

Forms & Cookies

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Advanced HTML

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Fill-out Forms

- **Collect data**
- **Personalize GUI interface**
- **A page may contain several non-overlapped forms**
 - ...
 - <FORM ...>
 - <SELECT ...> </SELECT>
 - <OPTION ...>
 - <TEXTAREA ...> </TEXTAREA>
 - ...
 - </FORM>

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The FORM Tag

```
<FORM action="URL" method="Get|Post"
  enctype="type">
</FORM>
```

- **action** - indicates where to send the form contents
- **method** - is either
 - **get**: submits form data as a query string
 - **post**: submits form data through an I/O channel
- **enctype** - how to package the form contents
 - **application/x-www-form-urlencoded** is the default

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The INPUT Tag

```
<INPUT type="type name" name="name str"
  value="type" [size=num ...]>
```

- **type** - data entry type
- **name** - assigns a name to the data entry field
- **value** - Initial & user entered value
- **size** - size of the data entry box

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INPUT Types: Text & Password

User ID:

- **Text** - the default is a one-line data entry box.
<p>User ID:
<input type=text size=20 maxlength=40 name=userID>

Password:

- **Password** - a one-line data entry box with coded entry data
<p>Password:
<input type=password size=20 maxlength=30
name=password>

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INPUT Types: Checkbox

Your mood today: Happy Angry So so

```
<p><strong>Your mood today:</strong>
<input type=checkbox name=mood1 value="Happy">
<input type=checkbox name=mood2 value="Angry">
<input type=checkbox name=mood3 value="So so">
```

- Checkboxes belonging to a group must have the same name
- Checkboxes in a group are inclusive
- Only the checked box is sent.

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INPUT Types: Radio Buttons

Sex: Male Female

```
<p><strong>Sex:</strong>
```

```
<input type="radio" name="Sex" value="Male">  
<input type="radio" name="Sex" value="Female">
```

- radio boxes belonging to a group must have the same name
- Radio boxes in a group are exclusive
 - only one of them can be checked
 - maintained automatically
- Only the checked box is sent.

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INPUT Types: Select Menu

```
<SELECT name=Choose size=num [multiple]>  
<OPTION value="XYX">One</OPTION>  
<OPTION value="ABC" [selected]>Two</OPTION>  
<OPTION value="MNO">Three</OPTION>
```

```
</SELECT>
```

- **Shows selection menu**
- **Size:** number of visible choices
- **Multiple:** allows multiple choices
 - Use Ctrl/shift and mouse to perform multiple selections
- **Option attributes**
 - **Value:** specifies the value to be sent to the server
 - **Selected:** pre-selected option items

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INPUT Types: Hidden Fields

```
<INPUT type=hidden name="Vapor" value="You can't  
see me">
```

- **Important for passing environmental information between web pages or to a database.**
- **Browsers do not display hidden fields**
- **Hidden fields are always sent to the server**

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INPUT Types: Push Buttons

- **Reset** - resets all data entry boxes to the default state

```
<INPUT type=reset name="clear" value="Reset">
```
- **Submit** - sends to the form processor the argument list from the data entry boxes

```
<INPUT type=submit name="done" value="Submit">
```
- A form may have more than one submission button
 - Each button should have a different value

```
<INPUT type=submit name="Action" value="Insert">  
<INPUT type=submit name="Action" value="Modify">  
<INPUT type=submit name="Action" value="Delete">
```

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INPUT Types: Image

Click on Enter:



- ```
<INPUT type=image src="enter.gif" alt="Submit"
align=left name="ImageSubmit">
```
- Uses a picture as a submit button
- The mouse pointer's coordinates (x,y) are sent to the server
- May use align and alt attributes as one does with the 

```

```

 tag.
- Must provide the URL for the picture

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## Cookies

### • What are cookies?

A "cookie" is a small piece of information sent by a web server to store on a web browser so it can later be read back from that browser. This is useful for having the browser remember specific information.

### • What are they used for?

A very good use is to have a browser store your password and user ID to a site. They are also used to store preferences of start pages, both Microsoft and Netscape use cookies to create personal start pages. Common cookies which companies use are find info are listed below:

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## Cookies: what are they useful for?

- **Online Ordering Systems.**

An online ordering system could be developed using cookies that would remember what a person wants to buy, this way if a person spends three hours ordering CDs at your site and suddenly has to get off the net they could quit the browser and return weeks or even years later and still have those items in their shopping basket.

- **Site Personalization.**

This is one of the most beneficial uses, let's say a person comes to your site but doesn't want to see certain information. They allow people to select this as an option, from then on (until the cookie expires) they wouldn't see this information. This is also useful for start pages.

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## Cookies: what are they useful for?

- **Website Tracking.**

Here is a hot button! A lot of people think it is an invasion of privacy, if a web site designer wanted to see what interests them. Site tracking can show you "Dead End Paths," places in your website that people go to and then wander off because they don't have any more interesting links to hit. It can also give you more accurate counts of how many people have been to pages on your site. You could differentiate 50 unique people seeing your site from one person hitting the reload button 50 times.

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## Cookies: what are they useful for?

- **Targeted Marketing.**

This is probably one of the main uses of cookies, they can be used to build up a profile of where you go what adverts you click on, this information is then used to target adverts at you, which they think are of interest, companies also use cookies to store which adverts have been displayed so the same advert does not get displayed twice.

- **User IDs & passwords.**

It can be used to store user IDs and passwords so that a user does not have to type it each time they visit the site.

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## Cookies: how do they work?

- A command line in the HTML of a document tells the browser to set a cookie of a certain name or value. Here is an example of some script used to set a cookie.

Set-Cookie: NAME=VALUE; expires=DATE;  
path=PATH; domain=DOMAIN\_NAME; secure  
Cookies are usually run from CGI scripts, but they can also be set or read by Javascript (see the cookie on the home page of my website).

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## Cookies: Are they secure?

- An HTTP Cookie cannot be used to get data from your hard drive, get your email address or steal sensitive information about your person. Early implementations of Java and JavaScript could allow people to do this but for the most part these security leaks have been plugged.
- Cookies can be used to track where you travel over a particular site, This site tracking can be easily done without using cookies as well, using cookies just makes the tracking data a little easier. You can disallow cookies in most browsers. You can check the cookies that have been set on your browser.

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## Summary

- We have discussed forms & their use in detail.
- We have also looked at cookies, their use and possible misuse.

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