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Xhtml (Quickstudy: Computer)

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XHTML

INTRODUCTION

XHTML is short for Extensible HyperText Markup Language. Known as a "self-describing" language, XHTML was specified from XML (eXtensible Markup Language) 1.0 and HTML 4.01. XHTML is a language used to store data objects that can be used across multiple platforms and applications. Web browsers can display XHTML documents from any operating system or platform and display the information in a sensible hierarchy. XHTML Parsers are applications or pieces of software that read XHTML documents, and are responsible for testing for well-formedness and validity against Schemas or DTDs. Schemas and DTDs are basically a pre-set standard set of rules for our data that XHTML documents can use.

Documents are constructed using implicit information about how data is related by using a standard hierarchy to assemble XHTML documents; the Standards organization governing the implementation of XHTML defines the standard as an *interoperable* of documents which all work together.

XHTML 1.0 – standard, personal, Document Type Definition (DTD).

DTD – DTDs and Schemas are used to define different document types.

Namespaces – allows for the distinction between XHTML vocabularies.

Xpath – querying language for addressing parts of an XHTML document.

CSS, XML, XSLT – used for formatting objects for display.

DOM, SAX – means for applications to interface with XHTML.

RDF (Site summary), RSS – syndicate news stories for use by other websites or applications (RSS Readers).

SVG – Scalable Vector Graphics, 2 Dimensional Graphics.

XHTML, XQuery, and several others make up the Standard known as XHTML.

XHTML has proliferated due to its ease of integration into existing applications. XHTML can be used across multiple platforms and operating systems, and reduces server load by pushing data to the client and then to the server as one document.

This feature has proved useful in the distributed computing environment using Remote Procedure Calls, E-Commerce, and General Web Content; this tutorial will cover a basic introduction to XHTML 1.0, DTDs, Namespaces, and Schemas.

DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

XHTML is similar to HTML, in that it is a markup language. XHTML, however, describes data and allows you to define your own tags. XHTML was designed to describe and contain data HTML, on the other hand focuses more on the display of data and its presentation, simply put, XHTML can contain a template for data structure, the data itself, and where to display the data. XHTML uses tags like HTML, with one simple distinction; you can define your own tags for a more descriptive naming convention, as well as a document structure. XHTML is a complement to HTML; in that HTML can display data from an XHTML document. XHTML uses a text-based format to allow for cross platform and cross operating system compatibility; XHTML files are used as data sources much like databases.

For the purposes of this article, we will be using TextPad to code our documents. Microsoft Internet Explorer is another good browser for exploring. It includes an XHTML Parser and will also assist with document validation and debugging; it is suggested in this article to save your files as Unicode when saving about your encoding; for the purposes of debugging our code locally on a Windows XP machine, we will be using the ANSI format.

In TextPad, in the Save Dialog, there is an option to change Character Encoding.

Other Resources: Internet Explorer 6
To determine which version of Internet Explorer you have installed, open a instance of IE, select HELP from the menu bar and select About Internet Explorer.

Did You Know?
XHTML is an acronym for "eXtensible HyperText Markup Language", a refinement of HTML 4.0 as an XML 1.0 application. XHTML provides the framework for future extensions of HTML, and aims to replace HTML in the future.



Synopsis

4-page laminated guide includes: introduction document structure data types tags Xhtml declaration element declarations content models

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