XML Tutorial

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XML stands for E**X**tensible **M**arkup **L**anguage.

XML was designed to store and transport data.

XML was designed to be both human- and machine-readable.

XML Example 1

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
```

```
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Display the XML File » Display the XML File as a Note »

XML Example 2

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



```
  <price>$5.95</price>
  <description>Our famous Belgian Waffles with plenty of real maple
syrup</description>
  <calories>650</calories>
</food>
<food>
  <name>French Toast</name>
  <price>$4.50</price>
  <description>Thick slices made from our homemade sourdough
bread</description>
  <calories>600</calories>
</food>
<food>
  <name>Homestyle Breakfast</name>
  <price>$6.95</price>
```

XML DOM


```
  <description>Two eggs, bacon or sausage, toast, and our ever-popular
hash browns</description>
  <calories>950</calories>
</food>
</breakfast_menu>
```

Display the XML File » Display with XSLT »

Start learning XML now!

XML Examples

At the end of the XML tutorial you will find many examples you can edit and test yourself.

- XML Examples

XML Quiz Test

Test your XML skills at W3Schools!

- Start the XML Quiz!

XML Exam - Get Your Diploma!

Introduction to XML

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XML is a software- and hardware-independent tool for storing and transporting data.

Why Study XML?

XML plays an important role in many IT systems.

For this reason, it is important for all software developers to have a good understanding of XML.

Before you continue, you should also have a basic understanding of:

- HTML
- JavaScript

If you want to study these subjects first, find the tutorials on our Home page.

What is XML?

- XML stands for EXtensible Markup Language
- XML is a markup language much like HTML
- XML was designed to store and transport data
- XML was designed to be self-descriptive
- XML is a W3C Recommendation

XML Does Not DO Anything

Maybe it is a little hard to understand, but XML does not DO anything.

This note is a note to Tove, from Jani, stored as XML:

```
<note>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

The note is quite self-descriptive. It has sender and receiver information. It also has a heading and a message body.

But still, this XML document does not DO anything. XML is just information wrapped in tags. Someone must write a piece of software to send, receive, store, or display it:

Note

To: Tove

From: Jani

Reminder

Don't forget me this weekend!

The Difference Between XML and HTML

XML and HTML were designed with different goals:

- XML was designed to carry data - with focus on what data is
- HTML was designed to display data - with focus on how data looks
- XML tags are not predefined like HTML tags are

XML Does Not Use Predefined Tags

The XML language has no predefined tags.

The tags in the example above (like <to> and <from>) are not defined in any XML

standard. These tags are "invented" by the author of the XML document.

HTML works with predefined tags like <p>, <h1>, <table>, etc.

With XML, the author must define both the tags and the document structure.

XML is Extensible

Most XML applications will work as expected even if new data is added (or removed).

Imagine an application designed to display the original version of note.xml (<to> <from> <heading> <data>).

Then imagine a newer version of note.xml with added <date> and <hour> elements, and a removed <heading>.

The way XML is constructed, older version of the application can still work:

```
<note>
  <date>2015-09-01</date>
  <hour>08:30</hour>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Note

XSD References

To: Tove

From: Jani

Head: Reminder

Don't forget me this weekend!

Note

To: Tove

From: Jani

Date: 2015-09-01 08:30

Head: (none)

Don't forget me this weekend!

XML Simplifies Things

- It simplifies data sharing
- It simplifies data transport
- It simplifies platform changes
- It simplifies data availability

Many computer systems contain data in incompatible formats. Exchanging data between

incompatible systems (or upgraded systems) is a time-consuming task for web developers. Large amounts of data must be converted, and incompatible data is often lost.

XML stores data in plain text format. This provides a software- and hardware-independent way of storing, transporting, and sharing data.

XML also makes it easier to expand or upgrade to new operating systems, new applications, or new browsers, without losing data.

With XML, data can be available to all kinds of "reading machines" like people, computers, voice machines, news feeds, etc.

XML is a W3C Recommendation

XML became a W3C Recommendation on February 10, 1998.

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How Can XML be Used?

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XML is used in many aspects of web development.

XML is often used to separate data from presentation.

XML Separates Data from Presentation

XML does not carry any information about how to be displayed.

The same XML data can be used in many different presentation scenarios.

Because of this, with XML, there is a full separation between data and presentation.

XML is Often a Complement to HTML

In many HTML applications, XML is used to store or transport data, while HTML is used to format and display the same data.

XML Separates Data from HTML

When displaying data in HTML, you should not have to edit the HTML file when the data changes.

With XML, the data can be stored in separate XML files.

With a few lines of JavaScript code, you can read an XML file and update the data content of any HTML page.

Display Books.xml »

Books.xml

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

  <book category="cooking">
    <title lang="en">Everyday Italian</title>
    <author>Giada De Laurentiis</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>30.00</price>
```

Web Services

XML DTD

XSD Schema

```
  </book>

  <book category="children">
    <title lang="en">Harry Potter</title>
    <author>J K. Rowling</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>29.99</price>
  </book>

  <book category="web">
    <title lang="en">XQuery Kick Start</title>
    <author>James McGovern</author>
    <author>Per Bothner</author>
    <author>Kurt Cagle</author>
    <author>James Linn</author>
    <author>Vaidyanathan Nagarajan</author>
    <year>2003</year>
    <price>49.99</price>
  </book>

  <book category="web" cover="paperback">
    <title lang="en">Learning XML</title>
    <author>Erik T. Ray</author>
    <year>2003</year>
    <price>39.95</price>
  </book>

</bookstore>
```

You will learn a lot more about using XML and JavaScript in the DOM section of this

tutorial.

Transaction Data

Thousands of XML formats exists, in many different industries, to describe day-to-day data transactions:

Stocks and Shares
Financial transactions
Medical data
Mathematical data
Scientific measurements
News information
Weather services

Example: XML News

XMLNews is a specification for exchanging news and other information.

Using a standard makes it easier for both news producers and news consumers to produce, receive, and archive any kind of news information across different hardware, software, and programming languages.

An example XMLNews document:

XSD References


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<nitf>
  <head>
    <title>Colombia Earthquake</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <headline>
      <hl1>143 Dead in Colombia Earthquake</hl1>
    </headline>
    <byline>
      <bytag>By Jared Kotler, Associated Press Writer</bytag>
    </byline>
    <dateline>
      <location>Bogota, Colombia</location>
      <date>Monday January 25 1999 7:28 ET</date>
    </dateline>
  </body>
</nitf>
```

Example: XML Weather Service

An XML national weather service from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration):

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

```
<credit>NOAA's National Weather Service</credit>
<credit_URL>http://weather.gov/</credit_URL>

<image>
  <url>http://weather.gov/images/xml_logo.gif</url>
  <title>NOAA's National Weather Service</title>
  <link>http://weather.gov</link>
</image>

<location>New York/John F. Kennedy Intl Airport, NY</location>
<station_id>KJFK</station_id>
<latitude>40.66</latitude>
<longitude>-73.78</longitude>
<observation_time_rfc822>Mon, 11 Feb 2008 06:51:00 -0500 EST
</observation_time_rfc822>

<weather>A Few Clouds</weather>
<temp_f>11</temp_f>
<temp_c>-12</temp_c>
<relative_humidity>36</relative_humidity>
<wind_dir>West</wind_dir>
<wind_degrees>280</wind_degrees>
<wind_mph>18.4</wind_mph>
<wind_gust_mph>29</wind_gust_mph>
<pressure_mb>1023.6</pressure_mb>
<pressure_in>30.23</pressure_in>
<dewpoint_f>-11</dewpoint_f>
<dewpoint_c>-24</dewpoint_c>
<windchill_f>-7</windchill_f>
<windchill_c>-22</windchill_c>
```

```
<visibility_mi>10.00</visibility_mi>

<icon_url_base>http://weather.gov/weather/images/fcicons/</icon_url_bas
e>
<icon_url_name>nfew.jpg</icon_url_name>
<disclaimer_url>http://weather.gov/disclaimer.html</disclaimer_url>
<copyright_url>http://weather.gov/disclaimer.html</copyright_url>

</current_observation>
```

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XML Tree

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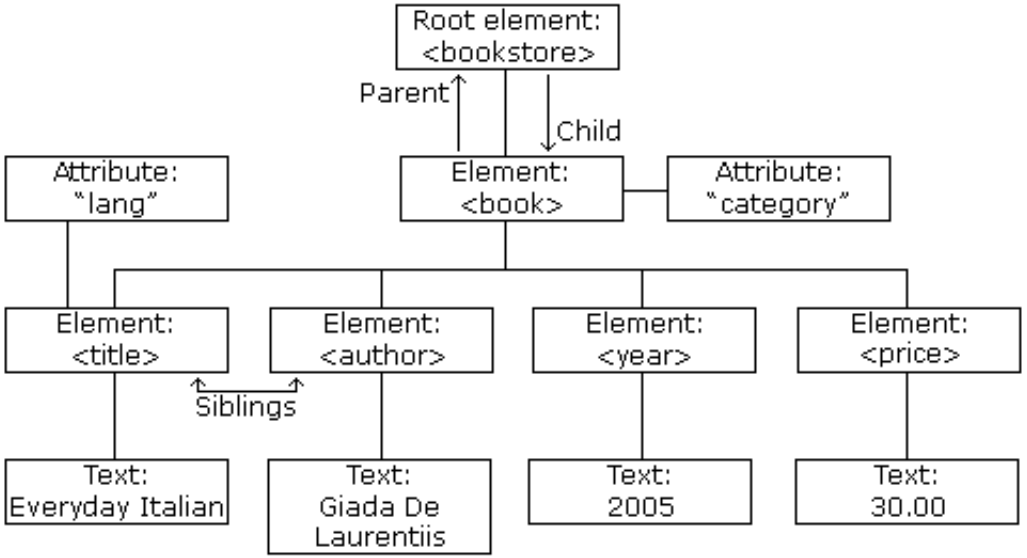
XML documents form a tree structure that starts at "the root" and branches to "the leaves".

XML Tree Structure



An Example XML Document

The image above represents books in this XML:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<bookstore>
  <book category="cooking">
    <title lang="en">Everyday Italian</title>
    <author>Giada De Laurentiis</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>30.00</price>
  </book>
  <book category="children">
    <title lang="en">Harry Potter</title>
```

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```
    <author>J K. Rowling</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>29.99</price>
  </book>
  <book category="web">
    <title lang="en">Learning XML</title>
    <author>Erik T. Ray</author>
    <year>2003</year>
    <price>39.95</price>
  </book>
</bookstore>
```

XML Tree Structure

XML documents are formed as **element trees**.

An XML tree starts at a **root element** and branches from the root to **child elements**.

All elements can have sub elements (child elements):

```
<root>
  <child>
    <subchild>.....</subchild>
  </child>
</root>
```

The terms parent, child, and sibling are used to describe the relationships between elements.

Parent have children. Children have parents. Siblings are children on the same level (brothers and sisters).

All elements can have text content (Harry Potter) and attributes (category="cooking").

Self-Describing Syntax

XML uses a much self-describing syntax.

A prolog defines the XML version and the character encoding:

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

The next line is the **root element** of the document:

```
<bookstore>
```

The next line starts a <book> element:

```
<book category="cooking">
```

XSD References

The <book> elements have **4 child elements**: <title>,< author>, <year>, <price>.

```
<title lang="en">Everyday Italian</title>
<author>Giada De Laurentiis</author>
<year>2005</year>
<price>30.00</price>
```

The next line ends the book element:

```
</book>
```

You can assume, from this example, that the XML document contains information about books in a bookstore.

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XML Syntax Rules

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The syntax rules of XML are very simple and logical. The rules are easy to learn, and easy to use.

XML Documents Must Have a Root Element

XML documents must contain one **root** element that is the **parent** of all other elements:

```
<root>
  <child>
    <subchild>.....</subchild>
  </child>
```

XML DOM

DOM Reference


```
</root>
```

In this example **<note>** is the root element:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

The XML Prolog

This line is called the XML **prolog**:

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

The XML prolog is optional. If it exists, it must come first in the document.

XML documents can contain international characters, like Norwegian øæå or French êèé.

To avoid errors, you should specify the encoding used, or save your XML files as UTF-8.

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XML DTD

UTF-8 is the default character encoding for XML documents.

Character encoding can be studied in our Character Set Tutorial.

UTF-8 is also the default encoding for HTML5, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, and SQL.

All XML Elements Must Have a Closing Tag

In HTML, some elements might work well, even with a missing closing tag:

```
<p>This is a paragraph.
<br>
```

In XML, it is illegal to omit the closing tag. All elements **must** have a closing tag:

```
<p>This is a paragraph.</p>
<br />
```

The XML declaration does not have a closing tag.
This is not an error. The declaration is not a part of XML.

XML Tags are Case Sensitive

XML tags are case sensitive. The tag <Letter> is different from the tag <letter>.

Opening and closing tags must be written with the same case:

```
<Message>This is incorrect</message>
<message>This is correct</message>
```

"Opening and closing tags" are often referred to as "Start and end tags". Use whatever you prefer. It is exactly the same thing.

XML Elements Must be Properly Nested

In HTML, you might see improperly nested elements:

```
<b><i>This text is bold and italic</b></i>
```

In XML, all elements **must** be properly nested within each other:

```
<b><i>This text is bold and italic</i></b>
```

XSD Date
XSD Numeric
XSD Misc

XSD References

XSD Reference

In the example above, "Properly nested" simply means that since the <i> element is opened inside the <b> element, it must be closed inside the <b> element.

XML Attribute Values Must be Quoted

XML elements can have attributes in name/value pairs just like in HTML.

In XML, the attribute values must always be quoted.

INCORRECT:

```
<note date=12/11/2007>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
</note>
```

CORRECT:

```
<note date="12/11/2007">
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
</note>
```

The error in the first document is that the date attribute in the note element is not quoted.

Entity References

Some characters have a special meaning in XML.

If you place a character like "<" inside an XML element, it will generate an error because the parser interprets it as the start of a new element.

This will generate an XML error:

```
<message>salary < 1000</message>
```

To avoid this error, replace the "<" character with an **entity reference**:

```
<message>salary &lt; 1000</message>
```

There are 5 pre-defined entity references in XML:

&lt;	<	less than
&gt;	>	greater than
&amp;	&	ampersand
&apos;	'	apostrophe
&quot;	"	quotation mark

Only < and & are strictly illegal in XML, but it is a good habit to replace > with > as well.

Comments in XML

The syntax for writing comments in XML is similar to that of HTML.

<!-- This is a comment -->

Two dashes in the middle of a comment are not allowed.

Not allowed:

```
<!-- This is a -- comment -->
```

Strange, but allowed:

```
<!-- This is a - - comment -->
```

White-space is Preserved in XML

XML does not truncate multiple white-spaces (HTML truncates multiple white-spaces to one single white-space):

XML:	Hello	Tove
HTML:	Hello Tove	

XML Stores New Line as LF

Windows applications store a new line as: carriage return and line feed (CR+LF).

Unix and Mac OSX uses LF.

Old Mac systems uses CR.

XML stores a new line as LF.

Well Formed XML

XML documents that conform to the syntax rules above are said to be "Well Formed" XML documents.

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XML Elements

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An XML document contains XML Elements.

What is an XML Element?

An XML element is everything from (including) the element's start tag to (including) the element's end tag.

```
<price>29.99</price>
```

An element can contain:

XML DOM

DOM Reference

- text
- attributes
- other elements
- or a mix of the above

```
<bookstore>
  <book category="children">
    <title>Harry Potter</title>
    <author>J K. Rowling</author>
    <year>2005</year>
    <price>29.99</price>
  </book>
  <book category="web">
    <title>Learning XML</title>
    <author>Erik T. Ray</author>
    <year>2003</year>
    <price>39.95</price>
  </book>
</bookstore>
```

In the example above:

<title>, <author>, <year>, and <price> have **text content** because they contain text (like 29.99).

<bookstore> and <book> have **element contents**, because they contain elements.

<book> has an **attribute** (category="children").

Web Services

XML DTD

Empty XML Elements

An element with no content is said to be empty.

In XML, you can indicate an empty element like this:

```
<element></element>
```

You can also use a so called self-closing tag:

```
<element />
```

The two forms produce identical results in XML software (Readers, Parsers, Browsers).

Empty elements can have attributes.

XML Naming Rules

XML elements must follow these naming rules:

- Element names are case-sensitive
- Element names must start with a letter or underscore
- Element names cannot start with the letters xml (or XML, or Xml, etc)

- Element names can contain letters, digits, hyphens, underscores, and periods
- Element names cannot contain spaces

Any name can be used, no words are reserved (except xml).

Best Naming Practices

Create descriptive names, like this: <person>, <firstname>, <lastname>.

Create short and simple names, like this: <book_title> not like this: <the_title_of_the_book>.

Avoid "-". If you name something "first-name", some software may think you want to subtract "name" from "first".

Avoid ".". If you name something "first.name", some software may think that "name" is a property of the object "first".

Avoid ":". Colons are reserved for namespaces (more later).

Non-English letters like éòá are perfectly legal in XML, but watch out for problems if your software doesn't support them.

Naming Styles

There are no naming styles defined for XML elements. But here are some commonly used:

Style	Example	Description
Lower case	<firstname>	All letters lower case

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Upper case	<FIRSTNAME>	All letters upper case
Underscore	<first_name>	Underscore separates words
Pascal case	<FirstName>	Uppercase first letter in each word
Camel case	<firstName>	Uppercase first letter in each word except the first

If you choose a naming style, it is good to be consistent!

XML documents often have a corresponding database. A common practice is to use the naming rules of the database for the XML elements.

Camel case is a common naming rule in JavaScripts.

XML Elements are Extensible

XML elements can be extended to carry more information.

Look at the following XML example:

```
<note>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Let's imagine that we created an application that extracted the <to>, <from>, and <body> elements from the XML document to produce this output:

MESSAGE

To: Tove
From: Jani

Don't forget me this weekend!

Imagine that the author of the XML document added some extra information to it:

```
<note>
  <date>2008-01-10</date>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
  <heading>Reminder</heading>
  <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Should the application break or crash?

No. The application should still be able to find the <to>, <from>, and <body> elements in the XML document and produce the same output.

This is of the beauties of XML. It can be extended without breaking applications.

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XML Attributes

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XML elements can have attributes, just like HTML.

Attributes are designed to contain data related to a specific element.

XML Attributes Must be Quoted

Attribute values must always be quoted. Either single or double quotes can be used.

For a person's gender, the <person> element can be written like this:

```
<person gender="female">
```

or like this:

```
<person gender='female'>
```

If the attribute value itself contains double quotes you can use single quotes, like in this example:

```
<gangster name='George "Shotgun" Ziegler'>
```

or you can use character entities:

```
<gangster name="George &quot;Shotgun&quot; Ziegler">
```

XML Elements vs. Attributes

Take a look at these examples:

```
<person gender="female">
  <firstname>Anna</firstname>
  <lastname>Smith</lastname>
</person>
```

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```
<person>
  <gender>female</gender>
  <firstname>Anna</firstname>
  <lastname>Smith</lastname>
</person>
```

In the first example gender is an attribute. In the last, gender is an element. Both examples provide the same information.

There are no rules about when to use attributes or when to use elements in XML.

My Favorite Way

The following three XML documents contain exactly the same information:

A date attribute is used in the first example:

```
<note date="2008-01-10">
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
</note>
```

A <date> element is used in the second example:

```
<note>
  <date>2008-01-10</date>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
</note>
```

An expanded <date> element is used in the third example: (THIS IS MY FAVORITE):

```
<note>
  <date>
    <year>2008</year>
    <month>01</month>
    <day>10</day>
  </date>
  <to>Tove</to>
  <from>Jani</from>
</note>
```

Avoid XML Attributes?

Some things to consider when using attributes are:

- attributes cannot contain multiple values (elements can)

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- attributes cannot contain tree structures (elements can)
- attributes are not easily expandable (for future changes)

Don't end up like this:

```
<note day="10" month="01" year="2008"
to="Tove" from="Jani" heading="Reminder"
body="Don't forget me this weekend!">
</note>
```

XML Attributes for Metadata

Sometimes ID references are assigned to elements. These IDs can be used to identify XML elements in much the same way as the id attribute in HTML. This example demonstrates this:

```
<messages>
  <note id="501">
    <to>Tove</to>
    <from>Jani</from>
    <heading>Reminder</heading>
    <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
  </note>
  <note id="502">
    <to>Jani</to>
    <from>Tove</from>
```

```
    <heading>Re: Reminder</heading>
    <body>I will not</body>
  </note>
</messages>
```

The id attributes above are for identifying the different notes. It is not a part of the note itself.

What I'm trying to say here is that metadata (data about data) should be stored as attributes, and the data itself should be stored as elements.

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XML Namespaces

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XML Namespaces provide a method to avoid element name conflicts.

Name Conflicts

In XML, element names are defined by the developer. This often results in a conflict when trying to mix XML documents from different XML applications.

This XML carries HTML table information:

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <td>Apples</td>
```

```
    <td>Bananas</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

This XML carries information about a table (a piece of furniture):

```
<table>
  <name>African Coffee Table</name>
  <width>80</width>
  <length>120</length>
</table>
```

If these XML fragments were added together, there would be a name conflict. Both contain a <table> element, but the elements have different content and meaning.

A user or an XML application will not know how to handle these differences.

Solving the Name Conflict Using a Prefix

Name conflicts in XML can easily be avoided using a name prefix.

This XML carries information about an HTML table, and a piece of furniture:

```
<h:table>
  <h:tr>
```

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XML DTD

XSD Schema

```
    <h:td>Apples</h:td>
    <h:td>Bananas</h:td>
  </h:tr>
</h:table>

<f:table>
  <f:name>African Coffee Table</f:name>
  <f:width>80</f:width>
  <f:length>120</f:length>
</f:table>
```

In the example above, there will be no conflict because the two <table> elements have different names.

XML Namespaces - The xmlns Attribute

When using prefixes in XML, a **namespace** for the prefix must be defined.

The namespace can be defined by an **xmlns** attribute in the start tag of an element.

The namespace declaration has the following syntax. xmlns:*prefix*="*URI*".

```
<root>

<h:table xmlns:h="http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/">
  <h:tr>
    <h:td>Apples</h:td>
    <h:td>Bananas</h:td>
```

```
  </h:tr>
</h:table>

<f:table xmlns:f="http://www.w3schools.com/furniture">
  <f:name>African Coffee Table</f:name>
  <f:width>80</f:width>
  <f:length>120</f:length>
</f:table>

</root>
```

In the example above:

The xmlns attribute in the first <table> element gives the h: prefix a qualified namespace.

The xmlns attribute in the second <table> element gives the f: prefix a qualified namespace.

When a namespace is defined for an element, all child elements with the same prefix are associated with the same namespace.

Namespaces can also be declared the XML root element:

```
<root
xmlns:h="http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/"
xmlns:f="http://www.w3schools.com/furniture">

<h:table>
  <h:tr>
    <h:td>Apples</h:td>
```

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```
    <h:td>Bananas</h:td>
  </h:tr>
</h:table>

<f:table>
  <f:name>African Coffee Table</f:name>
  <f:width>80</f:width>
  <f:length>120</f:length>
</f:table>

</root>
```

Note: The namespace URI is not used by the parser to look up information.

The purpose of using an URI is to give the namespace a unique name.

However, companies often use the namespace as a pointer to a web page containing namespace information.

Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)

A **Uniform Resource Identifier** (URI) is a string of characters which identifies an Internet Resource.

The most common URI is the **Uniform Resource Locator** (URL) which identifies an Internet domain address. Another, not so common type of URI is the **Universal Resource Name** (URN).

Default Namespaces

Defining a default namespace for an element saves us from using prefixes in all the child elements. It has the following syntax:

```
xmlns="namespaceURI"
```

This XML carries HTML table information:

```
<table xmlns="http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/">
  <tr>
    <td>Apples</td>
    <td>Bananas</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

This XML carries information about a piece of furniture:

```
<table xmlns="http://www.w3schools.com/furniture">
  <name>African Coffee Table</name>
  <width>80</width>
  <length>120</length>
</table>
```

Namespaces in Real Use

XSLT is a language that can be used to transform XML documents into other formats.

The XML document below, is a document used to transform XML into HTML.

The namespace "http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" identifies XSLT elements inside an HTML document:

```
<?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>
      <th style="text-align:left">Title</th>
      <th style="text-align:left">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>

</xsl:stylesheet>
```

If you want to learn more about XSLT, please read our XSLT Tutorial.

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Displaying XML

« Previous Next Chapter »

Raw XML files can be viewed in all major browsers.

Don't expect XML files to be displayed as HTML pages.

Viewing XML Files

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
 - <note>
     <to>Tove</to>
     <from>Jani</from>
     <heading>Reminder</heading>
     <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
  </note>
```

Look at the XML file above in your browser: note.xml

Most browsers will display an XML document with color-coded elements.

Often a plus (+) or minus sign (-) to the left of the elements can be clicked to expand or collapse the element structure.

To view raw XML source, try to select "View Page Source" or "View Source" from the browser menu.

Note: In Safari 5 (and earlier), only the element text will be displayed. To view the raw XML, you must right click the page and select "View Source".

Viewing an Invalid XML File

If an erroneous XML file is opened, some browsers will report the error, and some will display it, or display it incorrectly.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
 - <note>
     <to>Tove</to>
     <from>Jani</Ffrom>
     <heading>Reminder</heading>
     <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
  </note>
```

Try to open the following XML file: note_error.xml

Other XML Examples

Viewing some XML documents will help you get the XML feeling:

An XML breakfast menu
This is a breakfast food menu from a restaurant, stored as XML.

An XML CD catalog
This is a CD collection, stored as XML.

An XML plant catalog
This is a plant catalog from a plant shop, stored as XML.

Why Does XML Display Like This?

XML documents do not carry information about how to display the data.

Since XML tags are "invented" by the author of the XML document, browsers do not know if a tag like <table> describes an HTML table or a dining table.

Without any information about how to display the data, the browsers can just display the XML document as it is.

Displaying XML Files with CSS?

Below is an example of how to use CSS to format an XML document.

We can use an XML file like cd_catalog.xml and a style sheet like cd_catalog.css

RESULT: The CD catalog formatted with the CSS file

Below is a fraction of the XML file. The second line links the XML file to the CSS file:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<?xml-stylesheet type="text/css" href="cd_catalog.css"?>
<CATALOG>
  <CD>
    <TITLE>Empire Burlesque</TITLE>
    <ARTIST>Bob Dylan</ARTIST>
    <COUNTRY>USA</COUNTRY>
    <COMPANY>Columbia</COMPANY>
    <PRICE>10.90</PRICE>
    <YEAR>1985</YEAR>
  </CD>
  <CD>
    <TITLE>Hide your heart</TITLE>
    <ARTIST>Bonnie Tyler</ARTIST>
    <COUNTRY>UK</COUNTRY>
    <COMPANY>CBS Records</COMPANY>
    <PRICE>9.90</PRICE>
    <YEAR>1988</YEAR>
  </CD>
.
.
.
</CATALOG>
```

Formatting XML with CSS is not recommended. Use JavaScript or XSLT instead.

XSD References

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XML and XSLT

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With XSLT you can transform an XML document into HTML.

Displaying XML with XSLT

XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations) is the recommended style sheet language for XML.

XSLT is far more sophisticated than CSS. With XSLT you can add/remove elements and attributes to or from the output file. You can also rearrange and sort elements, perform tests and make decisions about which elements to hide and display, and a lot more.

XSLT uses XPath to find information in an XML document.

XSLT Example

We will use the following XML document:

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

<food>
<name>Belgian Waffles</name>
<price>$5.95</price>
<description>Two of our famous Belgian Waffles with plenty of real
maple syrup</description>
<calories>650</calories>
</food>

<food>
<name>Strawberry Belgian Waffles</name>
<price>$7.95</price>
<description>Light Belgian waffles covered with strawberries and
whipped cream</description>
<calories>900</calories>
</food>

<food>
<name>Berry-Berry Belgian Waffles</name>
<price>$8.95</price>
<description>Light Belgian waffles covered with an assortment of fresh
berries and whipped cream</description>
<calories>900</calories>
```

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```
</food>

<food>
<name>French Toast</name>
<price>$4.50</price>
<description>Thick slices made from our homemade sourdough
bread</description>
<calories>600</calories>
</food>

<food>
<name>Homestyle Breakfast</name>
<price>$6.95</price>
<description>Two eggs, bacon or sausage, toast, and our ever-popular
hash browns</description>
<calories>950</calories>
</food>

</breakfast_menu>
```

Use XSLT to transform XML into HTML, before it is displayed in a browser:

Example XSLT Stylesheet:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<html xsl:version="1.0"
xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">
<body style="font-family:Arial;font-size:12pt;background-
```

```
color:#EEEEEE">
<xsl:for-each select="breakfast_menu/food">
  <div style="background-color:teal;color:white;padding:4px">
    <span style="font-weight:bold"><xsl:value-of select="name"/> -
</span>
    <xsl:value-of select="price"/>
    </div>
  <div style="margin-left:20px;margin-bottom:1em;font-size:10pt">
    <p>
    <xsl:value-of select="description"/>
    <span style="font-style:italic"> (<xsl:value-of select="calories"/>
calories per serving)</span>
    </p>
  </div>
</xsl:for-each>
</body>
</html>
```

Transform the XML Document with XSLT »

If you want to learn more about XSLT, find our XSLT tutorial on our homepage.

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XML and XPath

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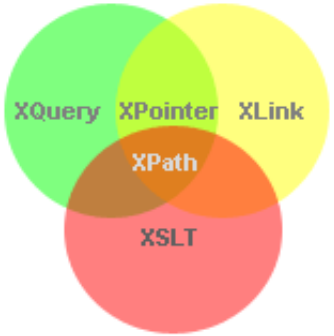
XPath (the XML Path language) is a language for finding information in an XML document.

What is XPath?



- XPath is a syntax for defining parts of an XML document
- XPath uses path expressions to navigate in XML documents
- XPath contains a library of standard functions
- XPath is a major element in XSLT
- XPath is also used in XQuery, XPointer and XLink
- XPath is a W3C recommendation

XPath Path Expressions

XPath uses path expressions to select nodes or node-sets in an XML document. These path expressions look very much like the expressions you see when you work with a traditional computer file system.

Today XPath expressions can also be used in JavaScript, Java, XML Schema, PHP, Python, C and C++, and lots of other languages.

XPath is Used in XSLT

XPath is a major element in the XSLT standard. Without XPath knowledge you will not be able to create XSLT documents.

XPath Example

We will use the following XML document:

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

<bookstore>

<book category="cooking">
  <title lang="en">Everyday Italian</title>
  <author>Giada De Laurentiis</author>
```

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XML DTD

XSD Schema

```
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>30.00</price>
</book>

<book category="children">
  <title lang="en">Harry Potter</title>
  <author>J K. Rowling</author>
  <year>2005</year>
  <price>29.99</price>
</book>

<book category="web">
  <title lang="en">XQuery Kick Start</title>
  <author>James McGovern</author>
  <author>Per Bothner</author>
  <author>Kurt Cagle</author>
  <author>James Linn</author>
  <author>Vaidyanathan Nagarajan</author>
  <year>2003</year>
  <price>49.99</price>
</book>

<book category="web">
  <title lang="en">Learning XML</title>
  <author>Erik T. Ray</author>
  <year>2003</year>
  <price>39.95</price>
</book>

</bookstore>
```

In the table below we have listed some XPath expressions and the result of the expressions:

XPath Expression	Result
/bookstore/book[1]	Selects the first book element that is the child of the bookstore element
/bookstore/book[last()]	Selects the last book element that is the child of the bookstore element
/bookstore/book[last()-1]	Selects the last but one book element that is the child of the bookstore element
/bookstore/book[position()<3]	Selects the first two book elements that are children of the bookstore element
//title[@lang]	Selects all the title elements that have an attribute named lang
//title[@lang='en']	Selects all the title elements that have a "lang" attribute with a value of "en"
/bookstore/book[price>35.00]	Selects all the book elements of the bookstore element that have a price element with a value greater than 35.00
/bookstore/book[price>35.00]/title	Selects all the title elements of the book elements of the bookstore element that have a price element with a value greater than 35.00

If you want to learn more about XPath, please read our XPath tutorial.

XML, XLink and XPointer

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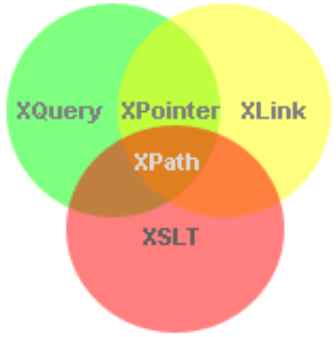
XLink is used to create hyperlinks in XML documents.



- XLink is used to create hyperlinks within XML documents
- Any element in an XML document can behave as a link
- With XLink, the links can be defined outside the linked files
- XLink is a W3C Recommendation

XLink Browser Support

XML Certificate

XML DOM

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There is no browser support for XLink in XML documents. However, all major browsers support XLinks in SVG.

XLink Syntax

In HTML, the <a> element defines a hyperlink. However, this is not how it works in XML. In XML documents, you can use whatever element names you want - therefore it is impossible for browsers to predict what link elements will be called in XML documents.

Below is a simple example of how to use XLink to create links in an XML document:

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

<homepages xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink">
  <homepage xlink:type="simple"
xlink:href="http://www.w3schools.com">Visit W3Schools</homepage>
  <homepage xlink:type="simple" xlink:href="http://www.w3.org">Visit
W3C</homepage>
</homepages>
```

To get access to the XLink features we must declare the XLink namespace. The XLink namespace is: "http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink".

The xlink:type and the xlink:href attributes in the <homepage> elements come from the XLink namespace.

The xlink:type="simple" creates a simple "HTML-like" link (means "click here to go there").

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The xlink:href attribute specifies the URL to link to.

XLink Example

The following XML document contains XLink features:

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

<bookstore xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink">

<book title="Harry Potter">
  <description
  xlink:type="simple"
  xlink:href="/images/HPotter.gif"
  xlink:show="new">
  As his fifth year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and
  Wizardry approaches, 15-year-old Harry Potter is.......
  </description>
</book>

<book title="XQuery Kick Start">
  <description
  xlink:type="simple"
  xlink:href="/images/XQuery.gif"
  xlink:show="new">
  XQuery Kick Start delivers a concise introduction
  to the XQuery standard.......
  </description>
```

```
</book>

</bookstore>
```

Example explained:

- The XLink namespace is declared at the top of the document (xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink")
- The xlink:type="simple" creates a simple "HTML-like" link
- The xlink:href attribute specifies the URL to link to (in this case - an image)
- The xlink:show="new" specifies that the link should open in a new window

XLink - Going Further

In the example above we have demonstrated simple XLinks. XLink is getting more interesting when accessing remote locations as resources, instead of standalone pages.

If we set the value of the xlink:show attribute to "embed", the linked resource should be processed inline within the page. When you consider that this could be another XML document you could, for example, build a hierarchy of XML documents.

You can also specify WHEN the resource should appear, with the xlink:actuate attribute.

XLink Attribute Reference

Attribute	Value	Description

XSD Numeric
XSD Misc

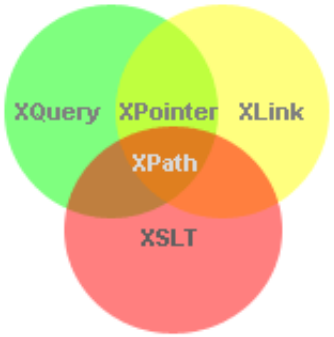
XSD References

XSD Reference

xlink:actuate	onLoad onRequest other none	Defines when the linked resource is read and shown: • onLoad - the resource should be loaded and shown when the document loads • onRequest - the resource is not read or shown before the link is clicked
xlink:href	*URL*	Specifies the URL to link to
xlink:show	embed new replace other none	Specifies where to open the link. Default is "replace"
xlink:type	simple extended locator arc resource title none	Specifies the type of link

XPointer

- XPointer allows links to point to specific parts of an XML



document
- XPointer uses XPath expressions to navigate in the XML document
- XPointer is a W3C Recommendation

XPointer Browser Support

There is no browser support for XPointer. But XPointer is used in other XML languages.

XPointer Example

In this example, we will use XPointer in conjunction with XLink to point to a specific part of another document.

We will start by looking at the target XML document (the document we are linking to):

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

<dogbreeds>

<dog breed="Rottweiler" id="Rottweiler">
  <picture url="http://dog.com/rottweiler.gif" />
  <history>The Rottweiler's ancestors were probably Roman
  drover dogs.....</history>
```

```
  <temperament>Confident, bold, alert and imposing, the Rottweiler
  is a popular choice for its ability to protect....</temperament>
</dog>

<dog breed="FCRetriever" id="FCRetriever">
  <picture url="http://dog.com/fcretriever.gif" />
  <history>One of the earliest uses of retrieving dogs was to
  help fishermen retrieve fish from the water....</history>
  <temperament>The flat-coated retriever is a sweet, exuberant,
  lively dog that loves to play and retrieve....</temperament>
</dog>

</dogbreeds>
```

Note that the XML document above uses id attributes on each element!

So, instead of linking to the entire document (as with XLink), XPointer allows you to link to specific parts of the document. To link to a specific part of a page, add a number sign (#) and an XPointer expression after the URL in the xlink:href attribute, like this: xlink:href="http://dog.com/dogbreeds.xml#xpointer(id('Rottweiler'))". The expression refers to the element in the target document, with the id value of "Rottweiler".

XPointer also allows a shorthand method for linking to an element with an id. You can use the value of the id directly, like this: xlink:href="http://dog.com/dogbreeds.xml#Rottweiler".

The following XML document contains links to more information of the dog breed for each of my dogs:

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

<mydogs xmlns:xlink="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink">

<mydog>
  <description>
  Anton is my favorite dog. He has won a lot of.....
  </description>
  <fact xlink:type="simple"
xlink:href="http://dog.com/dogbreeds.xml#Rottweiler">
  Fact about Rottweiler
  </fact>
</mydog>

<mydog>
  <description>
  Pluto is the sweetest dog on earth......
  </description>
  <fact xlink:type="simple"
xlink:href="http://dog.com/dogbreeds.xml#FCRetriever">
  Fact about flat-coated Retriever
  </fact>
</mydog>

</mydogs>
```

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XML Document Types

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An XML document with correct syntax is called "Well Formed".

A "Valid" XML document must also conform to a document type definition.

Well Formed XML Documents

An XML document with correct syntax is "Well Formed".

The syntax rules were described in the previous chapters:

- XML documents must have a root element
- XML elements must have a closing tag
- XML tags are case sensitive
- XML elements must be properly nested

XML DOM

DOM Reference

- XML attribute values must be quoted

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

An XML Validator

To help you check the syntax of your XML files, we have created an XML validator to syntax-check your XML.

Valid XML Documents

A "valid" XML document is not the same as a "well formed" XML document.

A "valid" XML document must be well formed. In addition it must conform to a document type definition.

Rules that defines the legal elements and attributes for XML documents are called Document Type Definitions (DTD) or XML Schemas.

There are two different document type definitions that can be used with XML:

- DTD - The original Document Type Definition
- XML Schema - An XML-based alternative to DTD

When to Use a DTD/Schema?

With a DTD, independent groups of people can agree to use a standard DTD for interchanging data.

Your application can use a standard DTD to verify that the data you receive from the outside world is valid.

You can also use a DTD to verify your own data.

When to NOT to Use a DTD/Schema?

XML does not require a DTD/Schema.

When you are experimenting with XML, or when you are working with small XML files, creating DTDs may be a waste of time.

If you develop applications, wait until the specification is stable before you add a document definition. Otherwise, your software might stop working because of validation errors.

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XML DTD

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An XML document with correct syntax is called "Well Formed".

An XML document validated against a DTD is both "Well Formed" and "Valid".

Valid XML Documents

A "Valid" XML document is a "Well Formed" XML document, which also conforms to the rules of a DTD:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE note SYSTEM "Note.dtd">
<note>
```

```
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

The DOCTYPE declaration, in the example above, is a reference to an external DTD file. The content of the file is shown in the paragraph below.

XML DTD

The purpose of a DTD is to define the structure of an XML document. It defines the structure with a list of legal elements:

```
<!DOCTYPE note
[
<!ELEMENT note (to,from,heading,body)>
<!ELEMENT to (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT from (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT heading (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT body (#PCDATA)>
]>
```

The DTD above is interpreted like this:

- !DOCTYPE note defines that the root element of the document is note

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- !ELEMENT note defines that the note element must contain the elements: "to, from, heading, body"
- !ELEMENT to defines the to element to be of type "#PCDATA"
- !ELEMENT from defines the from element to be of type "#PCDATA"
- !ELEMENT heading defines the heading element to be of type "#PCDATA"
- !ELEMENT body defines the body element to be of type "#PCDATA"

 #PCDATA means parse-able text data.

Using DTD for Entity Declaration

A doctype declaration can also be used to define special characters and character strings, used in the document:

Example

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

<!DOCTYPE note [
<!ENTITY nbsp " ">
<!ENTITY writer "Writer: Donald Duck.">
<!ENTITY copyright "Copyright: W3Schools.">
]>

<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
```

```
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
<footer>&writer; &copyright;</footer>
</note>
```

Try it yourself »

An entity has three parts: an ampersand (&), an entity name, and a semicolon (;).

Why Use a DTD?

With a DTD, independent groups of people can agree on a standard for interchanging data.

With a DTD, you can verify that the data you receive from the outside world is valid.

If you want to study DTD, please read our DTD Tutorial.

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XML Schema

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An XML Schema describes the structure of an XML document, just like a DTD.

An XML document with correct syntax is called "Well Formed".

An XML document validated against an XML Schema is both "Well Formed" and "Valid".

XML Schema

XML Schema is an XML-based alternative to DTD:

```
<xs:element name="note">
```

```
<xs:complexType>
  <xs:sequence>
    <xs:element name="to" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="from" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="heading" type="xs:string"/>
    <xs:element name="body" type="xs:string"/>
  </xs:sequence>
</xs:complexType>

</xs:element>
```

The Schema above is interpreted like this:

- <xs:element name="note"> defines the element called "note"
- <xs:complexType> the "note" element is a complex type
- <xs:sequence> the complex type is a sequence of elements
- <xs:element name="to" type="xs:string"> the element "to" is of type string (text)
- <xs:element name="from" type="xs:string"> the element "from" is of type string
- <xs:element name="heading" type="xs:string"> the element "heading" is of type string
- <xs:element name="body" type="xs:string"> the element "body" is of type string

XML Schemas are More Powerful than DTD

- XML Schemas are written in XML
- XML Schemas are extensible to additions
- XML Schemas support data types

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XML DTD

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- XML Schemas support namespaces

Why Use an XML Schema?

With XML Schema, your XML files can carry a description of its own format.

With XML Schema, independent groups of people can agree on a standard for interchanging data.

With XML Schema, you can verify data.

XML Schemas Support Data Types

One of the greatest strength of XML Schemas is the support for data types:

- It is easier to describe document content
- It is easier to define restrictions on data
- It is easier to validate the correctness of data
- It is easier to convert data between different data types

XML Schemas use XML Syntax

Another great strength about XML Schemas is that they are written in XML:

- You don't have to learn a new language
- You can use your XML editor to edit your Schema files
- You can use your XML parser to parse your Schema files

- You can manipulate your Schemas with the XML DOM
- You can transform your Schemas with XSLT

If you want to study XML Schema, please read our XML Schema Tutorial.

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XML on the Server

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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>
```

```
  <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
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.

XSD Numeric
XSD Misc

XSD References

XSD Reference

The example above uses ASP with ADO.

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

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!

See how it works.

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XML Applications

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This chapter demonstrates some HTML applications using XML, HTTP, DOM, and JavaScript.

The XML Document Used

In this chapter we will use the XML file called "cd_catalog.xml".

Display XML Data in an HTML Table

This example loops through each <CD> element, and display the values of the <ARTIST> and the <TITLE> elements in an HTML table:

Example

```
<html>
<head>
<style>
table, th, td {
  border: 1px solid black;
  border-collapse:collapse;
}
th, td {
  padding: 5px;
}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<table id="demo"></table>

<script>
function loadXMLDoc() {
  var xmlhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
  xmlhttp.onreadystatechange = function() {
    if (xmlhttp.readyState == 4 && xmlhttp.status == 200) {
      myFunction(xmlhttp);
    }
  };
  xmlhttp.open("GET", "cd_catalog.xml", true);
  xmlhttp.send();
}
function myFunction(xml) {
```

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```
  var i;
  var xmlDoc = xml.responseXML;
  var table="<tr><th>Artist</th><th>Title</th></tr>";
  var x = xmlDoc.getElementsByTagName("CD");
  for (i = 0; i <x.length; i++) {
    table += "<tr><td>" +
    x[i].getElementsByTagName("ARTIST")[0].childNodes[0].nodeValue +
    "</td><td>" +
    x[i].getElementsByTagName("TITLE")[0].childNodes[0].nodeValue +
    "</td></tr>";
  }
  document.getElementById("demo").innerHTML = table;
}
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

Try it yourself »

For more information about using JavaScript and the XML DOM, go to DOM Intro.

Display the First CD in an HTML div Element

Ths example uses a function to display the first CD element in an HTML element with id="showCD":

Example

```
displayCD(0);

function displayCD(i) {
    var xmlhttp = new XMLHttpRequest();
    xmlhttp.onreadystatechange = function() {
        if (xmlhttp.readyState == 4 && xmlhttp.status == 200) {
            myFunction(xmlhttp, i);
        }
    };
    xmlhttp.open("GET", "cd_catalog.xml", true);
    xmlhttp.send();
}

function myFunction(xml, i) {
    var xmlDoc = xml.responseXML;
    x = xmlDoc.getElementsByTagName("CD");
    document.getElementById("showCD").innerHTML =
    "Artist: " +
    x[i].getElementsByTagName("ARTIST")[0].childNodes[0].nodeValue +
    "<br>Title: " +
    x[i].getElementsByTagName("TITLE")[0].childNodes[0].nodeValue +
    "<br>Year: " +
    x[i].getElementsByTagName("YEAR")[0].childNodes[0].nodeValue;
}
```

Try it yourself »

XSD Numeric
XSD Misc

XSD References

XSD Reference

Navigate Between the CDs

To navigate between the CDs, in the example above, add a next() and previous() function:

Example

```
function next() {
  // display the next CD, unless you are on the last CD
  if (i < x.length-1) {
    i++;
    displayCD(i);
  }
}

function previous() {
  // display the previous CD, unless you are on the first CD
  if (i > 0) {
  i--;
  displayCD(i);
  }
}
```

Try it yourself »

Show Album Information When Clicking On a CD

The last example shows how you can show album information when the user clicks on a CD:

Try it yourself.

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XML Examples

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These examples demonstrate XML files, XML formatting and XML transformation (XSLT).

They also demonstrate JavaScript used together with XML (AJAX).

Viewing XML Files

View a simple XML file (note.xml)
View the same XML file with an error
View an XML CD catalog
View an XML plant catalog
View an XML food menu

Examples explained

XML and CSS

View an XML CD catalog
View the corresponding CSS file
Display the CD catalog formatted with the CSS file

Examples explained

XML and XSLT

View an XML food menu
Display the food menu styled with an XSLT style sheet

Examples explained

Parsing XML and the XML DOM

View a simple XML file (note.xml)
Parse the XML file - Crossbrowser example
Parse an XML string - Crossbrowser example

Examples explained

XML Applications

View an XML CD catalog
Display XML data in an HTML table Show XML data inside an HTML div element
Navigate through XML nodes
A simple CD catalog application

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Examples explained

XML Output From a Server

See how ASP can return XML
See how PHP can return XML
View XML output from a database

Examples explained

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XML Validator

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Use our XML validator to syntax-check your XML.

XML Errors Will Stop You

Errors in XML documents will stop your XML applications.

The W3C XML specification states that a program should stop processing an XML document if it finds an error. The reason is that XML software should be small, fast, and compatible.

HTML browsers are allowed to display HTML documents with errors (like missing end tags).

With XML, errors are not allowed.

XML Certificate

XML DOM

DOM Intro
DOM Nodes
DOM XMLHttpRequest
DOM Accessing
DOM Node Info
DOM Node List
DOM Traversing
DOM Navigating
DOM Get Values
DOM Change Nodes
DOM Remove Nodes
DOM Replace Nodes
DOM Create Nodes
DOM Add Nodes
DOM Clone Nodes
DOM Examples

DOM Reference

DOM Node Types
DOM Node
DOM NodeList
DOM NamedNodeMap
DOM Document
DOM Element

Syntax-Check Your XML

To help you syntax-check your XML, we have created an XML validator.

Try to validate correct XML : Validate

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Try to validate incorrect XML : Validate

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</pheading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

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Try to validate your own XML : Validate

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

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XML Quiz

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You can test your XML skills with W3Schools' Quiz.

The Test

The test contains 25 questions and there is no time limit.

The test is not official, it's just a nice way to see how much you know, or don't know, about XML.

Count Your Score

You will get 1 point for each correct answer. At the end of the Quiz, your total score will be

displayed. Maximum score is 25 points.

Good luck! Start the XML Quiz

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The CSS Certificate documents your knowledge of advanced CSS.

The JavaScript Certificate documents your knowledge of JavaScript and HTML DOM.

The jQuery Certificate documents your knowledge of jQuery.

The PHP Certificate documents your knowledge of PHP and SQL (MySQL).

The XML Certificate documents your knowledge of XML, XML DOM and XSLT.

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