

# XSLT - Transformation

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Example study: How to transform XML into XHTML using XSLT?

The details of this example will be explained in the next chapter.

## Correct Style Sheet Declaration

The root element that declares the document to be an XSL style sheet is `<xsl:stylesheet>` or `<xsl:transform>`.

**Note:** `<xsl:stylesheet>` and `<xsl:transform>` are completely synonymous and either can be used!

The correct way to declare an XSL style sheet according to the W3C XSLT Recommendation is:

```
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">
```

or:

```
<xsl:transform version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">
```

XSLT namespace. If you use this namespace, you must also include the attribute `version="1.0"`.

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## Start with a Raw XML Document

We want to **transform** the following XML document ("cdcatalog.xml") into XHTML:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<catalog>
  <cd>
    <title>Empire Burlesque</title>
    <artist>Bob Dylan</artist>
    <country>USA</country>
    <company>Columbia</company>
    <price>10.90</price>
    <year>1985</year>
  </cd>
  .
  .
</catalog>
```

**Viewing XML Files in browsers:** Open the XML file (click on the link below) - The XML document will be displayed with color-coded root and child elements. Often, there is an arrow or plus/minus sign to the left of the elements that can be clicked to expand or collapse the element structure. **Tip: To view the raw XML source, right-click in XML file and select "View Page Source"!**

[View "cdcatalog.xml"](#)



# Create an XSL Style Sheet

Then you create an XSL Style Sheet ("cdcatalog.xml") with a transformation template:

```
<?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">
      <th>Title</th>
      <th>Artist</th>
    </tr>
    <xsl:for-each select="catalog/cd">
      <tr>
        <td><xsl:value-of select="title"/></td>
        <td><xsl:value-of select="artist"/></td>
      </tr>
    </xsl:for-each>
  </table>
  </body>
  </html>
</xsl:template>
```

[View "cdcatalog.xml"](#)

# Link the XSL Style Sheet to the XML Document

Add the XSL style sheet reference to your XML document ("cdcatalog.xml"):

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/xsl" href="cdcatalog.xsl"?>
<catalog>
  <cd>
    <title>Empire Burlesque</title>
    <artist>Bob Dylan</artist>
    <country>USA</country>
    <company>Columbia</company>
    <price>10.90</price>
    <year>1985</year>
  </cd>
  .
  .
</catalog>
```

If you have an XSLT compliant browser it will nicely **transform** your XML into XHTML.

[View the result](#)

The details of the example above will be explained in the next chapters.

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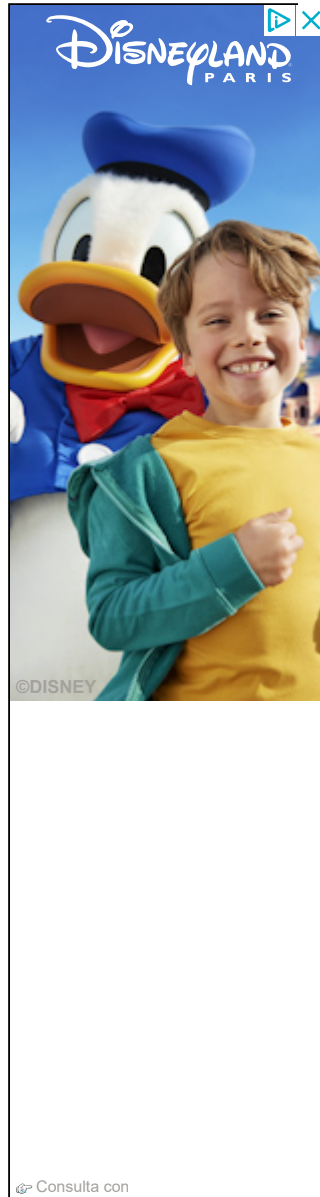
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