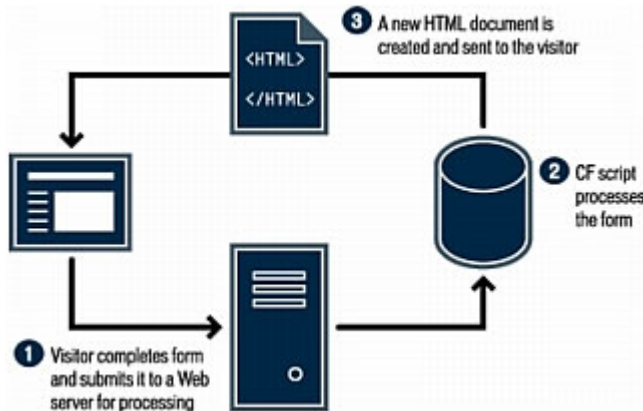


Client-side role of forms

Forms support the client side of the client-server relationship. When a visitor enters information into a form displayed in a web browser (the client) and clicks the submit button, the information is sent to the server where a server-side script or application processes it. Common server-side technologies used for processing form data include Macromedia ColdFusion, Microsoft Active Server Pages (ASP), and PHP. The server responds by sending requested information back to the user (or client), or performing some action based on the form's contents.



NOTE You can also send form data directly to an e-mail recipient.

- Forms collect information from users
- All forms need to be connected to an application that will process the collected information.
- These applications can store the form data in a database or send it as an email message.
- By itself the form cannot do anything it has to be configured to so that it “talks” to the script or email server

Plan and create a form

1. Insert Form Button on the form tab of the insert bar. (Dashed red outline is created)
2. Use Property inspector to specify the application that will process the form information.

Form Properties

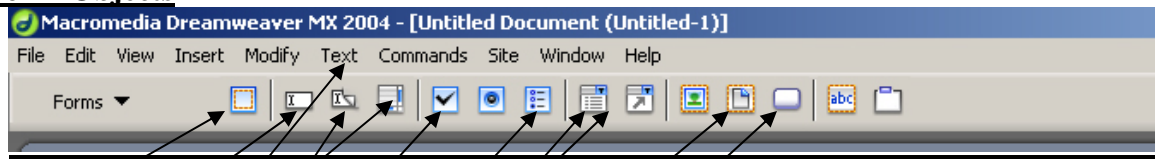


- **Method Property:** (specifying data transfer method) specifies the HyperTextTransfer Protocol (HTTP) method used to send the form data to the web server.
 1. **GET Method** specifies that ASCII data collected. Usually limited to 8K or less.

2. **POST Method** specifies processing script as a binary or encrypted file, allowing sending data securely and there is no limit to the amount of info to be collected in the form.

- **FormName** property specifies a unique name for the form
- **Target** property specifies window in which the form will be open
- **Action Property** (*action specifying processing script*) application or script that will process the form data (most of the time action property is the name and location of a CGI script such as cgi-bin/myscript.cgi)

Form Objects



Form

Text Field used for collecting string of characters, such as a name

Text Area Field can store several lines of text (comments, resume).

Hidden Field to collect information from a viewer without his/her knowledge (viewers IP address)

Checkboxes to create a list of options from which a viewer can make *multiple* selections

Radio button a list of options only *one* selection can be made

Radio Group *one* selection within that group

List Menu to insert a menu or a list to select a single option from a list of choices

JumpMenu navigational menu

Filefield Form object that allows viewers to upload files to a Web server

Button

Sending Form data via e-mail

```
<form action="mailto:youremail@site.com" method="post"
enctype="text/plain" name="form2" >
```

The received form view:

```
textfield=Name
textfield= Address
textarea= age
select=Information
file=
Submit=Submit
```