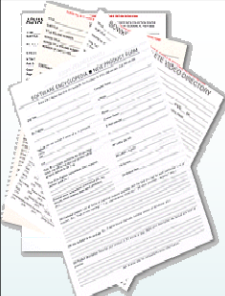
`<form >` `</form>`

action="go to the URL specified here!"

The `action` attribute:
How an XHTML form is to be handled is set using the `action` attribute for the form element.

The `action` attribute usually gets set to a URL of the program that will handle the form data.

The URL will usually point to a CGI script to decode the form results.

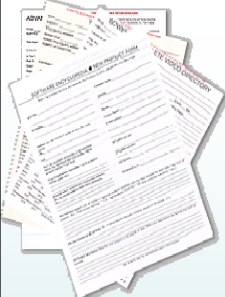


URLs revisited:

- Uniform Resource Locators
- Uniform way to refer to objects and services on the Internet.

Protocol://site address/directory/filename

file	file://drive or network path/dir/file
ftp	ftp://serverport/directory/file
mailto	mailto:user@server
http	http://server/file/directory/file



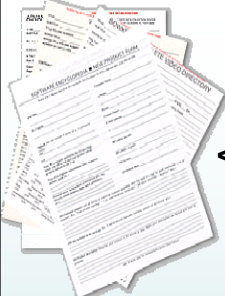
The `action=` Attribute

```
<form action=" " >  
</form>
```

Typical values for `action=`

Go to a program on a server:
<http://www.mysite.com/cgi-bin/my-program>

Mail the information to a user:
<mailto:info@mysite.com>



The `method=` Attribute

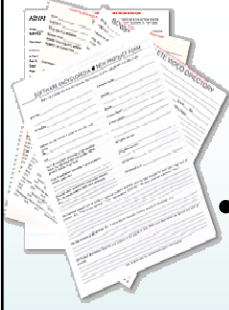
```
<form >  
method="post"  
</form>
```

The `method` attribute:
It is necessary to stipulate how the form will be submitted to the address specified by the `action` attribute.

There are two acceptable values for `method` attribute:

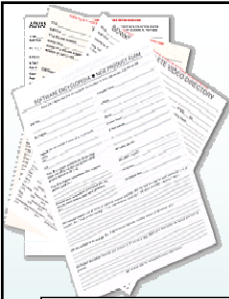
and `get` and `post`

DON'T USE THIS; NOT SECURE!



get VS post

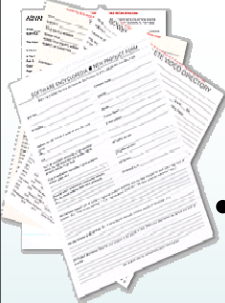
- The `post` method tells the Web browser to send the data back to the server as regular data.
- The `get` method tells the Web browser to append the data from the form to the end of the URL.



Examples:

```
<form action="/cgi-bin/my-prog.c"
      method="post">
...
</form>
```

```
<form action="mailto:my-account@ucsd.edu"
      method="post">
...
</form>
```



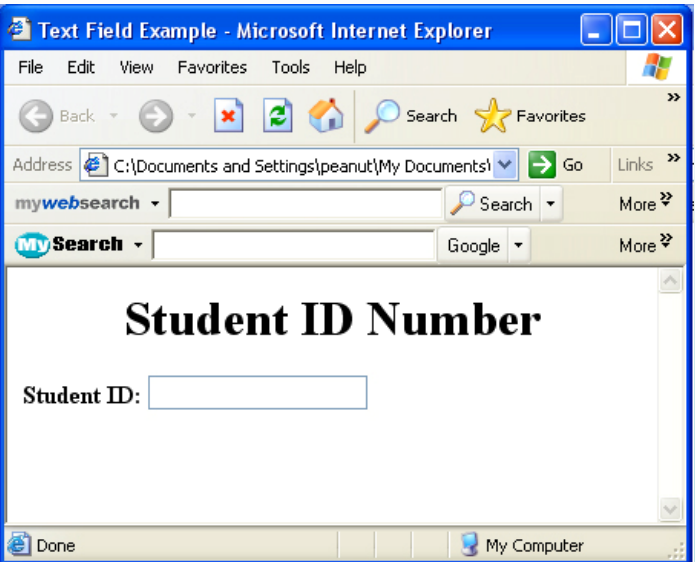
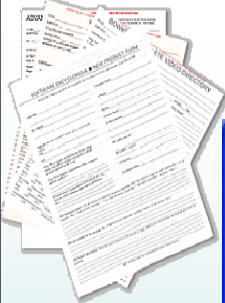
input element

- The `input` element is useful for collecting small bits of data

```
<input type="..." name="..." />
```

text
checkbox
radio button

It needs to have a unique name.
You decide.
(You could name it by the type of data that you are collecting.)



Text Field Example - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites

Address C:\Documents and Settings\peanut\My Documents\ Go Links

mywebsearch Search More

MySearch Google More

Student ID Number

Student ID:

Done My Computer

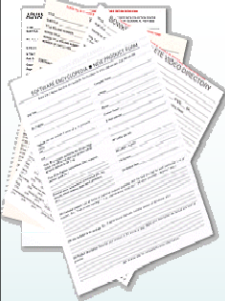
```
<html>
<head>
<title> Text Field Example </title>
</head>
<body>
<h1 align="center"> Student ID Number </h1>

<form action="mailto:cg3s@icogsci1.ucsd.edu"
method="post">

<b> Student ID: </b>
<input type="text" name="StudentID" />

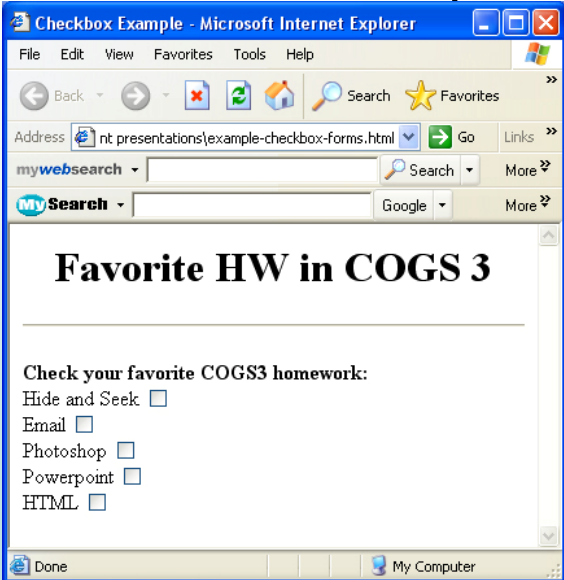
</form>

</body>
</html>
```



Checkbox example:

Check Boxes are best used to toggle choices on and off.



Favorite HW in COGS 3

Check your favorite COGS3 homework:

- Hide and Seek
- Email
- Photoshop
- Powerpoint
- HTML

```

<form action="mailto:cg3s@icogsci1.ucsd.edu"
method="post">
<b> Check your favorite COGS3 homework: </b> <br />

Hide and Seek <input type="checkbox" name="fav" value="Hide" /> <br />
Email <input type="checkbox" name="fav" value="Email" /> <br />
Photoshop <input type="checkbox" name="fav" value="Photo" /> <br />
Powerpoint <input type="checkbox" name="fav" value="Power" /> <br />
XHTML <input type="checkbox" name="fav" value="XHTML" /> <br />

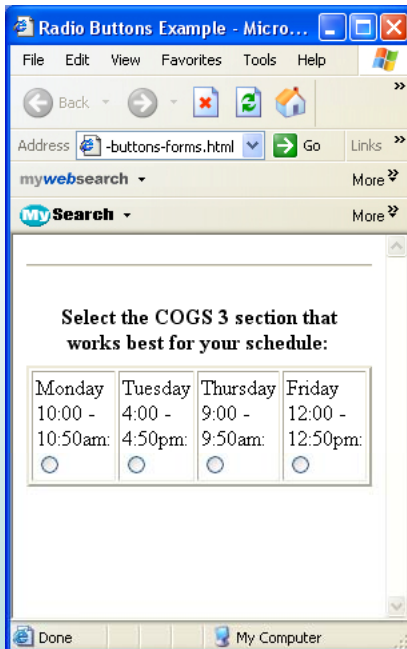
</form>

```



Radio Button example:

Similar to checkboxes...
but only one option
may be chosen among
many.





```
<form action="mailto:cg3w@icogsci1.ucsd.edu"
method="post">
```

```
<table border="2" cellpadding="2">
```

```
<caption><b>Select the COGS 3 section that works best for your schedule:</b></caption>
```

```
<tr>
```

```
<td>Monday 10:00 - 10:50am: <input type="radio" name="section" value="Mon" /> </td>
```

```
<td>Tuesday 4:00 - 4:50pm: <input type="radio" name="section" value="Tue" /> </td>
```

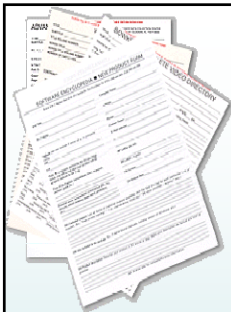
```
<td>Thursday 9:00 - 9:50am: <input type="radio" name="section" value="Thu" /> </td>
```

```
<td>Friday 12:00 - 12:50pm: <input type="radio" name="section" value="Fri" /> </td>
```

```
</tr>
```


```
</table>
```

```
</form>
```



Reset and Submit

```
<input type="..." >
```



reset
submit

```
<input type="submit" value="Section Form" name="SubmitSections" />
```

```
<input type="reset" value="Reset Form" name="ResetSections" />
```