

Collecting Information in a Usable Way

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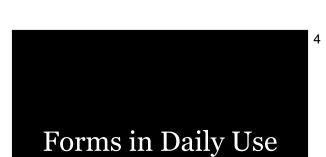
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## Intro

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You use forms all the time

- » Search
- » Login » Account creation
- » Submit information
- » Shopping» Signing up for mailing list

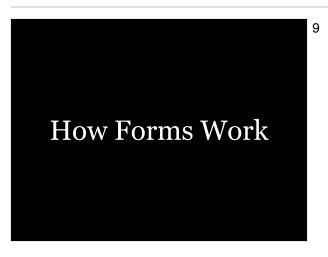








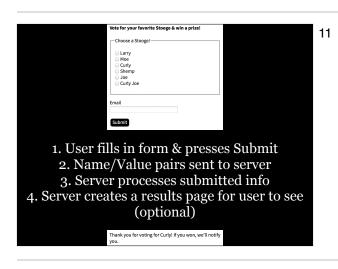




When you submit a form, data is sent from your browser to the server in name=value pairs

https://www.google.com/search?q=scott+granneman

q is the name scott+granneman is the value



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# Form Containers

<form>

14

Contains form controls

15

```
method="get"
```

Values from form are added to the end of the URL specified in the action attribute

Good for:

» Short forms (like search)

» Retrieving data from a database

& not adding or deleting

If method is not specified, get is used

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method="post"

Values from form are sent in HTTP headers

Good for:

» Allowing users to upload files

» Long forms

» Sensitive data, like login forms

» Adding data to, or deleting data from,

a database

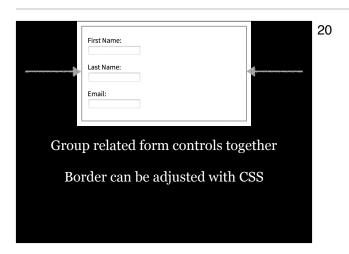
18

For testing & learning, you can use a mailto for the action

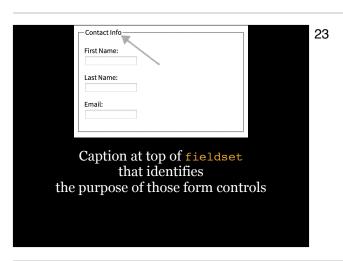
<form method="post"
action="mailto:you@domain.com?
 subject=Form\_Test"
 enctype="text/plain">

Completely insecure, so use with care!

#### <fieldset>



#### <legend>



#### <label>

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Caption for form control

Can be placed in 2 ways

- 1. Use the **for** attribute
- 2. Place form control inside <label>

27

Use the for attribute, whose value must match the form control's id

<label for="first-name"> First Name:</label>  The easier method is to place the form control inside <label>

30

Big advantage of <label>: clickable area includes the label as well as the form control

```
Without a < label>,
                                                                31
   users must click exactly on the checkbox
                                               Favorite zombie movie:
                                                Night of the Living Dead
Favorite zombie movie:
                                               Dawn of the Dead
<input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
  value="Night_of_the_Living_Dead"> Night of
  the Living Dead
<input type="checkbox" name="zombies"</pre>
  value="Dawn_of_the_Dead"> Dawn of the Dead
<input type="checkbox" name="zombies"</pre>
  value="Day_of_the_Dead"> Day of the Dead
```

```
32
                        With a < label>,
    users can click on the checkbox or the text
                                                                 Night of the Living Dead
                                                                Dawn of the Dead
                                                                Day of the Dead
<label><input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
value="Night_of_the_Living_Dead"> Night of the
   Living Dead</label>
<label><input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
  value="Dawn_of_the_Dead"> Dawn of the Dead
<label><input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
value="Day_of_the_Dead"> Day of the Dead</label>
```



#### Text

Tell Me About Yourself

Text area

Multiple lines of text

» Messages
» Comments

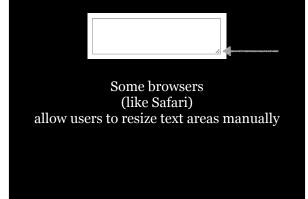
<textarea name="about" cols="40"
 rows="4"></textarea>

name: identifies the form control

cols: width of text area in characters
 (Deprecated—use CSS instead)

rows: vertical rows of text area
 (Deprecated—use CSS instead)





<textarea name="about" cols="40" rows="4">Tell me about yourself... </textarea>

If you put text
between <textarea> & </textarea>,
 it appears in the form element
& is submitted unless user deletes it

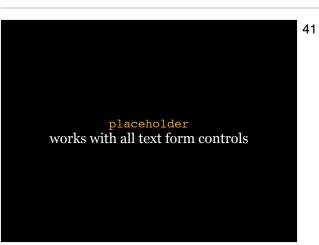
Users will forget

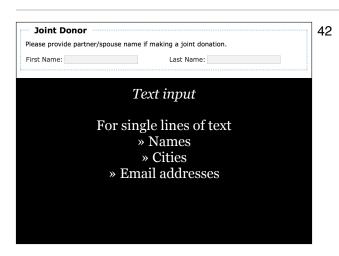
39

#### Better to use a form label

OR







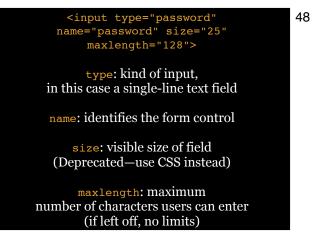
```
43
<input type="text" name="username"</pre>
     size="15" maxlength="30">
   type: kind of input, in this case a single-line text field
   name: identifies the form control
        size: visible size of field
    (Deprecated—use CSS instead)
         maxlength: maximum
 number of characters users can enter
          (if left off, no limits)
```

```
44
 <label>
  First Name:
  <br><input type="text" name="first-name">
</label>
<label>
  Last Name:
  <br><input type="text" name="last-name">
</label>
<label>
  Email:
                                         Last Name:
  <br><input type="text" name="email"</pre>
 </label>
                                         Email:
```

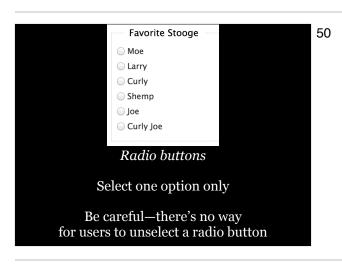
45 Don't use text input when you should use text area



47 ..... Password Text input, but with content masked by • This is not secure by default! Data is not sent encrypted to the server unless you use SSL/TLS (HTTPS)

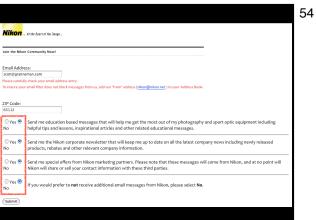


#### Choices



```
52
                                           Favorite Stooge:
Favorite Stooge:
                                           Larry
                                           Moe
<input type="radio" name="stooge"</p>
Larry
                                           Curly
    value="Larry"> Larry
  <input type="radio" name="stooge"</pre>
    value="Moe"> Moe
<input type="radio" name="stooge"
    value="Curly"> Curly
```

53 Don't let radio button labels wrap



Don't cram radio buttons together



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Favorite Zombie Movies

Night of the Living Dead
Dawn of the Dead
Day of the Dead
Day of the Dead
Shaun of the Dead
Shaun of the Dead
Checkboxes

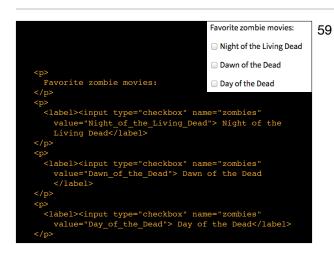
Select—& unselect—one or more options

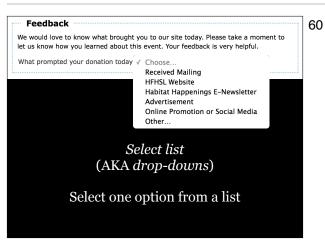
```
<input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
  value="Night_of_the_Living_Dead">
  <input type="checkbox" name="zombies"
      value="Dawn_of_the_Dead">

            type: kind of input,
        in this case a single-line text field

      name: identifies the form control
(all related checkboxes must have same name)

  value: input submitted to the server
```





```
<select name="stooge">
    <option value="larry">Larry</option>
</select>

    name: identifies the form control
    option: specific choice for users

value: input submitted to the server
```



Select lists are similar to radio buttons in that users can only make 1 choice

If users need to see all options at the same time, radio buttons are better

If you have a very long list of options (such as a list of states or countries), select lists are better



```
65
<select name="stooges" size="4"</pre>
  multiple="multiple">
  <option value="larry">Larry</option>
  <option value="moe">Moe</option>
</select>
            name: identifies the form control
       size: number of options to show at once
         (turns select list into multi-select list)
  multiple: allow users to select multiple options (Command on OS X & Ctrl on Windows & Linux)
            option: specific choice for users
         value: input submitted to the server
```

```
Favorite Stooges:
                                                           66
                         (Hold down Ctrl or Command to select multiple stooges)
                         Larry
Moe
                         Shemp
 Favorite Stooges:
  <br><small>(Hold down Ctrl or Command
    to select multiple stooges)</small>
<select name="stooges" size="4"</pre>
 multiple="multiple">
  <option value="larry">Larry</option>
  <option value="moe">Moe</option>
  <option value="curly">Curly</option>
 <option value="shemp">Shemp</option>
<option value="joe">Joe</option>
  <option value="curly joe">Curly Joe</option>
```

#### Uploads

Choose File no file selected

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File select

Choose file on your computer to upload to a server

Common with Content Management Systems

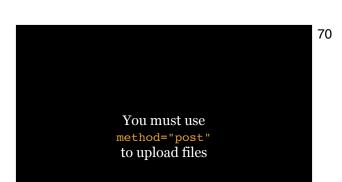
Difficult to style with CSS, so don't even try

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<input type="file" name="upload">

type: kind of input, in this case a file select field

name: identifies the form control

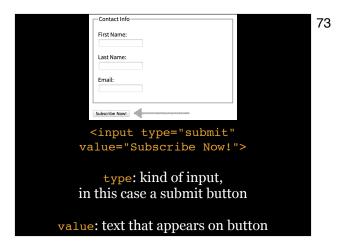


## Submissions

Submit

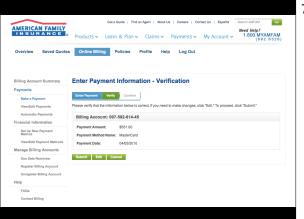
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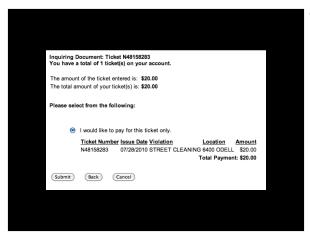
Submit button
Submit form to a server

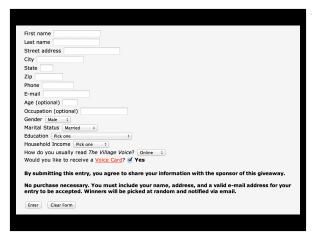


The Submit button goes on the right In fact, it's really the only button you need Multi-page forms aren't very usable

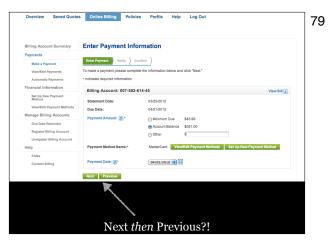
& users don't really like them



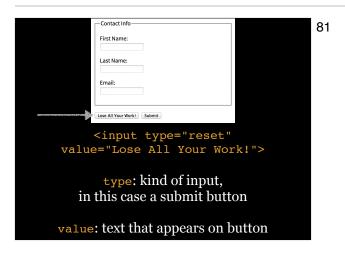




Actually, try to get all your buttons in the correct order







If you do use a Reset button, do *not* make it look like a Submit button



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Hidden fields

Users don't see them,
but developers use them
to add hidden values to forms

<input type="hidden" name="source"
 value="google-ads">

type: kind of input, in this case a hidden control

name: identifies the form control

value: input submitted to the server

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# Accessibility

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For maximum accessibility:

» Use fieldsets
 » Don't rearrange the order of fields using CSS;
 instead, let the order on screen follow the order in HTML

# Tips

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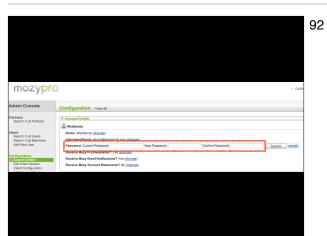
#### Label Placement

90

Placing labels is important for usability

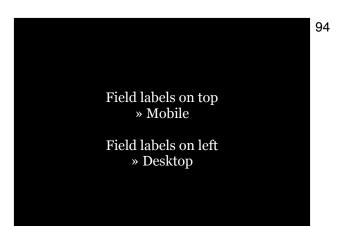


If you're going to have labels on the left, you need to gutteralign them



Cramming everything on one line makes it difficult to read

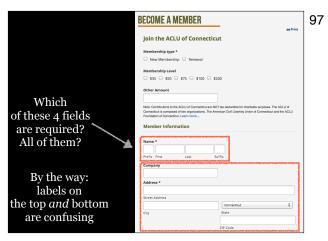
93 General rules of thumb Above or to the left » Text inputs » Text areas » Select boxes » File uploads To the right » Individual checkboxes » Individual radio buttons



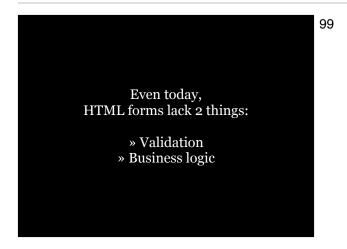
## Required

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Clearly indicate what is required







#### Validation

How do ensure that a user actually entered an email address?

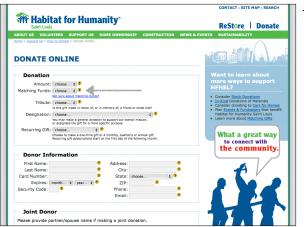
HTML5 includes some validation, but it's not very robust

Still have to rely on server-side programming

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**Business logic** 

HTML forms don't include good mechanisms to match business logic







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Forms
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Last updated 2013/202
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