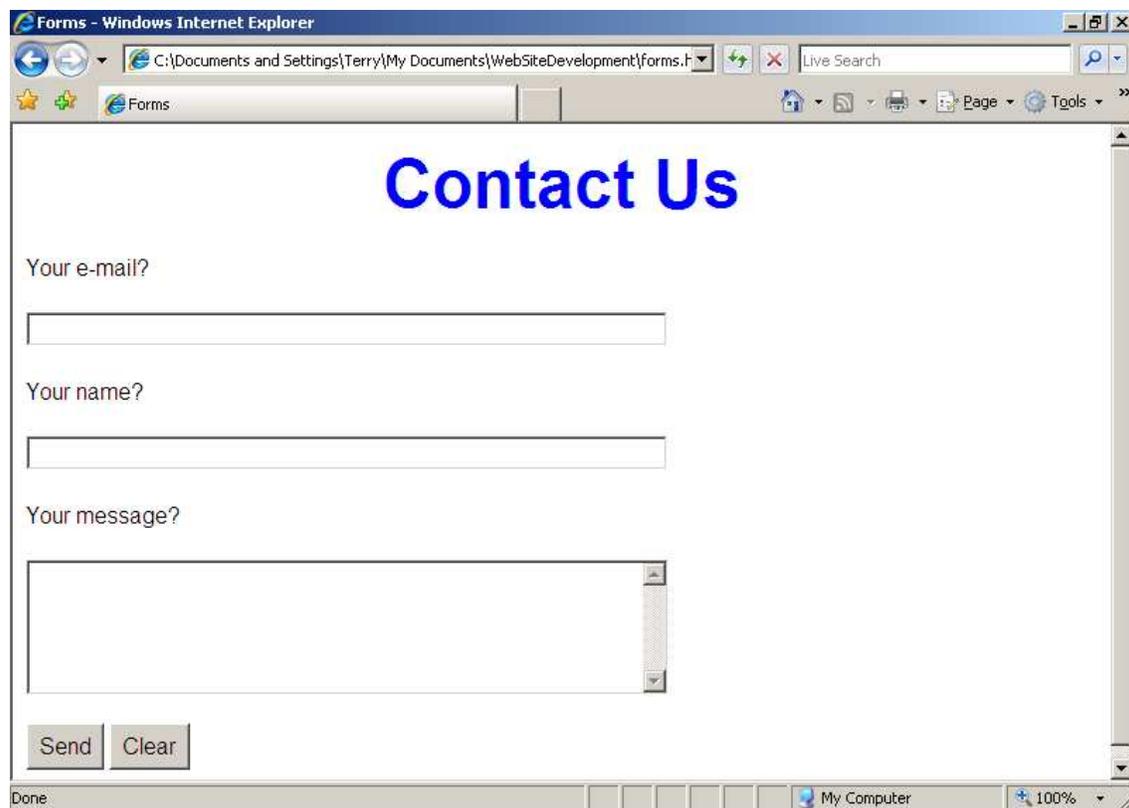# Website Development

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8 Forms

A form is an excellent way of getting feedback from users. And you do not have to expose your e-mail address to spiders and robots that crawl through the web looking for addresses to add to spammer's lists.

8.1 Contact Form

The user is invited to provide their e-mail address, name and a comment. They then click either the send button to submit the form, or the clear button to clear the form.

8.2 Style Sheet

The style sheet is named formstyle.css. Notice that the font and size of input, textarea and button are all specified.

```css
/* formstyle.css - style sheet for forms.html */

p, h1, h2, input, textarea, button {
  font-family: Arial, Helvitica, sans-serif;
}

p, input, textarea, button  {
 font-size: 1em;
 line-height: 1.5em;
}

h1 {
  font-size: 3em;
  color: blue;
  background: transparent;
  text-align: center;
}

h2 {
  font-size: 2em;
  font-weight: bold;
  font-style: italic;
}
```

8.3 The HTML

The html is named forms.html.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD
HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
<html>
<head>
<title>Forms</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type"
content="text/html;charset=utf-8">

<style type="text/css">
@import url(formstyle.css);
</style>

</head>
<body>
<h1>Contact Us</h1>
<form name="contact" action="" method="post">

<p>Your e-mail?</p>
<input type="text" name="emailaddress" size="59">

<p>Your name?</p>
<input type="text" name="name" size="59">

<p>Your message?</p>
<textarea name="comment" cols="62" rows="5"></textarea>

<p></p>

<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Send">
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Clear">
</form>

</body>
</html>
```

We now look at each point in turn.

```
<form name="contact" action="" method="post">
```

The form is named contact, the method is post (to send the information) but the action is left blank. Normally this would be the name of a file or program or *script* that processes the data, validates it and sends it to a private e-mail address. Commonly used scripts include Perl, PHP, Java and VB. Usually, the script is held on the host - the public computer system that holds your website. At the moment the College does not provide scripting facilities on the Computing server.

```
<input type="text" name="emailaddress" size="59">
```

provides a text box. A text box is used for just one line of text.

```
<textarea name="comment" cols="62" rows="5"></textarea>
```

provides a text area where any number of lines of text may be entered.

```
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Send">
<input type="submit" name="Submit" value="Clear">
```

provide two buttons, one for sending the form, one for clearing it. Of course they both need programming or scripting code to function.

8.4 Exercise

1. Create a contact form for your web site.