

1

# Form Validation

# What is form validation?

2

- **validation:** ensuring that form's values are correct
- some types of validation:
  - ▣ preventing blank values (email address)
  - ▣ ensuring the type of values
    - integer, real number, currency, phone number, Social Security number, postal
  - ▣ address, email address, date, credit card number, ...
  - ▣ ensuring the format and range of values (ZIP code must be a 5-digit integer)
  - ▣ ensuring that values fit together (user types email twice, and the two must match)

# A real Form that uses validation

3

Firefox

Gmail - Inbox (14) - xeni... x Google Calendar x How the Java Virtual Ma... x http://localh.../testfile.php x Web Programming Step... x WeightWatchers.com: Si... x

weightwatchers.com https://signup.weightwatchers.com/SignupVersions/registration/StepOne.aspx

sign up weightwatchers index

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines

Bookmarks

## Become a Registered User!

Get access to WeightWatchers.com's buzzing Community:

- Start a blog
- Participate in a Challenge
- Save your favorite recipes
- Post to our boards

### WeightWatchers®

**Important message: Please review and correct the information below.**

### Create Your Registered User Account Login

First name:

Last name:  **X**  
**Please enter your last name. It's required information.**

Your birthdate:    **X**  
**Please select your month, day, and year of birth. It's required information.**

Your gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male **X**  
**Please enter your gender. It's required information.**

State:  **X**  
**Please choose a state. It's required information.**

Zip code:  **X**  
**Please enter a 5-digit ZIP code. It's required information.**

E-mail:  **X**  
**Please enter your email address in the following format: abc@example.com. It's required information.**

Re-enter e-mail:

Find:

# Client vs. server-side validation

4

- Validation can be performed:
  - ▣ **client-side** (before the form is submitted)
    - can lead to a better user experience, but not secure (why not?)
  - ▣ **server-side** (in PHP code, after the form is submitted)
    - needed for truly secure validation, but slower
  - ▣ both
  - ▣ best mix of convenience and security, but requires most effort to program

# Basic server-side validation code

5

- validation code can take a lot of time / lines to write
  - ▣ How do you test for integers vs. real numbers vs. strings?
  - ▣ How do you test for a valid credit card number?
  - ▣ How do you test that a person's name has a middle initial?
  - ▣ How do you test whether a given string matches a particular complex format?

# Client Side validation

6

- Example

# Server Side validation

7

- Example