

Attributes

An *attribute* clarifies or modifies an element's actions. Attributes are indicated by attribute name and value pairs added to the start tag of the element (end tags never contain attributes). Attribute names and their accepted values are declared in the DTD; in other words, you cannot make up your own. You can add multiple attributes within a single opening tag. Attributes, if any, go after the tag name, each separated by one or more spaces. Their order of appearance is not important.

The syntax for an element with attributes is as follows:

```
<element attribute="value">content</element>
```

The following are examples of elements that contain attributes:

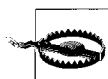
```
<head profile="http://gmpg.org/xfn/11">...</head>

<table summary="This is a conference schedule.">...</table>
```

Most browsers cannot handle attribute values more than 1,024 characters in length. Values may be case-sensitive, particularly filenames or URLs.

XHTML requires that all attribute values be enclosed in quotation marks. Single or double quotation marks may be used, as long as they are used consistently throughout the document.

In HTML 4.01 and earlier, some values are permitted to go unquoted; for instance, if the value is a single word containing only letters (a–z or A–Z), digits (0–9), hyphens (-), periods (.), underscores (_), and colons (:). It is the best practice to quote all values, regardless of the Recommendation you are following.



Be careful not to leave out the closing quotation mark, or all the content from the opening quotation mark until the browser encounters a subsequent quotation mark will be interpreted as part of the value and won't display in the browser. This is a simple mistake that can cause hours of debugging frustration.