External DTD

In external DTD elements are declared outside the XML file. They are accessed by specifying the system attributes which may be either the legal *.dtd* file or a valid URL. To reference it as external DTD, *standalone* attribute in the XML declaration must be set as **no**. This means, declaration includes information from the external source.

### Syntax

Following is the syntax for external DTD −

<!DOCTYPE root-element SYSTEM "file-name">

where *file-name* is the file with *.dtd* extension.

### Example

The following example shows external DTD usage −

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

<!DOCTYPE address SYSTEM "address.dtd">

<address>

<name>Tanmay Patil</name>

<company>GEHU</company>

<phone>(011) 123-4567</phone>

</address>

The content of the DTD file **address.dtd** are as shown −

<!ELEMENT address (name,company,phone)>

<!ELEMENT name (#PCDATA)>

<!ELEMENT company (#PCDATA)>

<!ELEMENT phone (#PCDATA)>

### Types

You can refer to an external DTD by either using **system identifiers** or **public identifiers**.

**System Identifiers**

A system identifier enables you to specify the location of an external file containing DTD declarations. Syntax is as follows −

<!DOCTYPE name SYSTEM "address.dtd" [...]>

As you can see it contains keyword SYSTEM and a URI reference pointing to the location of the document.

**Public Identifiers**

Public identifiers provide a mechanism to locate DTD resources and are written as below −

<!DOCTYPE name PUBLIC "-//Beginning XML//DTD Address Example//EN">

As you can see, it begins with keyword PUBLIC, followed by a specialized identifier. Public identifiers are used to identify an entry in a catalog. Public identifiers can follow any format, however, a commonly used format is called *Formal Public Identifiers, or FPIs.*