



Contact form

Please fill in your information and we'll be sending your order in no time.

Your Name: First Name [] Last Name []

Your Email: e.g. hello@contact.net []

Phone*: [] [] []

Message Subject*: Other []

Message*: []

Verification*: I'm not a robot []

SUBMIT FORM

PHP FORMS

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Learning Topics -Working with Forms

1. Creating a form
2. Accessing the submitted data
3. Common operations on forms

1 - Creating a form

Form - <form>

```
<form action = ".."  
      method = "...">
```

...

```
</form>
```

- ▶ action = URL
- ▶ method = get | post

http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_form.asp

Text field - <input>

For single line text input:

```
<input type = "text"  
      name = "mytextfield"  
      value = "initial value"  
      size = "50"  
      maxlength = "50"/>
```

http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_input.asp

Password - <input>

For single line *masked* text input

```
<input type = "password"  
      name = "pwd" />
```

Radio button - `<input>`

Single choice

Male: `<input type = "radio" name = "gender" value="Male"/>`

Female: `<input type = "radio" name = "gender" value="Female"/>`

Checkbox - <input>

Multiple choice

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

Labelling

- ▶ Old School (Strict DTD only):

```
<input type="checkbox" name="choice1">  
Choice 1
```

```
</input>
```

- ▶ Strict DTD compliant:

```
Choice 1: <input type="checkbox"  
name="choice1"/>
```

- ▶ Elegant:

```
<label for="choice1ID">Choice 1</label>
```

```
<input type="checkbox" name="choice1"  
id="choice1ID" />
```

Drop-down list

<select><option>

Single choice

```
<select name="country" size="1">  
  <option value="UK">United Kingdom</option>  
  <option value="USA">United States of America</option>  
  <option value="NK">North Korea</option>  
  <option value="BE">Belgium</option>  
</select>
```



(multiple) selection list

```
<select><option>
```

Multiple choice

```
<select name="country[]" size="3"
  multiple="multiple">
  <option value="UK">United
  Kingdom</option>
  <option value="USA">United States of
  America</option>
  <option value="NK">North
  Korea</option>
  <option value="BE">Belgium</option>
</select>
```

Text area - <textarea>

For multiple line text input

```
<textarea name="myTextArea"  
  cols="30"  
  rows="5">  
</textarea>
```

http://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_textarea.asp

Hidden fields - <input>

To send information with the form

```
<input type="hidden"  
      name="hidden1"  
      value="Form example for demo"/>
```

Button - `<input>` or `<button>`

```
<input type="submit"  
      name="submitButton"  
      value="Submit Form"/>
```

```
<button type="submit"  
      name="submitButton">  
  SubmitForm  
</button>
```

2 - How does one access the submitted data?

Using PHP

- ▶ Data stored in a variable
- ▶ Depends on submission method:
 - ▶ GET
 - ▶ POST
- ▶ If POST, either:
 - ▶ `$varName` (requires special configuration)
 - ▶ `$_POST['varName']` (recommended)
 - ▶ `$HTTP_POST_VARS['varName']`
- ▶ If GET, use:
 - ▶ `$_GET['varName']`

Two basic approaches

- Approach 1 (today)
 - HTML form
 - PHP script to process it
- Approach 2 (in the tutorial)
 - PHP script containing the form and the processing script:

```
<form action =
```

```
"<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF']; ?>"
```

```
method="post">
```

Examples

- ▶ Display content of `$_POST`
- ▶ Display value of text input field
- ▶ Display value of the hidden field
- ▶ Display content of the text area
- ▶ Display value(s) of (multiple) selection list

3 - Common operations

1. Check existence

- ▶ Has a variable been set?

```
if (isset($_POST['myCheckbox2']))  
    echo "Option 2 was selected";  
else  
    echo "Option 2 wasn't selected.";
```

2. Check which button was pressed

- ▶ Same as above

```
if (isset($_POST['button1']))  
    echo "Button 1 was pressed";  
elseif (isset($_POST['button2']))  
    echo "Button 2 was pressed";  
else  
    echo "no button pressed";
```

3. Email data

```
$to = "m.rutter@napier.ac.uk";  
$subject = "form data";  
$body = "Country chosen by the user:  
        $_POST['country1'] ";  
  
mail ($to, $subject, $body);
```

Requires appropriate server configuration (this is not permitted on the school's server).

Example 1: mandatory text field

- ▶ Check that the value of the text field contains characters and redirect the user accordingly
- ▶ Two cases:
 1. Separate form and processing script
 2. Processing is done in the form

Example 1

Case 1

- ▶ In processing script:

```
<?php
if ($_POST['myTextField'] == ''){
    header("location: form.html");
}??>
```

- ▶ Problem:

- ▶ No information regarding the error is passed back to the form

- ▶ Solution:

- ▶ Make the form a PHP script
- ▶ Send back some information about the error
- ▶ Will be done in the tutorial

Example 2: directed study validate phone number

- ▶ Requirement: ensure that phone number has the following format: +44ddddddddddd, where d is a digit.
- ▶ Hint:
 - ▶ Check that the string has 13 characters
 - ▶ Check that the first three characters (substring) is equal to '+44'.

4. Error checking

- ▶ Ensure entered data is valid
- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ Mandatory fields
 - ▶ Postcode format
 - ▶ Phone number format
 - ▶ Date format
 - ▶ etc

Variable scope

Six scope rules – directed study

- Built-in superglobal
- Constants
- Global (2 flavours)
- Static
- Local (by default)

Read:

<http://uk2.php.net/variables.scope>

Superglobals

- `$GLOBALS`
- `$_SERVER`
- `$_GET`
- `$_POST`
- `$_COOKIE`
- `$_FILES`
- `$_ENV`
- `$_REQUEST`
- `$_SESSION`



Summary

- Form creation
- Form processing
- Some common operations
- To be completed during the tutorial

Thank You

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