XHTML Tables and Forms

CS174

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Outline

- More on tables
- Forms
- Introduction to style sheets

More on Tables

- You can make table headings or table data span more than one column or more than one row using colspan, rowspan:

  ```
  <tr><th colspan="3">heading</th></tr>
  <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr>

  <!-- if we have two levels of heading-->
  <tr><td rowspan="3"></td></tr>
  <tr><th colspan="2">heading</th></tr>
  <tr><th>subhead1</th><th>subhead2</th></tr>
  ```

Controlling width

- You can control the width and border of tables using its width and border attributes.

  EX <table width="100%" border="0" summary="…" >

  <!-- the value can be a percentage or an absolute value in pixels. 0 here means no border -->

- You can control the width of columns by having after the table tag a series of col tags (can also use colgroup)

<table width="100%" border="0" summary="…" >

<col width="25%" /> <!-- can be a percentage or number of pixels -->

<col width="75%" />

Still More on Tables

- The align and valign attributes of <tr><th><td> can be use to specify how data look within a cell.
  - align has three possible values left, right, center (default) which control horizontal alignment.

  Ex: <tr align="center"><td>hi<td><td>there</td></tr>

  <!-- centers whole row -->

  Ex <td valign="top">test</td>

  <td valign="bottom">test</td>

Cellpadding, cellspacing

- <table> also has two attributes cellpadding and cellspacing.
- cellpadding -- controls space between inner walls of cell and contents of the cell (in pixels).
- cellspacing -- controls distance between cells

Ex

<table border="5" cellspacing="30" cellpadding="5" summary="…" >

Forms

- Forms are one of the most common ways to collect data in an XHTML page and send it back to the server.
- The basic format for a form is:

\<form name="myform" method="get"
    action="http://somewhere.com" \>

\<!-- widgets or controls on form --\>

\</form\>

- In the case of uploading a file you also need to give the enctype attribute as "multipart/form-data"

Possible methods

- The method attribute of a form can be one of "get" or "post".
- The default is get.
- If the method is "get" then data collected from the form will be appended to the URL given in the action when the form is submitted:

http://somewhere.com?name$_1$=value$_1$& name$_2$=value$_2$…

- The names and values are "urlencoded" to handle special characters like space.
- There used to be size limits on GET data.
- If the method is post. Then the HTTP POST command is used and data is sent in the body of the request after the headers.

Labels and Controls

- The basic form control is input:

  <input type="text" name="my variable" value="optional default value" />

- Possible values for type include: checkbox, radio, text, hidden, password, reset, submit.

- submit is used to submit the form.

- could use id rather than name on modern browsers

- The value must be set if the variable is checkbox or radio. The checked attribute controls it is selected by default. Only one value set for radio.

- For text and password, the size and maxlength attributes control the visible size and the maximum number of input characters.

- Usually, a form item is placed by some label when it is drawn

First Name: [   ]

In order to ensure this in accessibility situations you must use the label tag:

<label for="test" >test:<input type="checkbox" id="test" value="test" /></label>

select tags

- Can be used to achieve an effect like:

milk
bread
water

<select name="groceries">

<option>milk</option><option>bread</option>

<option>water</option>

</select><!-- size attribute for number to display at a time; multiple="multiple" to select more than one -->

\<textarea\>

- This tag can be used to specify a multi-line region for text entry:

\<textarea name="life" rows="3" cols="40" \>

You can enter your life story here.

\</textarea\>