

# HTML forms

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# Basic Form Elements

<code>&lt;FORM&gt;</code>	A wrapper element that contains all form elements.
<code>&lt;LABEL&gt;</code>	An element to provide labels for inputs.
<code>&lt;INPUT&gt;</code>	Provides the textbox, checkbox, radio button etc.
<code>&lt;TEXTAREA&gt;</code>	Element that allows user to enter large amount of text
<code>&lt;SELECT&gt;</code>	Element used to create drop-down boxes
<code>&lt;OPTION&gt;</code>	Used to create items within drop-down boxes
<code>&lt;BUTTON&gt;</code>	Used to create a general clickable button
<code>&lt;FIELDSET&gt;</code>	Can be used to group inputs into sets

# Input Types (HTML4)

<code>button</code>	Creates a clickable button
<code>checkbox</code>	Creates a checkable tick-box
<code>file</code>	Provides the user with a dialogue to upload files
<code>hidden</code>	Allows the developer to have hidden inputs
<code>password</code>	Textbox for password field that's asterisked out
<code>radio</code>	Provides radio-buttons to allow user to toggle choices
<code>reset</code>	Used to clear form fields and reset it to initial state
<code>submit</code>	Used to submit (send) field values (often to a server)
<code>text</code>	Provides a standard plain-text field.

# Input Types (HTML5)

color

date

datetime

datetime-local

email

image

month

number

range

search

tel

time

url

Week

Several have still not been implemented by browsers and behaviour varies across browsers for the others.

# HTML GET vs POST

The `form` element can take two values for the `method` attribute; GET or POST.

## HTML GET Method

Data is sent as part of the URL in name-value pairs. For example:

<http://www.mydomain.co.uk/form.php?name=joeblogs&town=Hastings>

This means data is visible to anyone and can make the URL long! Pages can even be bookmarked. Used mainly for searching and filtering.

## Problems:

Privacy, length limitations, can only use ASCII characters (since added to URL)

# HTML GET vs POST

The `form` element can take two values for the `method` attribute; GET or POST.

## HTML POST Method

Data is sent inside the IP packet of the page request in name-value pairs. This means it is hidden from view (can still be captured though) and is not limited in length or character usage.

### Problems:

When you refresh the page, the data is lost and has to be resent by the browser