Chapter 1 - HTML

Hypertext Markup Language or HTML is a markup language used on the World Wide Web or WWW. It is a structured language that lets you identify common sections of a web page such as headings, paragraphs, and lists with markup tags that define each section. The web pages are documents with HTML that are rendered by a web browser such as but not limited to Inetrnet Exploere, Google Chrome or Firefox.

This chapter looks at the history of the World Wide Web which was concived by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) and the development of the HTML language from Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML)

Many variables affect the way users view your web pages. As an HTML author, your goal should be to code pages that are accessible to the largest audience possible. As you plan your web site, make the following decisions before implementing your site:

* Make sure to check for support of new HTML elements, and test carefully before adding them to your web site.
* Use Cascading Style Sheets.
* The style enhancements and control offered by this style language are impressive, but they are not evenly supported by older browsers. Implement CSS gradually, testing for browser compatibility as you go. Decide whether to code to the stricter HTML standard.
* If you are starting a new web site, your best choice is to code to this standard.
* If you are working with an existing web site, decide on the most expedient method for upgrading your existing code to these XML standards to ensure future compatibility with new tools and browsers. Use good coding practices by writing standards-based markup that always includes a document type and content type and is correctly validated.
* Use semantic markup, especially the HTML sectioning elements, to mark up your page correctly. This makes your content shareable across search engines, news agents, and accessibility devices.
* Use a validator to make sure your code enhances browser compatibility, accessibility, and exchange of data.