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The Basics of HTML/CSS

A Tutorial



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Introduction to the language

Most people have heard about HTML, it being one of the most used languages for websites. But when it comes to what a programming language is, or why CSS and HTML are often considered equal many might not know.

A programming language is a type of software written in such a way that both a human and a computer can understand it. It often breaks down into a series of text giving the computer commands to do or show something. That is what we mean when we say programming language, and it is easily comparable to other languages, such as English.

Now, the reason why HTML and CSS are often put in the same group is because technically they are the same language. HTML has to do with the structure, contents and style of a basic website. CSS only handles the style and structure part, meaning you can't change the contents in CSS. This is done for one purpose: Multi Use. When having an external file where the style is operated, you can make multiple websites look similar without doing as much work.

Programs to use for coding

A problem many people encounter when they first start writing code is that they don't know what programs to use to be able to create codes that work effectively. And the simple trick to that is:

Every program where you can write text in and save it on your computer can be turned into code.

It might sound strange but even a Word document or text document can become a code, if you write everything right, and format the file in the right way. But to be on the safe side, you probably should install a separate program so that you can more effectively keep all documents code related in one place.

For this there are 3 programs I would recommend: Brackets, Visual Studio Code and Atom. These are all great tools to better the experience, and personally I've used Brackets the most. You should try them all out and see which is best for yourself. I would personally go with Brackets, since it's easy to understand, and works great.

Formatting to HTML / CSS file

The biggest part about making a HTML or CSS file is making sure the file has been formatting to become such a file. This means that no matter what program you use to write this code, it will not become code until you make it code. Do this by changing the file format into either ".html" or ".css". There are tutorials online for how to do this on your system.

The making of the code

This is where the fun begins.

Head and body

You are going to start this by making a document in your desired program, naming it whatever you feel like, and then saving it as a “.html” file. This is where all the content will be stored. When this is done you can start by writing the first parts of the code, which is `<head>` and `<body>`

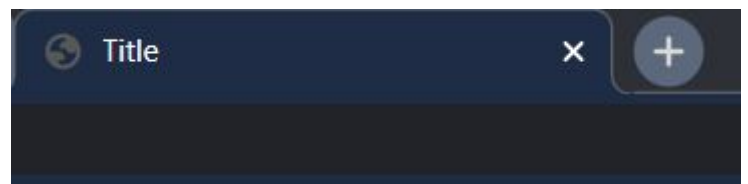
```
1 <head>
2
3
4 </head>
5
6 <body>
7
8
9 </body>
```

When writing code, it's important to remember to start a command with “<>” and end it a command with “</>”, example “<head> </head>”

Name of page (Title)

Now you've set up the beginning of the HTML code, and you can start adding the contents. The first content you're going to add, is a title. This you do by adding the tag `<title>` within the `<head>` tag. Add whatever you wish the title to be between the first and second title. Don't forget to end the tag. It should look like this:

```
1 <head>
2
3 <title>Title</title>
4
5 </head>
6 |
7 <body>
8
9
10 </body>
```



Now you can add whatever you wish withing the tags but remember that this is only the part that is going to appear at the very top, where the information what the page name is.

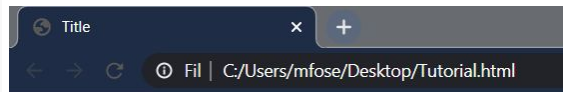
Title for page

Now to get some text going on the site, you will have to add the `<h1>` tag. This tag goes between the start and end of `<body>`. The `<h1>` is a part of a series of text prompts which you can use to write different sized titles for your site. `<h1>` is the biggest of them, while `<h7>` is the smallest you can get. The different ones are accessed by just replacing the number. For now, we are going to use `<h1>`, so that we can get a big title for the page. After adding the `<h1>` tag and writing a word in the middle, it should look something like this:

```

1 <head>
2
3     <title>Title</title>
4
5 </head>
6
7 <body>
8
9     <h1>This is a title</h1>
10
11 </body>

```



This is a title

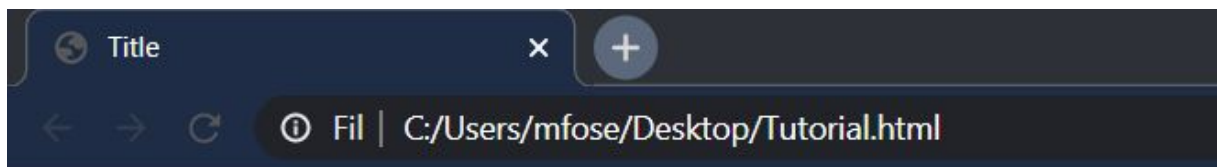
Paragraph

Now, to add a paragraph underneath this title, you can simply use the `<p>` tag. This allows for a specific size on the text, smaller than all the `<hX>` tags. This will also allow you to change the style of this tag without affecting everything else. Simply repeat the process made in the other steps, just with the `<p>` tag and a different text. It should look like this:

```

1 <head>
2
3     <title>Title</title>
4
5 </head>
6
7 <body>
8
9     <h1>This is a title</h1>
10
11     <p>This is a paragraph. Most of the time these have a couple of words in them.</p>
12
13 </body>

```



This is a title

This is a paragraph. Most of the time these have a couple of words in them.

Now you have a basic page setup. Hopefully by now you have understood that all tags need to be both start with the tag name and ended with the tag name + a dash. This formula is repeated for all commands. If you search online, you can find the different names for all the commands so that you can start making more changes to everything.

Style

Now its time to add the style tag. This tag makes the design of the page different, giving your page the special effect that everyone wants. Mainly we are going to talk about color and size. The style tag should be located within the `<head>` tag. To start making changes to a tag and an element in the code, you need to write the name of the tag you wish to change. First we are going to change the

<h1> tag, which mean you should write “h1{ }” in the style tag. This part is going to allow you to add both color and size changes to the <h1> title by typing the changes in between the “{ }”.

Color

Changing the color of a text is simple. You just type “color:” into the document and add either the hexadecimal value or the name of the color into it. Most programming programs have these setups already, meaning the process should be somewhat automatic. Example “color: aqua;” It should look somewhat like this:

```
<head>

  <title>Title</title>

  <style>

    h1{
      color: aqua;
    }

  </style>
</head>
```

Size

Size is done in a similar fashion, but instead you use the tag “font-size:”. The special part about this, is that you must make the measurements in pixels. Meaning you will have to make small changes to this during the time of editing it. This is something you do by adding the number and the two letter “px” to the end. Example “font-size: 25px;” It should look something like this:

```
1 <head>
2
3   <title>Title</title>
4
5   <style>
6
7     h1{
8       color: aqua;
9       font-size: 25px;
10    }
11
12  </style>
13 </head>
14
```

Ending

Congratulations, you now know the basics of how to program with HTML / CSS. There is still lots to learn, and if you wish to expand your knowledge on the subject matter, I suggest you visit www.w3schools.com. This website has knowledge on everything you need to make a somewhat advanced HTML / CSS project, and it explains everything well.

Hope this tutorial helps you in the making of a basic website!