

HTML Form Tags

HTML website forms should be enclosed inside the FORM tags. There are various parameter options available, the most common ones are:

action - this allows you to tell the form where to go once submitted (usually the filename of a script which will read and process the form data which has been submitted).

name - it's usually a good idea to give your forms a name, this is used to uniquely identify your form on a given page.

method - the value of this should be POST or GET. This tells the form how to send the data once submitted. Forms should usually always be set to use POST (as GET will attach the form data onto the page URL which is almost always a bad idea for security reasons). There are some other methods available, but we will not discuss these here.

```
1  <form action="index.php" name="myform" method="POST">
2    Example form field: <input type="text" name="example">
3  </form>
```

HTML Text Field - Single Line

This is without doubt the most common field you will find.

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2    Enter your name: <input type="text" name="your_name">
3  </form>
```

Text field in action

Enter your name:

HTML Textarea (multiple lines text field)

The multi-line text field (commonly known as a textarea field) is more suitable to take larger block of text from your visitors. This is idea for comments.

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2    Comments: <textarea rows="5" cols="30">
3  </form>
```

Textarea field in action

Comments:



HTML Radio Buttons

When you want your users to pick one item from a short list, the radio button set is ideal.

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2  <input type="radio" name="color" value="red" /> Red<br />
3  <input type="radio" name="color" value="white" /> White<br />
4  <input type="radio" name="color" value="blue" /> Blue<br />
5  <input type="radio" name="color" value="green" /> Green<br />
6 </form>
```

Radio button group in action

- Red
- White
- Blue
- Green

HTML Check box fields (checkboxes)

When you want your users to pick one or more items from a short list, then checkboxes are ideal.

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2  <input type="checkbox" name="friut" value="apples" /> Apples<br />
3  <input type="checkbox" name="friut" value="oranges" /> Oranges<br />
4  <input type="checkbox" name="friut" value="pears" /> Pears<br />
5  <input type="checkbox" name="friut" value="peaches" /> Peaches<br />
6 </form>
```

Checkboxes in action

- Apples
- Oranges
- Pears
- Peaches

HTML File Upload Field (field selector)

Sometimes it may be good to offer your website users the option to upload a file. For this you could use the HTML field type **file**. If you are using this option you also need to include an additional option to the FORM tag **enctype="multipart/form-data"**

```
1  <form action="index.php" enctype="multipart/form-data">
2  Select a file to upload: <input type="file" name="selectedfile" />
3  </form>
```

File input type (file upload) in action

Select a file to upload:

HTML Password Field

If you ever need to ask your users to enter a password into a form, then you should use the special text field type **password**. Using this option will mask each character as the user types, allowing them to type in secret.

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2  Enter your password: <input type="password" name="password" />
3  </form>
```

Password field in action

Enter your password:

HTML drop-downs (aka selects or combo-boxes)

When you want your visitors to pick something from a list, you could use a drop-down list. These are sometimes known as **option selects**, **select fields** or **combo-boxes**. By default only one option can be selected, however you can allow multiple selections by including the word **multiple** to your select tag (this will also alter the appearance of the field).

```
1  <form action="index.php">
2  Select Something:
3  <select name="something">
4  <option value="Google">Google</option>
5  <option value="Bing">Bing</option>
6  <option value="Yahoo">Yahoo</option>
7  </select>
8  </form>
```

HTML Drop-down select field in action

Select Something:

HTML Submit button

Finally, every form should allow the user the option of submitting the form. Form submissions are usually handled by using an HTML button. Again the button field is an input type field (as text and password fields are), however these special fields are of type **submit**. To specify the text which appears on the button, we use the **value** parameter to state our **value** (in the example below we state 'Submit Form').

```
1 <form action="index.php">  
2   <input type="submit" value="Submit Form" name="submit">  
3 </form>
```

Submit button field in action

HTML Reset button

Occasionally you may want to allow your visitors to reset a form back to its default state. This is accomplished by using the input type of **reset**. As with the Submit button, you specify the button text using the **value** parameter. Reset buttons are not very common these days but can still be useful under certain circumstances.

```
1 <form action="index.php" name="resettest">  
2   Enter your name: <input type="text" name="your_name"><br />  
3   <input type="reset" value="Reset Form" name="submit">  
4 </form>
```

Reset button field in action

Enter your name: