Define HTML semantic tags. Why are these important for screen readers? Explain your reasoning.

Professor and students,

HTML semantic elements use tags that clearly define the purpose of the element. An example of this is the <form> tag which clearly marks the element as a form. This supposedly allows data to be shared across applications and developers and prevent confusion.

I could see how it could prevent confusion. Just looking at the code and seeing a clearly labeled <form> tag would immediately let me know where the form was located. I don’t understand how this allows data to be shared between applications though. Could I get some clarification on this?

Dioukou,

So the tags are useful for those with visual impairments? Of course! Because it makes it much easier to use screen readers! As long as tags are labeled a certain way, the screen reader will know what to read, and its placement on the screen.

Scott,

Alt attributes are one way to add descriptions to Images, but I’ve heard of another. There is an AI that, when given an image, creates a description of what it contains. Last I heard, the AI was new and imperfect- it kept labeling things as giraffes for some reason. Once the AI improves by a certain amount, then maybe it will become widely used for this purpose- especially when a site has a large amount of images or hosts images uploaded by users,