## XML Tutorial

# XML on the Server

XML files are plain text files just like HTML files.

XML can easily be stored and generated by a standard web server.

## Storing XML Files on the Server

XML files can be stored on an Internet server exactly the same way as HTML files.

Start Windows Notepad and write the following lines:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
```

```xml
  <from>Jani</from>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <message>Remember me this weekend</message>
</note>
```

Save the file on your web server with a proper name like "note.xml".

# Generating XML with PHP

XML can be generated on a server without any installed XML software.

To generate an XML response from the server using PHP, use following code:

```php
<?php
header("Content-type: text/xml");
echo "<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>";
echo "<note>";
echo "<from>Jani</from>";
echo "<to>Tove</to>";
echo "<message>Remember me this weekend</message>";
echo "</note>";
?>
```

Note that the content type of the response header must be set to "text/xml".

See how the PHP file will be returned from the server.

If you want to study PHP, you will find our PHP tutorial on our homepage.

# Generating XML with ASP

To generate an XML response from the server - simply write the following code and save it as an ASP file on the web server:

```
<%
response.ContentType="text/xml"
response.Write("<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>")
response.Write("<note>")
response.Write("<from>Jani</from>")
response.Write("<to>Tove</to>")
response.Write("<message>Remember me this weekend</message>")
response.Write("</note>")
%>
```

Note that the content type of the response must be set to "text/xml".

See how the ASP file will be returned from the server.

If you want to study ASP, you will find our ASP tutorial on our homepage.

# Generating XML From a Database

XML can be generated from a database without any installed XML software.

To generate an XML database response from the server, simply write the following code and save it as an ASP file on the web server:

```
<%
response.ContentType = "text/xml"
set conn=Server.CreateObject("ADODB.Connection")
conn.provider="Microsoft.Jet.OLEDB.4.0;"
conn.open server.mappath("/datafolder/database.mdb")

sql="select fname,lname from tblGuestBook"
set rs=Conn.Execute(sql)

response.write("<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>")
response.write("<guestbook>")
while (not rs.EOF)
response.write("<guest>")
response.write("<fname>" & rs("fname") & "</fname>")
response.write("<lname>" & rs("lname") & "</lname>")
response.write("</guest>")
rs.MoveNext()
wend

rs.close()
conn.close()
response.write("</guestbook>")
%>
```

See the real life database output from the ASP file above.

The example above uses ASP with ADO.

If you want to study ASP and ADO, you will find the tutorials on our <u>homepage</u>.

# Transforming XML with XSLT on the Server

This ASP transforms an XML file to XHTML on the server:

```
<%
'Load XML
set xml = Server.CreateObject("Microsoft.XMLDOM")
xml.async = false
xml.load(Server.MapPath("simple.xml"))

'Load XSL
set xsl = Server.CreateObject("Microsoft.XMLDOM")
xsl.async = false
xsl.load(Server.MapPath("simple.xsl"))

'Transform file
Response.Write(xml.transformNode(xsl))
%>
```

Example explained

- The first block of code creates an instance of the Microsoft XML parser (XMLDOM), and loads the XML file into memory.
- The second block of code creates another instance of the parser and loads the XSL

file into memory.

- The last line of code transforms the XML document using the XSL document, and sends the result as XHTML to your browser. Nice!
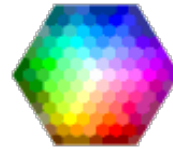
<u>See how it works</u>.

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