ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Midterm #2 next week
- Site for php scripts
  
  http://turtle.cs.umd.edu/classes/198N/FormValidationCode/
Forms ➔ Previous examples of forms just collected data for processing by a JavaScript program.
Forms ➔ means by which information passes from the user to a server.
Submit button
  Sends form data to a server application.
  It is this special functionality that other buttons don’t have.
<form tag> ➔ Two important attributes:
  action – indicates where the form contents will be sent.
  method – defines how the contents will be.
HTML FORMS

- Method → Two alternatives
  - post
    - Contents sent using the HTTP POST method.
    - Content is sent in the body of the message.
  - get
    - Contents sent using the HTTP GET method.
    - Contents included in the URL.

- Example: formGet.html, getProcessing.php
- Example: formPost.html, postProcessing.php

- Important: You can only see the results if you have a web server running the .php files.
- Could you install a web server in your computer? Yes!
  - Windows →
  - Mac →
As we have seen, we need a server script/program to process the data we collect in a form and that is sent via submit.

If you know the script/program to use you can develop your own customized form to provide a service (e.g., Google search).

Make sure you name your form elements after the variables required by the script/program.

Notice we are not using any JavaScript at the moment. We are focusing on what we can do with forms by relying on the server script/program for processing.

**Example:** SearchBox.html
GET VS. POST

- Get
  - Information visible as it is displayed in the URL.
  - Limited in the amount of information it can send.
  - URLs associated with get can be bookmarked.
  - Intended for operations that will not change the server state.

- Post
  - Information is not presented in the URL.
  - No limits on amount of information it can send.
  - Because variables are not displayed in the URL it is not possible to bookmark the page.
  - Intended for operations that will change the server state.
  - Try reloading a form submitted using post. Why the warning?
FORM VALIDATION

- Forms – We can validate the data associated with a form by recognizing the submit event.
- Keep in mind that JavaScript can be disabled therefore the server application must also validate the data.
- **Example:** FormValidation.html, FormValidation.php
DEBUGGER

- Allow us to see values of variables
- Allow us to execute statements one at a time
- Firebug Debugger
- Demo