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LIS469

XML Review

XML, Extensible Markup Language, is an interesting tool/language for use in a myriad of ways and for many purposes. As an undergrad, I studied literature and xml, it seems, can be used to contribute to literary pursuits. The following website illustrates this idea:

<http://www.csun.edu/~sk36711/WWW/tutorials/markup_and_literature.html>

The idea of a universal language (for e-commerce), which XML has been described as, is an interesting idea in and of itself. Anyone who has ever written anything could tell you that the idea of a universal language is like a holy grail of sorts. Who wouldn’t be thrilled by the prospect of writing something universally translatable? The following website discusses this idea:

<http://www.computerweekly.com/feature/XML-the-universal-language>

Commerce is fine but supposing it could be used to encode meaning and engender purpose instead of number crunching and data transporation? This is only speculation but it’s still interesting.

Though, admittedly, I’m slightly unclear about the purpose of XML and why it’s important, I’m interested in it because it doesn’t allow for error. This unforgiving aspect of it attracts me, for better or worse. The following is an example of an XML file pertaining to tennis (which I was pretty good at once upon a time):

<http://www.enetpulse.com/wp-content/uploads/sample_xml_feed_enetpulse_tennis.xml>

The following website is an example a group who practices xml standardization:

<http://www.w3.org/Style/XSL/>

XML is a more precise way of coding than HTML. It is more specialized than any other language on the web as far as I can tell. It has no set tags, but a great number of rules including how data contained within the tags can and can not be used. Arguably, XML might be considered less useful than HTML for generating an average webpage or displaying any kind of data online but perhaps more elegant or refined. There is less messy code when using XML, less odds and and ends so to speak if you are viewing the code itself. It also might be considered harder to understand also because it is so user specific (no set tags, no universally identifiable tags in common with other coders or users). As a language, it is superior in its orderliness to HTML, its hierarchy of structure.