

XML

The main difference between XML and HTML

XML was designed to carry data.

XML is not a replacement for HTML.
XML and HTML were designed with different goals:

- XML was designed to describe data and to focus on what data is.
- HTML was designed to display data and to focus on how data looks.
- HTML is about displaying information, while XML is about describing information.

XML does not DO anything

XML was not designed to DO anything.

Maybe it is a little hard to understand, but XML does not DO anything.
XML was created to structure, store and to send information.

The following example is a note to Tove from Jani, stored as XML:

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

Don't forget me this weekend!</body> </note>The note has a header and a message body. It also has sender and receiver information. But still, this XML document does not DO anything. It is just pure information wrapped in XML tags. Someone must write a piece of software to send, receive or display it.

Elements vs. Attributes

Use of Elements vs. Attributes

Data can be stored in child elements or in attributes.

```
<person sex="female">
  <firstname>Anna</firstname>
  <lastname>Smith</lastname>
</person>
```

```
<person>
  <sex>female</sex>
  <firstname>Anna</firstname>
  <lastname>Smith</lastname>
</person>
```

In the first example sex is an attribute. In the last, sex is a child element. Both examples provide the same information.

There are no rules about when to use attributes, and when to use child elements. My experience is that attributes are handy in HTML, but in XML you should try to avoid them. Use child elements if the information feels like data.

```
<note>
<date>
  <day>12</day>
  <month>11</month>
  <year>2002</year>
</date>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

Well Formed - Valid

"Well Formed" XML documents

A "Well Formed" XML document has correct XML syntax.

A "Well Formed" XML document is a document that conforms to the XML syntax rules that were described in the previous chapters:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```

"Valid" XML documents

A "Valid" XML document also conforms to a DTD.

A "Valid" XML document is a "Well Formed" XML document, which also conforms to the rules of a Document Type Definition (DTD):

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<!DOCTYPE note SYSTEM "InternalNote.dtd">
<note>
<to>Tove</to>
<from>Jani</from>
<heading>Reminder</heading>
<body>Don't forget me this weekend!</body>
</note>
```