Why don't self-closing script tags work?

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76

What is the reason browsers do not correctly recognize:

```
<script src="foobar.js" /> <!-- self-closing script tag -->
```

Only this is recognized:

```
<script src="foobar.js"></script>
```

Does this break the concept of XHTML support?

Note: This statement is correct at least for all IE (6-8 beta 2).

`javascript` `html` `internet-explorer` `xhtml`

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