17 IMG (image) Tag Basics

**IMG (image) Tag Basics**

The A (anchor) tag allows us to invoke a resource out on the Web, usually an HTML page, and bring it up in our web browser window, as we have discussed. But A (anchor) tags are not restricted to invoking only HTML resources. Here is a hyper-text reference created using the A (anchor) tag, which invokes a GIF resource; this link invokes **"satthumb.gif"** which is sitting on my web server:

[View of Saturn](http://fog.ccsf.org/%7Esrubin/satthumb.gif)

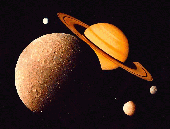
Code:

<a href="http://fog.ccsf.org/~srubin/satthumb.gif">View of Saturn</a>

Now, even though we can invoke an image resource using the A (anchor) tag, we can't INSERT an image into an HTML page this way; we can only create a hot-link or hyper-reference TO an image. To actually insert an image/picture into the flow of an HTML page, we need to use the IMG (image) tag.

Wherever you place an IMG tag in the flow of HTML, a picture will be inserted. The IMG tag uses a URL to locate a particular image resource on the Internet, gives the web browser information concerning the exact dimensions of the image so that space can be reserved on the page for the picture, and inserts the image into the page at the exact location of the IMG tag in the flow of HTML.

Here is an image, inserted into this HTML page:



HTML5 code for the above example:

<img src="http://fog.ccsf.org/~srubin/satthumb.gif" width="170" height="129" alt="saturn" title="saturn">

XHTML code for the above example:

<img src="http://fog.ccsf.org/~srubin/satthumb.gif" width="170" height="129" alt="saturn" title="saturn" />

Tag: **IMG**  
Attributes: **SRC**, **WIDTH**, **HEIGHT**, **ALT, TITLE**  
Example:

<img src="http://fog.ccsf.org/~srubin/satthumb.gif" width="170" height="129" alt="saturn" title="saturn">

Description: Use the IMG tag to insert an image into an HTML document.

The SRC (pronounced "source") attribute value must be set to the URL for the image that you want to insert; this URL may be either absolute or relative. This attribute tells the web browser which picture is to be inserted and where that picture is located on the Internet.

The WIDTH attribute value must be set to an integer which is the width of the image, in pixels.

The HEIGHT attribute value must be set to an integer which is the height of the image, in pixels.

**Note:** The WIDTH and HEIGHT attributes should ALWAYS be set for the IMG tag; a web browser requires these attributes in order to reserve the correct space on the page for the picture.

**Note:** The ALT attribute will allow it's value to pop-up when the user hovers over it, in most browsers except Firefox. The ALT attribute is also required for accessibility of sight impaired persons and for XHTML validation. The TITLE attribute will pop-up it's value when the user hovers over it in Firefox. I suggest always using both attributes for the IMG tag.