

# COMP 1017

Revisiting Anchor Tags

Anchor tags (the `<a>` element) does all sorts of cool stuff, like linking to other web pages.

It can also link to files,  
email addresses, and  
locations on the same page.

# Linking to Other Things

We can link to **files** in our framework folder the same way that we link to other pages.

```
<a href="cool-file.pdf">
```

Click here for a PDF!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- Instead of linking to an HTML  
document, we're linking to a PDF. -->
```

If we're linking to a file, we should make that link **open** in **another browser tab** or window.

```
<a href="cool-file.pdf"  
target="_blank">
```

Click here for a PDF!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- The target attribute lets us tell  
the browser to open this resource in  
another tab or window. -->
```



Specifically where this file opens depends upon the user's settings.

Using the **target attribute** is **best practice** when linking to non-HTML resources.

We can also make our anchor tag open up **other apps** by modifying the path.

```
<a href="mailto:nowhere@gmail.com">
```

Send an email to nowhere.

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- This will try to launch the user's  
default email client and create a new  
message. -->
```

With a **mailto:** URL, we can specify things like multiple recipients, the subject line, and so forth.

Similarly, we can use `tel:` to launch the user's default phone app.

```
<a href="tel:18884475594">
```

By the gods, you've done it!

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- This will launch the user's default  
phone app with this number already pre-  
dialled. -->
```

This link behaviour depends upon which apps the user's device has.

ex. Facetime and Skype can be used on desktops.



# Same-page Links

Finally, we can link to an element on the **same page**.

This is helpful if you have a long single-page website, or if you have distinct sections of content.

To do it, we have to assign an **id** to the element we want to link to.

Remember that an **id** should be unique, or only used **once per page**.

```
<section id="cool-stuff">
```

```
...
```

```
</section>
```

```
<!-- This assigns the id #cool-stuff  
      to this section. -->
```

```
<a href="#cool-stuff">
```

Click here for some cool stuff.

```
</a>
```

```
<!-- Here, we're linking to anything with the  
id #cool-stuff. If there is an element with  
that id on the page, our browser will skip to  
it. -->
```

This is one way that we can help screen readers skip to a certain section (skip links), or let the user return to the top of the page.



# Further Reading

MDN Web Docs: The Anchor Element

<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element/a>

MDN Web Docs: Email Links

[https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Introduction\\_to\\_HTML/Creating\\_hyperlinks#E-mail\\_links](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Introduction_to_HTML/Creating_hyperlinks#E-mail_links)