

# INTRODUCTION TO INTERACTIVE WEB APPLICATIONS



- Press Space to navigate through the slides
- Use Shift+Space to go back

# MODULE STRUCTURE



- Lecture
  - **Thursday** – 09:00-11:30 Group A
  - **Thursday** – 12:00-2:30 Group B
- Breakdown of assessments
  - **CA1** in Semester 1 – 25%
  - **CA2** in Semester 2 – 25%
  - **EXAM** – 50%
- 2% penalty per day for late submissions

# PLAGIARISM

- CCT is constantly striving to build a culture which values and supports good academic conduct
- Academic dishonesty is a **serious offence** that will not be tolerated
- Students found to be involved in plagiarism will be brought before the **Academic Standards Board**

# IN-CLASS TECHNOLOGIES

- **GitHub** – <http://github.com> (<http://github.com>)
- **Slack** – <http://slack.com> (<http://slack.com>)
- **Jupyter Notebook** – <http://jupyter.com> (<http://jupyter.com>)
- **Binder** – <http://mybinder.org> (<http://mybinder.org>)
- **Moodle** – <http://moodle.cct.ie> (<http://moodle.cct.ie>)

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMPUTING



- **pre-1960s:** IBM, first electronic computers
- **1960s:** Intel, file system, mainframes
- **1970s:** Microsoft, Apple, Unix, first personal computers
- **1980s:** Era of PCs, MS-DOS, Internet
- **1990-2000s:** Rise of WWW, client-server, Web 2.0

# SERVER-SIDE SCRIPTING

- Access to server-side environment
- Database interactions
- Access to server file-system
- Authentication / Authorisation
- Process requests and construct appropriate responses
- **PHP, Perl, Ruby, Node.js and other solutions**

# CLIENT-SIDE SCRIPTING



- Access to client-side environment – typically a browser
- Manipulate client-side environment
- Respond to client-side events
- Perform client-side validation of data
- Security restrictions in place
- **JavaScript and its frameworks**

# DATA EXCHANGE

There are four central problems in data management:

- Capture
- Storage
- Retrieval
- Exchange of data

RDF, XML, Atom, JSON, YAML, REBOL, Gellish

# EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE



The popularity of **XML** for data exchange on the **World Wide Web** has several reasons:

- Closely related to the preexisting standards **Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML)** and **Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)**
- **XHTML** has been defined as a format that is formal **XML**, but understood correctly by most **HTML** parsers
- The design goals of **XML** emphasise simplicity, generality, and usability across the Internet

- XML stands for eXtensible Markup Language
  - XML is a mark-up language much like HTML
  - XML was designed to carry data, not to display data
  - XML tags are not predefined – **you define your own tags!**
  - XML is designed to be self-descriptive
  - XML is a W3C Recommendation
- 
- Maybe a little hard to conceptualise, but XML **does not DO anything.**
  - XML was created to structure, store, and transport information.

```
In [29]: from display_xml import XML
XML('<note><to>Tove</to><from>Jani</from><heading>Reminder</heading><body>Don&apo
s;t forget me this weekend!</body></note>')
```

```
Out[29]: <note>
    <to>Tove</to>
    <from>Jani</from>
    <heading>Reminder</heading>
    <body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

- The note above 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**
- It is just information wrapped in tags
- Someone must write a piece of software to send, receive or display it.

# XML



- **eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML)** is a mark-up language that defines a set of rules for encoding documents in a format that is both human-readable and machine-readable
- Many **application programming interfaces (APIs)** have been developed for software developers to use to process XML data, and several schema systems exist to aid in the definition of **XML-based languages**.

# WHY XML IS NEEDED? 🤔

- XML provides a robust and durable format for information storage and transmission
- Displaying the same data in multiple formats
- Information tailored to fit the needs of the reader
- Moving the processing load from the web server to the client

# BENEFITS OF XML

- Programmers structure data in an infinite variety of ways
- With every new way of structuring data comes a new methodology for extracting the information we need
- If the data changes, the methodologies also have to change, and testing and tweaking begin again
- With **XML** there is a standardised way to get the information, no matter how we structure it

- We have control over how we structure our **XML** files
- The data can be marked-up in any way we choose
- Agreed standard formats to perform common tasks can make data exchange between applications easier
  - Scalable vector graphics (**SVG**) describes 2D graphics
  - **MathML** used to describe mathematics

# HTML, XML, CSS

- **HTML** for display
- **XML** for data exchange
- **HTML** is designed for a specific application and to convey information visually in a browser
- Because **HTML** has a specific application it is also restricted by having a specific set of finite markup constructs that are used to create an **HTML** document
- **CSS** is used with HTML and XML to display the contents of a document in a clear and precise manner.

# SUMMARY 😎

- Evolution of computing
- Server-side & Client-side
- Data exchange and XML
- Uses and benefits of XML
- HTML, XML and CSS