Week2

Briefly explain a situation wherein an application might not require input documents to be valid (against a DTD) but instead merely well-formed. Explain as well how a DTD might still be useful in this case.

XML is used in many aspects of web development, often to simplify data storage and sharing. Theses aspects including separates data from HTML, simplifies data sharing, data transport and platform changes, makes data more available and etc. In most cases, XML should be valid especially for those application build whole project by using XML. However, XML can be invalid but well-formed upon some occasions like transfer or sharing data. Only key data must be valid. Some of irrelevant data can be invalid but well-formed. For example, there is an application dealing with customer relationship. It stores both personal details and customer hobbies by XML. In this case, Personal details is relevant to the application and it must satisfy DTD constraints. Customer hobbies are irrelevant data. So it is good enough for being well-formed.

Nevertheless, DTD or RelaxNg Schema is still useful in dealing with data recovery if some of data is broken during transaction. It is helpful to fix it up by using DTD or RelaxNg Schema. In addition, those schemas can also help people focusing on majority part of data instead of its full features. I therefore believe DTD is still useful in this case.