XSLT <xsl:template> Element

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An XSL style sheet consists of one or more set of rules that are called templates.

A template contains rules to apply when a specified node is matched.

The <xsl:template> Element

The <xsl:template> element is used to build templates.

The **match** attribute is used to associate a template with an XML element. The match attribute can also be used to define a template for the entire XML document. The value of the match attribute is an XPath expression (i.e. match="/" defines the whole document).

Ok, let's look at a simplified version of the XSL file from the previous chapter:

Example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">

<xsl:template match="/">
  <html>
  <body>
  <h2>My CD Collection</h2>
  <table border="1">
    <tr bgcolor="#9acd32">
```

```
      <td>.</td>
      <td>.</td>
    </tr>
  </table>
  </body>
  </html>
</xsl:template>

</xsl:stylesheet>
```

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Example Explained

Since an XSL style sheet is an XML document, it always begins with the XML declaration: **<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>**.

The next element, **<xsl:stylesheet>**, defines that this document is an XSLT style sheet document (along with the version number and XSLT namespace attributes).

The **<xsl:template>** element defines a template. The **match="/"** attribute associates the template with the root of the XML source document.

The content inside the <xsl:template> element defines some HTML to write to the output.

The last two lines define the end of the template and the end of the style sheet.

The result from this example was a little disappointing, because no data was copied from the XML document to the output. In the next chapter you will learn how to use the **<xsl:value-of>** element to select values from the XML elements.

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