

Dealing with data
An example of Computer vs Human interpretation Computer Time 10:30pm Place Sydney Human I need to be on a plane that leaves Sydney at 10:30pm otherwise I won't get to Los Angeles Humans need to know the extra context as well as the data
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Dealing with data

- Problem: How can we represent data so that computers and humans can both read it in the way that they understand?
- Answer: XML



What is XML?

- XML...
 - stands for eXtensible Markup Language
 - A standard set of design rules to make data readable by humans and computers
 A document that follows these rules is an XML Document or
 - an XML Application



What is eXtensible?

- An important thing to know is the meaning of eXtensible...
 - It means that the user has full control over the data, context, and patterns used in a XML document
 - Therefore, an XML document can contain any data the
 - user wants
 - XML can thus be used for many different purposes.

Think of XML like a template or framework.



The XML Family

- XML = eXtensible Markup Language
 A syntax for arbitrary semantic tags

 DTD = Document Type Definition
 Defines the structure (pattern) of a valid XML document

 XSLT = eXtensible Stylesheet Language
 Transformations
 An XML document that describes how to transform another XML document into a different format.
- There are some other members such as XML Schema and XSL-FO that perform similar tasks to DTD and XSLT, but these will not be covered in this course.



Basic XML Principles

- XML is extensible (meaning that the user is able to adjust the structure of the XML application to suit their needs)
- XML can be used to exchange data with other users and programs in a platform independent way
- XML is self-describing and can be used to express meaningful semantics of documents (it provides context for data)

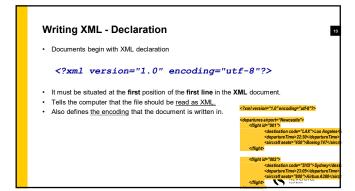




How XML is different from HTML

- XML and HTML were designed with different goals:
 - XML was designed to transport and store data, with focus on what data is
 - HTML was designed to display data, with focus on how data looks
- XML is not a replacement for HTML
 - It is a complement to HTML





Writing XML - Tags • The rest of the document is written using tags - An opening and closing tag (or a content tag) <tag> contents </tag> - A single tag <tag > (= <tag> ... </tag>: with no content) - Nesting tags <outerTag> <innerTag>Now for some data</innerTag> </outerTag>

XML Elements • An XML element is everything from (including) the element's start tag to (including) the element's end tag. • An element can contain: - Root Tag - Sub Teg - Attributes - Element contents (=Data) Root Tag of recipes attribute - recipe group="beef"> - (title Grill-(title) = sub Tag of recipe> - (title Grill-(title) = sub Tag of recipe> - (recipe) = (recipe) = (recipe) = (recipe) - (recipes) Text value/number value of - servings >

Writing XML - Tags

- · Tags let us assign a context to each piece of data
 - Example: Write the time 10:30pm in XML...

 <time>10:30pm</time>
 <pm>10:30

<amPm>pm</amPm>
</clock>

- Remember, XML is eXtensible all these answers are correct. The answer you choose is $\ensuremath{\mathbf{up}}$ to you.
- · Can you think of some other answers?



Writing XML - Attributes

- All tags can optionally contain attributes small single-word pieces of information that describe a property of the tag
- Tags can have as many attributes as you like. All attributes must have an associated **value**, which is given inside quotes

<tag attribute="value"> ... </tag>

<tag attribute="value" />





Writing XML - Attributes

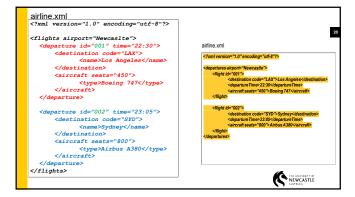
 You can have as many attributes as you like Each attribute *must* have a value Examples:

</clock>

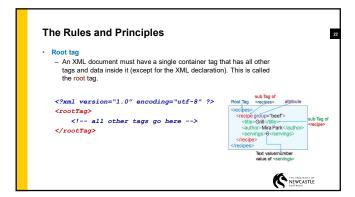
Once again, the attributes you use are totally up to you

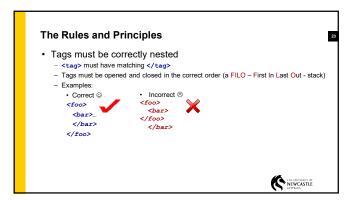


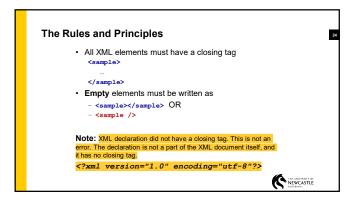
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Tag names can be anything you like, providules	ded they follow the following
 Start with a letter or the "_" character 	
- Contains only letters, digits, ", "-	-" or "."
Tag names are case sensitive !!!	
- <name> and <name> are NOT the same</name></name>	
- <message> This is incorrect </message>	
- <message> This is correct </message>	







	- This is my first XML, author: Mira Park xml version="1.0"encoding="utf-8"?		
The Rules and Principles	<pre><departures airport="Newcastle"> <!--- first flight ---> <flight id="1001"></flight></departures></pre>		
XML applications can contain comments Are ignored by the application software Possibly thrown away by the XML parser Examples:	destination code: "LXP-Lox Angleis-(destination) departur lime 22-30-(departur lime) dispartur lime 22-30-(departur lime) dispartur seate: "450"-Boeing 747-(aircraft) dilipit d-second light dilipit it "102"- departur lime 21-30-(departur lime) departur lime 21-30-(departur lime) dispartur lime 21-30-(departur lime)		
remember to fix up this section of</th <th>XML></th>	XML>		
what does foobar really mean?			
It must be situated at the first position of the first line in the XML document.			
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	<pre><?xml version="1.0"encoding="utf-8"?> <!--- This is my first XML, author: Mira Park--></pre>			
The Rules and Principles	<pre><departures airport="Newcastle"> <!--- first flight ---> flight id="001"> </departures></pre>			
XML applications can contain comments Are ignored by the application software Possibly thrown away by the XML parser Examples:	destination coder "LAX"-Los Angeles-Visetinations departure Time 2: 20-4 departure Times - destination - departure Times - departure Times - 23: 55-4 departure Times - departure Times - 23: 55-4 departure Times - departure Times			
remember to fix up this section of XML				
what does foobar really mean?				
It must be situated at the first position of the first line in the XML document.				
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VML Parser In computing, a parser is a program (or a piece of code) which analyses files to identify the component parts. Parsed data Unparsed data

Parsing an XML Document

- Most of browsers include a built-in XML parser.
 Don't expect XML files to be displayed as HTML pages.
- If there are no syntax errors, the XML
 document will be
 displayed. A plus (+) or
 minus sign (-) to the left
 of the elements can be clicked to expand or collapse the element structure.

<!-- Edited by XMLSpy® --> +<note></note>



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Parsed Character Data

- Parsed Character DATA, or PCDATA consists of all those characters that XML treats as parts of the code of XML document

 The XML declaration

 The opening and closing tags of an element

 Empty element tags

 Character or entity references

 Comments

 Processing inclusive times

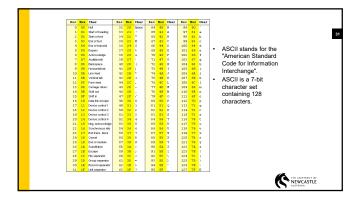
 - Processing instructions

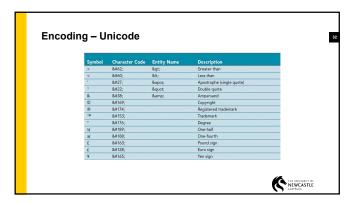


Encoding - Unicode

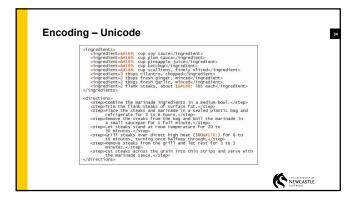
- All XML parsers are required to understand the Unicode encodings UTF-8
- · Unicode aims to cover all characters in all past or present written languages
- · Code points 0-127 coincide with ACSII characters
- The syntax &#N; denotes Unicode code point N http://www.unicode.org/

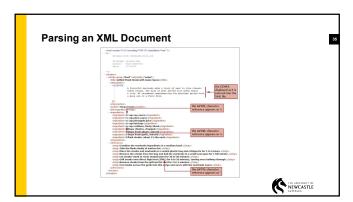






One bytes: the first 128 characters (US-ASCII) need one byte. Two bytes: the next 1,920 characters need two bytes to encode. This includes Latin letters with diacritics and characters from the Greek, Cyrillic, Coptic, Armenian, Hebrew, Arabic, Syriac and Tāna alphabets. Three bytes are needed for the rest of the Basic Multilingual Plane (which contains virtually all characters in common use). Four bytes are needed for characters in the other planes of Unicode, which include less common CJK characters and various historic scripts.





Unparsed data Imagine an XML page with large chunk of C code. XML parser will try to parse everything including characters like *s*, < and will syntax errors CDATA - (Unparsed) Character Data The term CDATA is used about text data that should not be parsed by the XML parser Everything inside a CDATA section is ignored by the parser

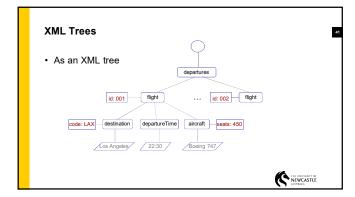
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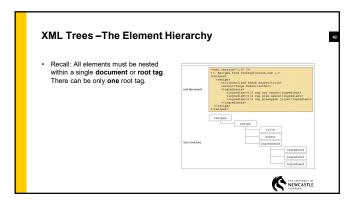
Unparsed Data • You can enter raw character data using <! [CDATA [raw text]]> - The raw text is parsed through XML parser without processing - Example: <! [CDATA [foo<bar & bar>foobar]]> In parsed data, equivalent to (foo<bar & bar>,foobar) as Unicode entities.

CDATA Example | Compared to the control of the con

Conceptually, an XML document is a hierarchical structure called an XML tree, consisting of nodes of various kinds arranged as a tree XML Trees - Another way to represent XML that may make it easier to understand Lets us visualise the structure







How to define our own tags?

- DTD = Document Type Definition
 - Defines the structure (pattern) of a valid XML document and with a list of legal elements and attributes.
 - The purpose of a DTD is to define the legal building blocks of an XML document.
- XML Schema
 - XML Schema is an XML-based alternative to DTDs (Not covered in this course)



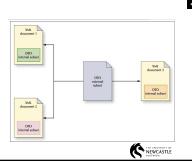
Document Type Definition (DTD)

- · A DTD describes
- Which tags are valid in an XML Document
- Which tags can be nested inside which tags
- Which attributes are valid for which tags



DTD

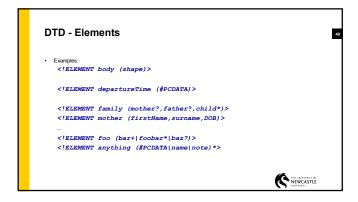
- · It can be divided into two parts: an internal subset and an external subset.
 - An internal subset is declarations placed in the same file as the document content.
 - An external subset is located in a separate file.

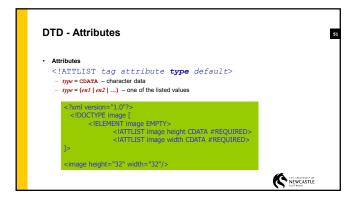


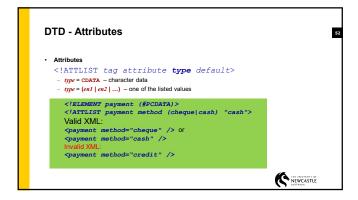
Linking XML and DTD • Internal DTD • IDOCTYPE root_tag [DTD_rules]> • External DTD • IDOCTYPE root_tag SYSTEM "file">

DTD - Elements <!ELEMENT tag (children)> - children is a list of tags, commas (,) separate "sequences" <!ELEMENT family (mother, father, child)> <!ELEMENT body (shape)> - No children? A special child #PCDATA for XML character data <!ELEMENT departureTime (#PCDATA)> - Vertical bars (|) separate "choices" <!ELEMENT foo (bar|foobar|baz)>

• Each child has an optional modifier - child = one and only one such child allowed - child+ = one or more such children allowed - child* = zero or more such children allowed - child? = zero or one such children allowed • Mixed content - ((#PCDATA| child2 | ... | childn)*)







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DTD - Attributes

• Attributes

• !ATTLIST tag attribute type default>

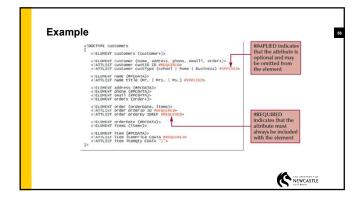
- default = #FIXED value - value cannot be changed by the tag

- default = #REQUIRED - must be supplied by the tag

- default = #IMPLIED - no default, but doesn't have to be supplied by the tag
```

DTD - Attributes <!ATTLIST tag attribute type default>: - default = #FIXED value - DTD: <!ATTLIST sender company CDATA #FIXED "Microsoft"> - Valid XML: <sender company="Microsoft" /> - Invalid XML: <sender company="Wischools" /> - Use the #FIXED keyword when you want an attribute to have a fixed value. If another value is given, the parser will return an error.

DTD - Attributes <!ATTLIST tag attribute type default>: default = #IMPLIED - DTD: <!ATTLIST contact fax CDATA #IMPLIED> - Valid XML: <contact fax="555-667788" /> - Valid XML: <contact fax="555-667788" /> - Use the #IMPLIED keyword if you don't want to force the inclusion of an attribute



DTD - Entities Entities Entities are variables used to define shortcuts to standard text or special characters. Entity references are references to entities As well as XML predefined entities such as: >, <, &, ", ' Other Entities can be defined in the DTD

Creating Parsed Entities <!ENTITY name "value"> - Defines a new character entity & name; • For example, an entity named "MBL25" can be created to store a product description: <!ENTITY MBL25 @Monarch Butterfly, 6-12 larvae"> • After an entity is declared, it can be referenced anywhere within the document. <item> &MBL25; </item> • This is interpreted as <item> Monarch Butterfly, 6-12 larvae </item> should not be there

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Example - XML + DTD

<pr
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Example - XML + DTD

Tutorials_dtd

<|ELEMENT tutorials (tutorial)+>
<|ELEMENT tutorial (name,url)>
<|ELEMENT url (#FCDATA)>
<|ELEMENT url (#FCDATA)>
<|ATTLIST tutorials type CDATA #REQUIRED>
```

XML Validation against DTD A document is well-formed XML if-and-only-if: - Its syntax conforms to the XML specification - Its tags form a hierarchical tree, with a single root node • A document is **valid** XML if-and-only-if: - It is well-formed, and ... - It conforms to an associated DTD - http://validator.w3.org

Summary

- The rules and principles of XML

 XML Parsing
 CDATA and PCDATA

 XML Trees the hierarchical structure of the XML document

 How to define your own XML tags
 Internal and External DTD
 How to declare DTD elements

 How to set the attributes for DTD elements

 What is a DTD entity



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References

- Programming the World Wide Web
 By Robert W. Sebesta

 - Chapter 7
- http://www.w3schools.com/xml/default.asp
- http://www.w3resource.com/xml/xml.php



Credits	67	
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http://www.w3.org/TR/xpath http://www.w3schools.com/xml/default.asp		
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