

Web Design and Development I

Week 8: Tables

1.0 Overview

The HTML tables allow web authors to arrange data like text, images, links, other tables, etc. into rows and columns of cells. The HTML tables are created using the `<table>` tag in which the `<tr>` tag is used to create table rows and `<td>` tag is used to create data cells. The elements under `<td>` are regular and left aligned by default.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>HTML Tables</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <table border = "1">
      <tr>
        <td>Row 1, Column 1</td>
        <td>Row 1, Column 2</td>
      </tr>

      <tr>
        <td>Row 2, Column 1</td>
        <td>Row 2, Column 2</td>
      </tr>
    </table>

  </body>
</html>
```

Here, the **border** is an attribute of `<table>` tag and it is used to put a border across all the cells. If you do not need a border, then you can use `border = "0"`.

1.1 Table Heading

Table heading can be defined using `<th>` tag. This tag will be put to replace `<td>` tag, which is used to represent actual data cell. Normally you will put your top row as table heading as shown below, otherwise you can use `<th>` element in any row. Headings, which are defined in `<th>` tag are centered and bold by default.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>HTML Table Header</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <table border = "1">
      <tr>
        <th>Name</th>
        <th>Salary</th>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td>Ramesh Raman</td>
        <td>5000</td>
      </tr>

      <tr>
        <td>Shabbir Hussein</td>
        <td>7000</td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </body>

</html>
```

1.2 Cellpadding and Cellspacing Attributes

There are two attributes called *cellpadding* and *cellspacing* which you will use to adjust the white space in your table cells. The *cellspacing* attribute defines space between table cells, while *cellpadding* represents the distance between cell borders and the content within a cell.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>HTML Table Cellpadding</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <table border = "1" cellpadding = "5" cellspacing = "5">
      <tr>
        <th>Name</th>
        <th>Salary</th>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td>Ramesh Raman</td>
        <td>5000</td>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td>Shabbir Hussein</td>
        <td>7000</td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </body>
</html>
```

1.3 Colspan and Rowspan Attribute

You will use **colspan** attribute if you want to merge two or more columns into a single column. Similar way you will use **rowspan** if you want to merge two or more rows.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>HTML Table Colspan/Rowspan</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <table border = "1">
      <tr>
        <th>Column 1</th>
        <th>Column 2</th>
        <th>Column 3</th>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td rowspan = "2">Row 1 Cell 1</td>
        <td>Row 1 Cell 2</td>
        <td>Row 1 Cell 3</td>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td>Row 2 Cell 2</td>
        <td>Row 2 Cell 3</td>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td colspan = "3">Row 3 Cell 1</td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </body>

</html>
```

1.4 Table Background;

You can set table background using one of the following two ways –

- **bgcolor** attribute – You can set background color for whole table or just for one cell.
- **background** attribute – You can set background image for whole table or just for one cell.

You can also set border color also using **bordercolor** attribute.

1.5 Table Height and Width

You can set a table width and height using **width** and **height** attributes. You can specify table width or height in terms of pixels or in terms of percentage of available screen area.

1.6 Table Caption

The **caption** tag will serve as a title or explanation for the table and it shows up at the top of the table. This tag is deprecated in newer version of HTML/XHTML.

1.7 Table Header, Body, and Footer

Tables can be divided into three portions – a header, a body, and a foot. The head and foot are rather similar to headers and footers in a word-processed document that remain the same for every page, while the body is the main content holder of the table.

The three elements for separating the head, body, and foot of a table are –

- **<thead>** – to create a separate table header.
- **<tbody>** – to indicate the main body of the table.
- **<tfoot>** – to create a separate table footer.

A table may contain several **<tbody>** elements to indicate *different pages* or groups of data. But it is notable that **<thead>** and **<tfoot>** tags should appear before **<tbody>**

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

  <head>
    <title>HTML Table</title>
  </head>

  <body>
    <table border = "1" width = "100%">
      <thead>
        <tr>
          <td colspan = "4">This is the head of the table</td>
        </tr>
      </thead>

      <tfoot>
        <tr>
          <td colspan = "4">This is the foot of the table</td>
        </tr>
      </tfoot>

      <tbody>
        <tr>
          <td>Cell 1</td>
          <td>Cell 2</td>
          <td>Cell 3</td>
          <td>Cell 4</td>
        </tr>
      </tbody>

    </table>
  </body>

</html>
```

1.8 Nested Tables

You can use one table inside another table. Not only tables you can use almost all the tags inside table data tag <td>.