

# COMP 1017

Revisiting Anchor Tags

Anchor tags ( the `<a>` element) does all sorts of cool stuff, like linking to other web pages.

It can also link to files,  
email addresses, and  
locations on the same page.

Let us learn a few more things it can do and look at an extra attribute.

# Linking to Other Things

For a Link to the Past, cf. Nintendo.

We can link to **files** in our framework folder the same way that we link to other pages.

```
<a href="cool-file.pdf">
```

Click here for a PDF!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- Instead of linking to an HTML  
document, we are linking to a PDF. -->
```

If we are linking to a file, we should make that link **open** in **another browser tab** or window.



```
<a href="cool-file.pdf"
target="_blank">
```

Click here for a PDF!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- The target attribute lets us tell
the browser to open this resource in
another tab or window. -->
```

Specifically where this file opens depends upon the user's settings.

Using the **target attribute** is **best practice** when linking to non-HTML resources.

We can also make our anchor tag open up **other apps** by modifying the path.

```
<a href="mailto:nowhere@gmail.com">
```

Send an email to nowhere.

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- This will try to launch the user's default  
email client and create a new message. -->
```

With a **mailto:** URL, we can specify things like multiple recipients, the subject line, and so forth.

Similarly, we can use **tel:** to launch the user's default phone app.

```
<a href="tel:18884475594">
```

By the gods, you have done it!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- This will launch the user's default phone  
app with this number already pre-dialled. -->
```



This link behaviour depends upon which apps the user's device has.

ex. Facetime and Skype can be used on desktops.

# Same-page Links

Is it too soon to make another Zelda reference?

Finally, we can link to an element on the same page.

This is helpful if you have a long single-page website, or if you have distinct sections of content.

To do it, we have to assign an **id** to the element we want to link to.

Remember that an **id** should be unique, or only used **once per page**.

```
<section id="cool-stuff">
```

```
...
```

```
</section>
```

```
<!-- This assigns the id #cool-stuff  
       to this section. -->
```

```
<a href="#cool-stuff">
```

Click here for some cool stuff.

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- Here, we are linking to anything with the  
id #cool-stuff. If there is an element with that  
id on the page, our browser will skip to it. -->
```



This is one way that we can help screen readers skip to a certain section (skip links), or let the user return to the top of the page.

# Further Reading

MDN Web Docs: The Anchor Element

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/a>

MDN Web Docs: Email Links

[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Introduction to HTML/Creating hyperlinks#E-mail links](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Introduction_to_HTML/Creating_hyperlinks#E-mail_links)