# COMS 359: Interactive Media



ReviewFormsPreview



### CSS – margin, border & padding – CSS layout





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# Review

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### Review

### Responsive CSS

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# Forms

IntroductionTechnical IssuesDesign Issues

• Two kinds of Interaction

 Hypertext - User selects what path to follow through the content

Forms - User provides information and receives responses

### Forms - Common Usage

- Collect user data
  - Credit card numbers
  - Mailing address
  - Preferences
- Quizzes & Tests
- User feedback
  - Evaluation forms
  - Surveys

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#### **Employee Benefits Worksheet**

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Annual Salary: \$					
Start Date: month 🗾 dey 🗾 year 👤					

#### Health Insurance Plans

Done

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Acme Health Alliance	\$99.42/month	0 -	
Humana HMO/PPT	\$125.12/month	0 💌	
Cheap-Ass Health Plan	\$25.89/month		
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Provider Standard Old Life, Inc.		Coverage Options	Cost

### Definitions

Form: part of an HTML document that permits user to enter data

- Text fields
- Radio Buttons
- Pull down menus
- Check Boxes
- Text Area
- Local Action Buttons

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Password:
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Languages
Java C/C++ C#
Instruction
Enter your instruction here
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### Definitions

### - Common Gateway Interface (CGI)

- Program resident on the server that processes the data submitted by the user on the form and supplies a response to the user
- CGI programs: Perl, PHP, ASP
- <u>PERL</u>
  - Original Standard for CGI scripting

– <u>ASP & PHP</u>

- Server side scripting languages for creating CGI
- ASP is proprietary (M\$); PHP is open source

### Emphasis

- Our emphasis will be on the "front end"
  - Design of effective forms
  - The inclusion of forms into web documents
- We will only give brief consideration to the "back end"
- Form Processor Script
  - PERL, ASP, PHP, C++
  - COMS 469 PHP/MySQL



# Technical

### <form>

- Container that holds all the other elements of the form
- Three attributes (first two are required)
  - action
  - method
  - enctype

 Browsers treat a form like an in-line image; flow text around the form

# Technical

### <form>

 Can use most HTML elements within the <form> container tag to control layout and information flow

Cannot nest Forms; but can have more than one form on a page

### action

- Designates what application will process the data captured by the form
- Two options (automatic vs. manual data processing)
  - Automatic = send the data to the server and have it processed by CGI script
  - Manual = send the data to your email account for manual processing

### action="cgi"

- Specify the URL of the application
- Application usually resides on the server and is written in a language like PERL, PHP, ASP
- <form action="http://www.niu.edu/cgi-bin/test.php">

### action="email"

– <form action="mailto:myemail@niu.edu">

Results – strange data string

name=Joe+Arada&gender=M&email=jarada@uiuc.edu

### - Caution

- This approach is only useful for small amounts of data; it is cumbersome when processing a lot of data
- Data is sent as ASCII text; information will not be secure

### method

- Tells the browser how to send the data to the server
- Two options
  - get
  - post

### method="get"

- Least complex; creates a long string containing all the data entered by the user
- *name=value* pairs; where *name* is specified by the form and *value* is information entered by user
  - i.e. variable1=data+for+1&variable2=data+for+2
    - spaces are designated by "+"
    - "&" separates different variables
- Limitations of get
  - get sends all data in a single environmental variable called QUERY\_STRING
  - Some machine environmental variables are limited to 256 bytes long info will be cut off

### method="post"

- Send more information to the server
- Requires decoding of information; more secure
- Generally you will use post

### enctype

- Allows designer to specify the encoding format for the data sent from the form to the CGI script
- Default = application/x-www-form-encoded
- You will probably never need to specify this attribute

# <input>

Tag used to create input fields on the form
Text fields, multiple-choice lists, submission and reset buttons, check-boxes, etc.

- Two attributes
  - name

-type

# <input> Attributes

### name

- Required by every form of input except the immediate buttons (submission and reset)
- Specifies the name element of the name=value pair
- Choose descriptive names that assist in processing the data

# <input> Attributes

### type="text"

- Use to create text entry fields
- Default field is 20
   characters wide and will
   scroll data if more than 20
   characters are entered





Exercise #1

# <input> Attributes

Extensions of type="text" - type="email" - type="url" - type="date" - type="time" - type="month" - type="week" - type="number" - type="tel"



- Add semantic data to form input fields
- Validation of user input
- Support varies across the different browsers



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	Exercise #2

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### size

- Specify the size of the text entry field
- Size is specified in number of characters
  - Default = 20 characters
  - <input type="text" size="30">
     <input type="email" size="70">

### maxlength

- Limits the number of characters the user can enter
- Rule of thumb: do not make the size larger than the maxlength; otherwise the user could become frustrated

### value

- Web designer can specify a default setting for the text field
- If user wants to use this default setting, s/he does not need to enter text
- If user wants to change the default, s/he simply enters new data in the field

### placeholder

- Similar to value in that it allows the web designer to fill in the field with some info
- Unlike value, placeholder does not function as a default value but requires the user to enter new data in place of the placeholder value
- placeholder is used to show the format of the information that is expected

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白<form>
   <b>Your Name:</b>
   <input type="text" name="username"
            size="6" value="Larry"><br><br>
   <b>Your Email:</b>
    <input type="email" name="user-email" size="20"
            maxlength="20" placeholder="name@domain.com">
 </form>
 </body>
 </html>
```

Exercise #3

# <input>

type="password"

Hides data entry by substituting dots for characters

Server can read the information but the data cannot be read off the browser screen

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# <type="checkbox">

 Allows user to select items by placing a check in a box

User can select one or more by clicking in the specified boxes

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Your Name: Larry Your Email: name@domain.com	
Special Skills: Eating Drinking Breathing	



# <type="radio">

Like checkbox but only one item in the list can be selected
Mutually exclusive list of options

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<pre><td>male"&gt;Male female"&gt;Female Exercise #5</td></pre>	male">Male female">Female Exercise #5

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### <textarea>

- Tag takes the place of the input tag
- Text input field that is larger than one line in height
- Size Attributes

•

- rows: specify vertical size (number of lines of text)
- cols: specify horizontal size (number of characters)



### <textarea>

# wrap Attribute

- wrap="virtual"
  - Cause text to wrap on users screen
  - But only carriage return line feeds will be transmitted to the server

### - wrap="physical"

- Cause text to wrap on users screen
- And transmits these breaks as carriage returns to the server

- wrap="off" turns off wordwrap feature



### <select>

Container tag <option> </option> Creates a pull down menu of possible selections • Indicate selections by using <option> tag inside the <select> container

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Tell us ab	out your pain.			
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# <select> Attributes

### name

- Select container must have a name specified

### size

- Indicates how many choices are shown in the pull-down window
- Default = single entry with a downward scroll arrow

### multiple

- Allows the <select> element to accept multiple inputs
- User selects multiple options by holding down the CTRL key and clicking



Container tag inside the <select> element Specify the text that is displayed in the pulldown window

<option> something </option>

– Attributes

- value indicates the value sent back to the server
- **selected** causes the option it is coded with to be pre-selected

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<b>Special Skills:</b><br>
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     <br>
                                                          Your Name: Larry
  <b>Gender</b><br>
  <input type="radio" name="Gender" value="male">M
                                                          Your Email: name@domain.com
  <input type="radio" name="Gender" value="female"
                                                           Special Skills:
     <br>>
                                                           Eating
                                                           Drinking
  <b>Complaints</b><br>

    Breathing

  <textarea rows="5" cols="30" name="complaints" w
                                                           Gender
    Tell us about your pain.
                                                           O Male
  </textarea>
                                                           C Female
                                                           Complaints
     <br><br>>
                                                              Tell us about your pain.
  <b>Favorite Color: </b>
   <select name="color" size="1">
      <option value="red">Red</option>
                                                          Favorite Color: Red
      <option value="green">Green</option>
      <option value="blue">Blue</option>
   </select>
</form>
                                                                  Exercise #7
</body>
</html>
```

### Local Action Buttons

### type="reset"

- Reset the form, changing all fields to original appearance
- Browser will create a button labeled "reset"
- Button name can be changed by specifying a VALUE in the INPUT tag

<input type="reset" value="Reset">

### Local Action Buttons

### type="submit"

- Initiates the encoding and sending of data
- Browser will create a button labeled "submit"
- Button name can be changed by specifying a value in the input tag

<input type="submit" value="Submit">

<pre><input <="" name="Skills" pre="" type="checkbox" value="drinking"/></pre>	'>Drinking
<pre><input name="Skills" type="checkbox" value="breathing&lt;/pre&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;"/>Breathing</pre>	
	Forms - Mozilla Firefox     File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
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<pre><input name="Gender" type="radio" value="male"/>Male &lt;</pre>	♦ ♦ ♥ [] file:///C:/1-DavidStuff/niu-d ☆ ▼ ♥ ] 3 - Google
<input name="Gender" type="radio" value="female"/> Fema	Your Name: Larry
	Your Email: name@domain.com
ch Complete c (h) chr	Special Skills:
<textarea color"="" cols="30" name="complaints" rows="5" size="1" wrap="&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;E Breathing&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;Tell us about your pain.&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Gender&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/textarea&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;O Male&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;O Female&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/br&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Complaints&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;Tell us about your pain.&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;b&gt;Favorite Color: &lt;/b&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;/td&gt;&lt;/tr&gt;&lt;tr&gt;&lt;td&gt;&lt;pre&gt;&lt;select name="></textarea>	
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coption value= red /ked(/option/	Favorite Color: Red
<pre><option value="green">Green</option></pre>	Submit Reset
<pre><option value="blue">Blue</option></pre>	
<pre><input type="submit" value="Submit"/>   <input< pre=""></input<></pre>	type="reset">
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# <type="hidden">

- Hidden input field
- Allows designer to include form information that is not visible to the user
- Attributes
  - name
  - value

```
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 <html>
  <head>
                                   This hidden input field supplies
    <title>Forms</title>
  </head>
                                   information necessary to process
 <body>
                                   the form.
 <form>
  <input type="hidden" name="mf to" value="myemail@niu.edu">
   <b>Your Name:</b>
   <input type="text" name="username"
         size="6" value="Larry"><br><br>
   <b>Your Email:</b>
   <input type="email" name="user-email" size="20"
         <b>Special Skills:</b><br>
   <input type="checkbox" name="Skills" value="eating">Eating <br>
   <input type="checkbox" name="Skills" value="drinking">Drinking <br>
   <input type="checkbox" name="Skills" value="breathing">Breathing <br>
     <br>>
   <b>Gender</b><br>
```

# CGI

In order to have automatic processing of forms, you must have CGI script on the server

Source of CGI

- Write your own in Perl, ASP or PHP
- Have a programmer write your CGI
- Use versions supplied by web host



die ("Failed to open the Database");

mysql\_select\_db("gunkel");

check\_mysql();
if(!isset(\$id))

\$id=0;

if (isset (\$previous))

### **Example of CGI** PHP Scripting Language

MySQL Data Base

```
$query = "SELECT id, product name, product number, product price,
     product description FROM products WHERE id < $id ORDER BY id DESC";
   $result = mysql query($query);
   check mysql();
   $row = mysql fetch row($result);
   check mysql();
   if ($row[0] > 0)
      $id
                              $row[0];
      $product name
                              $row[1];
      $product number
                           = $row[2];
      $product price
                           = $row[3];
      $product description = $row[4];
elseif (isset($next))
   $query = "SELECT id, product name, product number, product price,
product description
            FROM products WHERE id > Sid ORDER BY id ASC";
   $result = mysql query($query);
   check mysql();
   $row = mysql fetch row($result);
   check mvsgl();
```

COMS 469 Interactive Media Production II

# CGI

What you need to know

- CGI is a way to process forms automatically
- Can write CGI script to return dynamically created pages or pre-selected pages
- "Backend" of e-commerce or web-based training; communicates information between the web site and databases on the server



# CGI

- Use ITS provided CGI to process form data
- mailform.asp
  - asp = Automatic Server Pages
  - mailform.asp interprets form input and sends the results to your NIU email in-box
- Limitations
  - Can only send results to NIU accounts z010102@students.niu.edu
  - mailform.asp only passes the data to an email account; it does not process the data

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Forms</title>
</head>
```

<bodv>

10405-0020-004

<form action="https://www.its.niu.edu/its/scripts/mailform.asp" method="post"> <input type="hidden" name="mf\_to" value="name@niu.edu">

```
<b>Your Name: </b>
<input type="text" name="username"
size="15" value="Larry"><br><br>>
```

<b>Your Email: </b> <input type="email" name="user-email" size="2 maxlength="20" placeholder="name@domai

### Modify <form> Set the value of action to the

URL of the ASP script and use the post method.

#### <b>Special Skills:</b><br>

<input type="checkbox" name="Skill <input type="checkbox" name="Skill <input type="checkbox" name="Skill

```
<b>Gender</b><br>
```

<input type="radio" name="Gender" <input type="radio" name="Gender"

```
<b>Complaints</b><br>
```

<textarea rows="5" cols="30" name= Tell us about your pain. </textarea><br><br>

# <b>Favorite Color: </br> <select name="color" size="1"> <option value="red">Red</option> </option>

### Add hidden <input>

Indicate the email address to which the results should be sent. You must use an NIU email account: gdeleuze@niu.edu z056789@students.niu.edu

Exercise #9

# Preview

# CGI for FormsForm ValidationForm Design

) Forms - Mozilla Firefox	_O×
ijle Edit View Higtory Bookmarks Tools Help	-
🛊 🔶 😵 [file:///C:/1-DavidStuff/niu-classes/coms359/ppt2012/form_exercise/form_exer 🏠 🔻 C 🛛 🛐 ~ Google	
-	
Order Form	
Full Name: your name Date of Birth: dd/mm/yyyy	
Street Address: house number and street name	
City: your city State: Zip Code: 88888	
Phone: 888-888-8888 Email: name@domain.com	
Demusted Comission	
Steal My Identity	
☐ Sell My Data to Others ☐ Spy on My Activities	
Comments	
Please tell us how you found out about our secret organization	
Submit Reset	