Section 3: Introduction To HTML

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# HTML Basics

Hypertext Markup Language is the structure and content of the page, not the styling! It was produced between 1989 and 1990 back in the day when academics were exchanging research papers that had structured formatting. Back then there was no standardised way of exchanging these across the web. HTML was developed in response to the need for a way for researchers to send papers to each other in a format that allowed for the structure of the papers to remain consistent in structure and content.

HTML works in tags, it allows developers to designate what content is, and how it is structured (for example, this is a bullet point, this is a link, this is a paragraph). A big contribution was the inclusion of document linking via hyperlinks (It wasn’t revolutionary, but it suited what the language set out to do well).

HTML is built on the idea of <tags> </tags>. Content is sandwiched between an opening tag (<>) and a closing tag (</>). Each tag has a tag name to specify how the sandwiched content is to be structured. Tags can also have attributes to give each element additional properties (such as a href to another source or document).

For example, if we want a heading, we could do:

<h1>Abstract</h1>.

Or a paragraph:

<p>This is a paragraph tag. It is used to separate individual paragraphs.</p>.

# Introduction to Mozilla Developer Network

Mozilla Developer Network (or MDN) is a useful resource for guidance around HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Find it at <https://developer.mozilla.org>. The notes for this are enclosed in a separate document.

# HTML Basics