

# XHTML

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## Overview

XHTML is one of the many XML-based languages that have been defined. It is a cleaned up version of HTML, reformulated using XML DTD technology.

There are three XHTML DTDs (corresponding to the three versions of HTML 4):

- Strict (should be used when rendering is controlled by CSS)
- Transitional (to be used for browsers that do not support CSS)
- Frameset (allows the use of `<frame>` tags due to popular demand)

It's designed to be compatible with XML-oriented user-agents, as well as HTML 4-oriented user agents.

## XHTML vs. HTML

- An XHTML document must be a well-formed XML document and must be valid according to one of the DTDs listed above.
  - It must contain one root element.
  - The root element must be delimited by `<html>` and `</html>` tags.
  - All XHTML tags and attributes must be in lower case.
  - Every non-empty element must have start and closing tags.
  - The start tag for an empty element must have a final `/`.
  - Elements must be properly nested.
  - Attribute values must be quoted.
  - Attributes must have values.
- CSS and JavaScript in the file must be escaped using CDATA tags as they're not XML:

```
<style>
<![CDATA[
    body {background-color:white;}
]]>
</style>
```