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IT 202 - 453

10-4-19

Assignment 1: XHTML vs. HTML5

Initially, I had thought hat XHTML wouldn’t be too much different when compared to HTML. I had expected the main differences to just be making sure that all tags are closed and such. After spending all night coding up the entire website, I totally forgot to check to see if it passes the W3C XHTML standards. When I decided to submit my file into the website, and it came out with about 80 or so errors, and 3 warnings. Trying to fix all these issues was very annoying. Some of these issues had to do with the fact that in the image tag: <img src=”name.jpg”, alt=”This is a picture”/> there is an issue, and its not a big issue. In XHTML Strict standard, the comma separating the src line and the alt line cannot be there. Instead, in XHTML Strict, you just run that code without the comma there. Another issue I had with the image tag was, I had at times when I put an image tag before the header or paragraph, it wouldn’t work. This is because in XHTML, you can only show an image if its inside an <h> tag or a <p> tag, etc. I also had the same issue with the <br /> tag as well, as I had my code formatted in a way that I knew where it was that I was breaking. In the XHTML validator, it wasn’t allowed. Another massive, and probably the most annoying issue was with the meta tag. I decided to check back on the text book on what the meta tag for an XHTML file would be, and all it said about the meta tag was that they were commenting the HTML meta tag. So when I submitted the file into the XHTML validator, it gave me multiple warnings on the meta tag. I was given a warning instead of an error for this because the meta tag was overridden by the browser to the default of “utf-8”, thus even though the meta tag was an issue, it can be ignored in that situation. Getting frustrated with how to fix the meta tag, I selected the verbose output on the validator website, to get some more information and see if I can figure out what the warning was about. Even then I wasn’t able to find the proper information what it should be, so I spend quiet a lot of time googling on how to fix it as I didn’t know how to word the question properly. When I finally figured out how to word the question, and found the website, it gave me multiple meta tags that can be used for an XHTML file. The first meta tag was the one I was currently using, so I skipped that, and tried the next one, and it worked. So this meta tag issue was a massive pain to debug. Another major issue I ran into later on was the issue with my hypertext link. The website I was looking to hyperlink to was a pdf document. So when I used the <a href=”fileName”> tag, it didn’t work. The validator kept on saying that there was a missing closing tab. So a random idea cam across my mind to try using a different website, so I just typed in cat in google, and clicked the first link, and copied it to the hyperlink tag. This time, when I submitted the file into the validator, it actually worked. I email my professor, to only get back the answer that I will need to use a different website, which means different data set, so I had to redo my table. Even without all these issues, HTML5 is just a much simpler format to code to, and thus I personally prefer to code in HTML5 rather than XHTML.