

Forms in HTML

- Starting -Ending Tags
 - `<form>` and `</form>`
 - You can have more than one form in one page. Each form will collect a unique set of data.
- Basic Form Elements
 - `<input type="text">` or "password" or "radio" or "checkbox" or "submit"
 - Also `<textarea>`, `<select><option>`

- `action="script.url"` tells the server which script to activate when it gets the form data back.

Two Ways to Send the Info:

- `method=get`
 - If you want to make a link to a CGI script
 - (Note that there are security issues with CGI)
- `method=post`.
 - If you expect their might be a large amount of data
- Ask the script programmer what s/he wants!

- In an input tag, `name="username1"` creates the variable "username1".
- `<input type="text" name="zipcode" size="10">`
 - ...creates the variable "zipcode"
 - ...logically, the same as used in the database

Passwords

- `<input="password" name="psswd" size="12">`
 - Entered characters show as bullets or asterisks.
 - "psswd" is only used here as an example. It can be any variable name you choose.
 - *size* is how many spaces are in the box.

Menus

- `<select name="state" size="n">`
- `<option value="ID">`
- `<option value="OR">`
- `<option value="WA">`
- `</select>`
 - *size* is how many options will be visible without the user having to scroll

Form Design (1):

- Text boxes **tend to be filled** by the user, so...
- Use a long text box only if you really want a long response.
 - (More data to deal with, to respond to, etc.)

Form Design (2):

- Avoid very long text boxes.
- Use **textareas** instead.
 - They appear fully in almost any window. Long text boxes often run out of the visible window!

Form Design (3):

- **Visual Design**
 - **Position** labels consistently.
 - If Address is above the first box, make State above the second box, Zip above the third.

Form Design (4):

- **Visual Design**
 - Group types of questions or fields into **logical groupings** for communication clarity.
 - Example, if you are asking questions about hardware and software, group all the hardware questions together.
 - Then, after a space or horizontal rule, group all the software questions together, and so on.

Form Design (5):

- Avoid "**Two-idea**" questions
- Confuse the user and make the data unreliable.
 - "Are you satisfied with your current hardware and software?"
 - "Are you in favor of color printing for a fee?"

Form Design (6):

- **Consider** how the respondent might **interpret** your question. Be specific.
- "Where do you live?" might be answered
 - In the state of Washington
 - In an apartment
 - In Spokane

Form Design (7):

- **Forced-response** questions are...
 - Easy to analyze the data
- **Open-ended items** are...
 - Tougher to analyze data
 - However, gives the respondent a chance to mention something important that you didn't think of!

Form Design (8):

- Make certain zip code areas look like zip codes, and phone number area codes look like phone numbers.

Phone --

Form Design (9)

- Use a *table* or *divs* to keep the layout stable and properly grouped