**Summary**

The key power that XML provides us with is the ability to exchange information between machines and especially applications. Because the format of an XML document is standard ASCII text, we can easily process that information with a parser into a format that can be used within an application.

Two main types of parser exist: the event-driven parser, which processes each XML tag in sequence within a document and in turn triggers an event designed to handle that tag; and the tree-based parser, which converts the XML document into a complex tree structure. Examples of such parsers include the SAX system (event-driven) and DOM (tree-based).

To aid in the exchange of information, the Unicode system allows us to deal with a variety of different characters so that we can deal with foreign and even multilanguage documents without resorting to the use of special markup systems or other tricks.

For exchanging information between two different machines over a network, we can use two systems, SOAP and XML-RPC, that make use of the XML standard to exchange information between different computers and even different languages transparently.