MMGD0204
Web Application Technology

Chapter 6
HTML FORMS

Chapter 6 – HTML Forms

Forms

- A **form** or **webform** on a web page allows a user to enter data that is sent to a server for processing.

- Webforms resemble paper or database forms because internet users fill out the forms using checkboxes, radio buttons, or text fields.

- Forms are a vital tool for the webmaster to receive information from the web surfer, such as: their name, email address, credit card, etc.

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Forms - Example

Name	
Department	
Email Address	
Extension No.	
Date Room Required	Day ▾ Month ▾ 2010 ▾
Time Required	From 09 ▾ : 00 ▾ to 10 ▾ : 00 ▾
Room(s) Required (if known)	
Size of Group to be Accommodated	
Title of the Event	
Other Information	

[Submit] [Reset]

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Forms

- When a form is filled in by a visitor to your site and sent, the results of the form need to be processed in some way.

- One of the most common ways to process form results is with a **CGI (Common Gateway Interface)** script.

- The data input into a FORM are sent to a server.

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Form Element

- A form is an area that can contain form elements.
- Form elements are elements that allow the user to enter information.
- A form is defined with the <form> tag.

<form>

Form elements

</form>

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Method Attribute

- The method attribute specifies how to send form-data (the form-data is sent to the page specified in the action attribute).

- The form-data can be sent as URL variables (with method="get") or as HTTP post (with method="post").

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Method Attribute

- The **"get" method a**ppends the form-data to the URL in name/value pairs

- This method is useful for form submissions where a user want to bookmark the result

```
<form method='get'>

</form>
```

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Method Attribute

- The **"post" method** sends the form-data as an HTTP post transaction
- Form submissions with the "post" method cannot be bookmarked

```
<form method='post'>

</form>
```
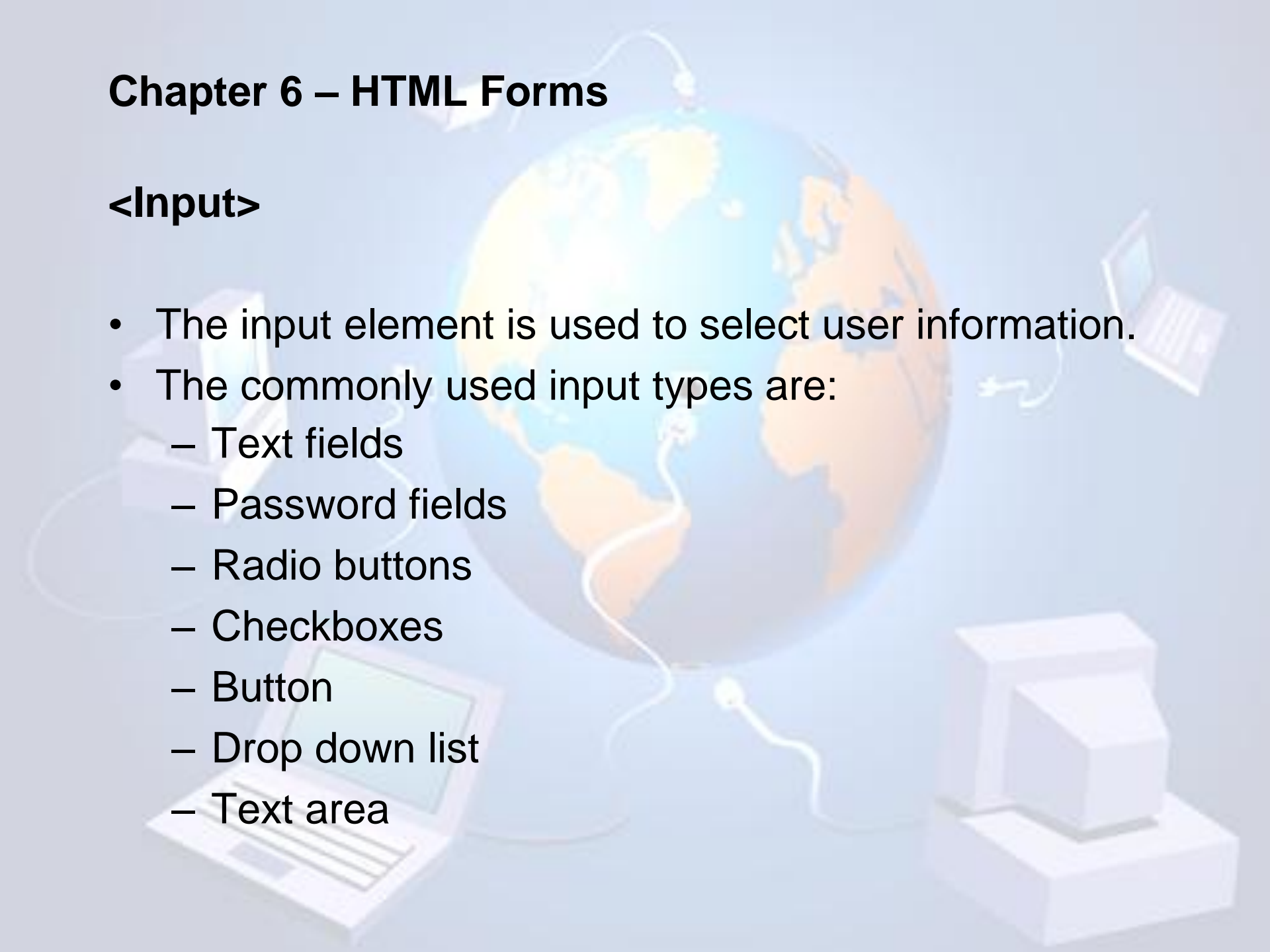
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Action Attribute

- The action attribute specifies where to send the form-data when a form is submitted.

<form action='mysite.php'>

</form>

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<Input>

- The input element is used to select user information.
- The commonly used input types are:
  - Text fields
  - Password fields
  - Radio buttons
  - Checkboxes
  - Button
  - Drop down list
  - Text area

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Text Fields

- \<input type="text" /> defines a one-line input field that a user can enter text into
- Text fields are used when you want the user to type letters, numbers, etc. in a form

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Text Fields

```
<form>
First name:<input type="text" name="firstname" /><br>
Last name:<input type="text" name="lastname" />
</form>
```
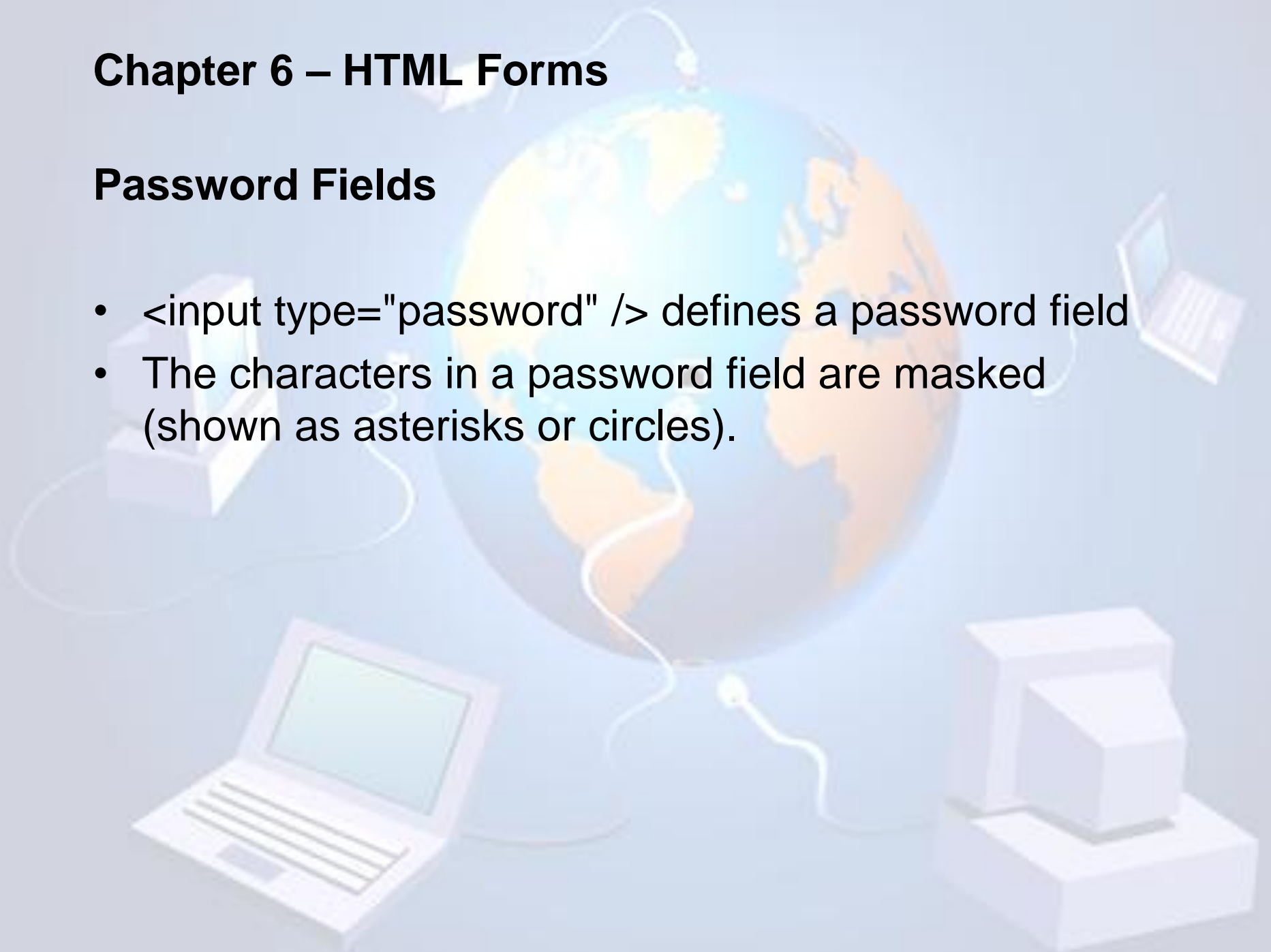
First name:

Last name:

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Password Fields

- <input type="password" /> defines a password field
- The characters in a password field are masked (shown as asterisks or circles).

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Password Fields

```
<form>
Password: <input type="password" name="pwd" />
</form>
```
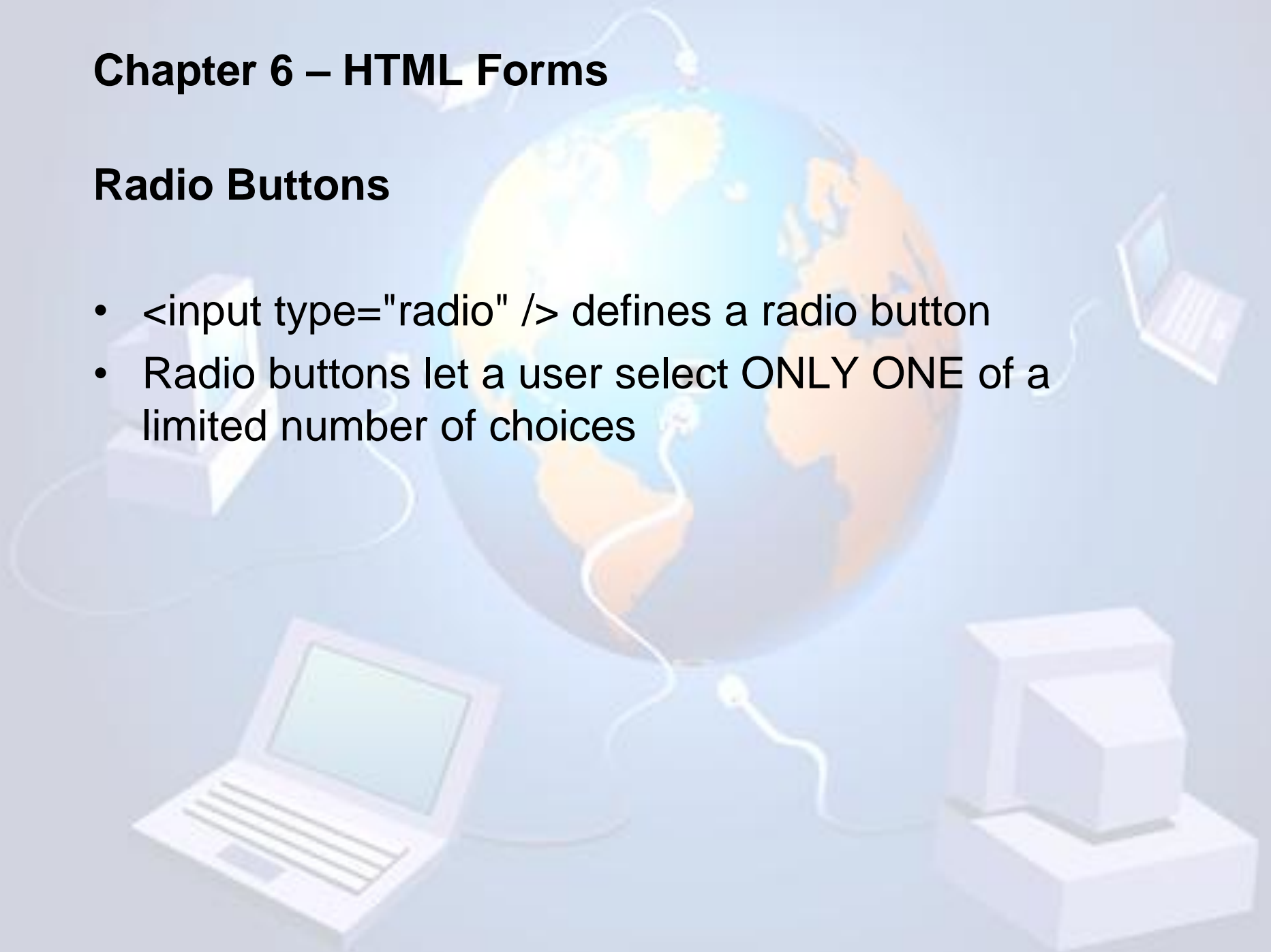
Password: ●●●●●●●●

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Radio Buttons

- <input type="radio" /> defines a radio button
- Radio buttons let a user select ONLY ONE of a limited number of choices
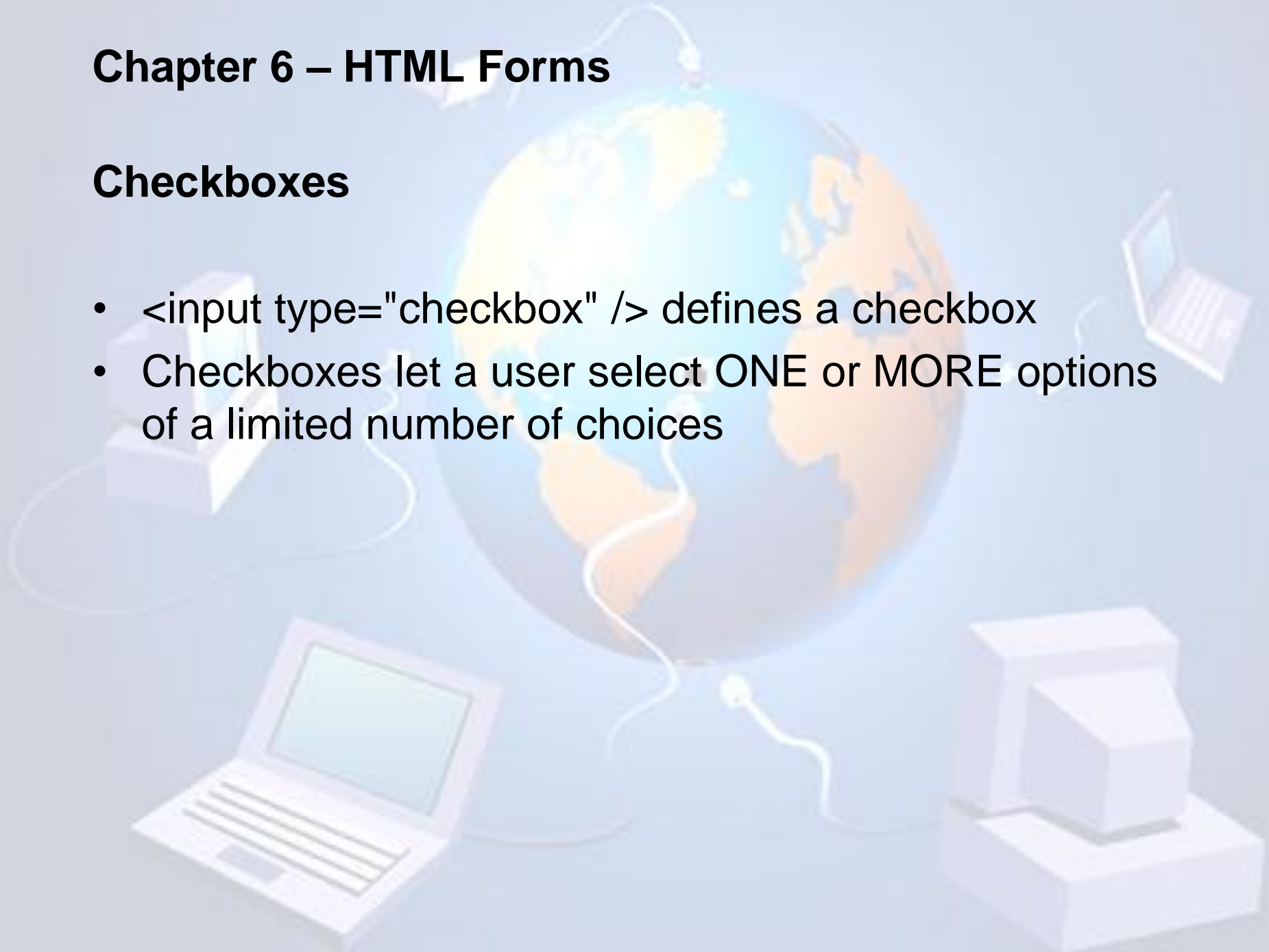
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Radio Buttons

```
<form>
<input type="radio" name="sex" value="male" /> Male
<br />
<input type="radio" name="sex" value="female" /> Female
</form>
```

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Checkboxes

- <input type="checkbox" /> defines a checkbox
- Checkboxes let a user select ONE or MORE options of a limited number of choices

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Checkboxes

```
<form>
 Interest:
<input type="checkbox" name='interest' value='sport' />Sport
<input type="checkbox" name='interest' value='entertainment'
/>Entertainment
<input type="checkbox" name='interest' value='fashion' />Fashion
<input type="checkbox" name='interest' value='travel' />Travel
</form>
```
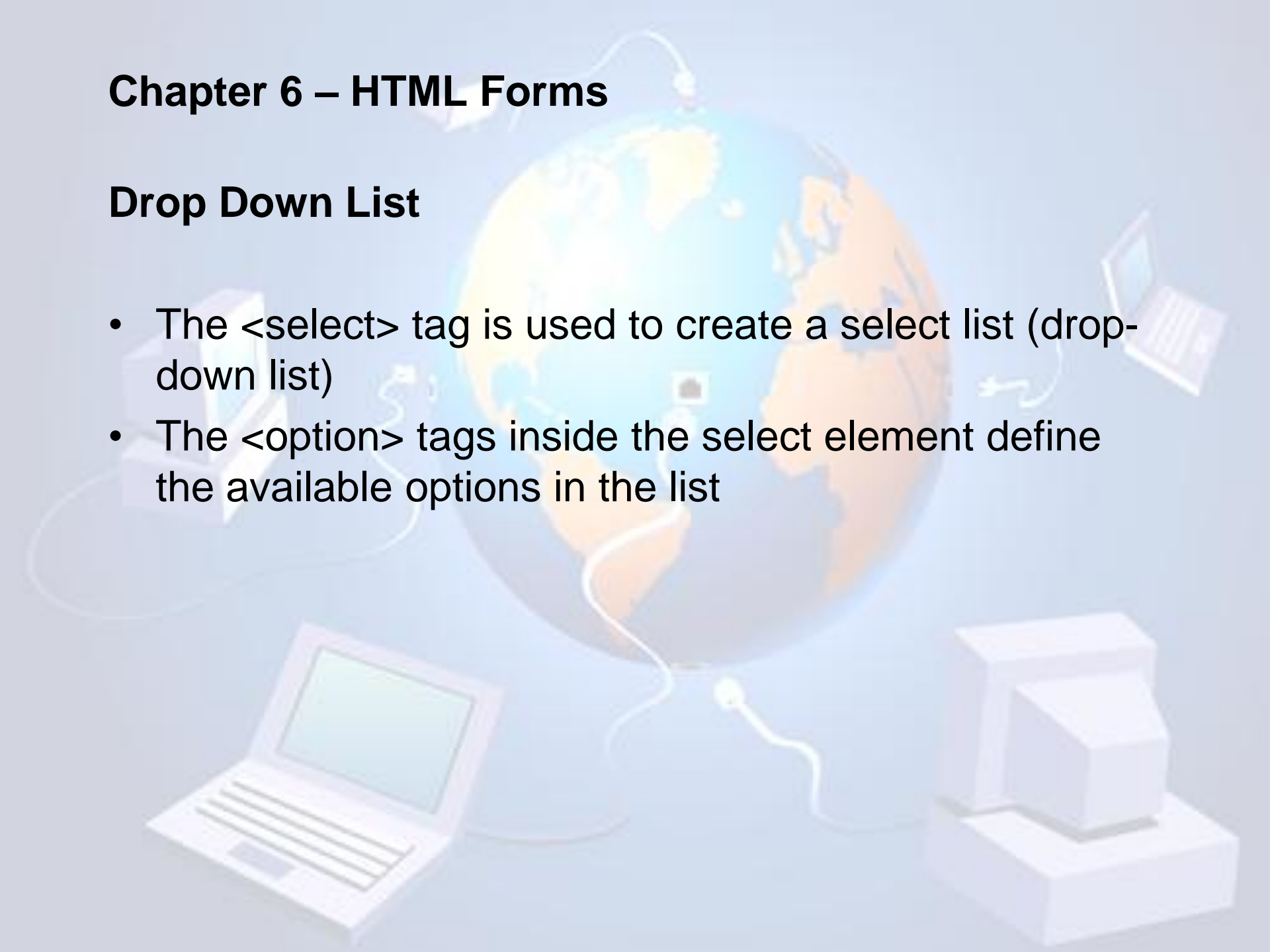
Interest: ☐ Sport ☐ Entertainment ☐ Fashion ☐ Travel

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Drop Down List

- The <select> tag is used to create a select list (drop-down list)
- The <option> tags inside the select element define the available options in the list

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Drop Down List

```
<form>
Course:
<select name="course">
<option >Choose one</option>
<option value="Foundation">Foundation</option>
<option value="Diploma">Diploma</option>
<option value="Degree">Degree</option>
<option value="Master">Master</option>
</select>
</form>
```
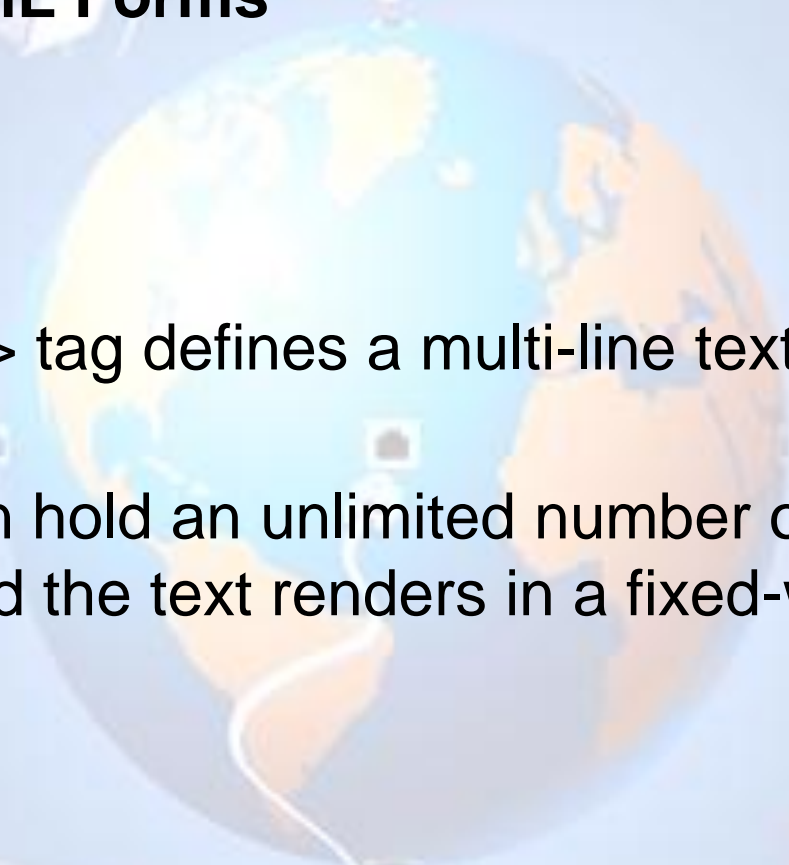
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<Textarea>

- The <textarea> tag defines a multi-line text input control

- A text area can hold an unlimited number of characters, and the text renders in a fixed-width font

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<Textarea>

```
<form>
Your comments:<br>
<textarea name='comments' cols='40' rows='6'></textarea>
</form>
```

Your comments:

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Submit and Reset Button

- Submit – to send form data to the server.
- Reset – to clear the form

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Submit and Reset Button

```
<form>
<input type='submit' value='Submit' />
<input type='reset' value='Reset' />
</form>
```