

We had the class rep elections. Ben and Fiach were elected as Ents and Academic respectively.

Frank pointed out that the voting would have been easy to implement for the third years, but that the difficulty would be making it user-friendly.

At the moment, the temporary lab group slots are Tues 9–11 and Friday 9–11. There is a clash with a maths module, so he will keep us posted on developments.

My group is Friday 9–11 at the moment.

HTML (cont.)

Standards and Validation

There are (too) many types of html e.g. html4.0, xhtml, html5.

This course will comply with html5.

All documents will have to start with `<!DOCTYPE html>`.

The ! tells that this is not a real html tag (since it has no closing tag).

This tag tells the browser that everything from the next line on will be html.

Showed us the ucc webpage and pointed out that it was not written by humans, which you can tell by the structure.

Mentioned a content management system.

Line breaks not important in html, you can write everything on one line if you want.

This is because we don't know what the browser window width will be, so it would be silly to force specific line breaks in html.

Anything in <> brackets is a html tag.

Most html tags come in opening and closing pairs e.g. and .

Html tags are case-insensitive. He recommends using uppercase letters because it makes them more visible.

He suggests that that majority of errors the first few times will be due to closing tags in the wrong order or not having every opening tag balanced by a closing tag.

If your html is wrong, the browser (especially Firefox) will attempt to interpret it correctly, but the only way you can guarantee that your code displays correctly on all browsers is to have correct html.

He will mark for indentation and formatting as well. Even if your html works perfectly, if it is poorly indented and not easily readable, you will lose marks.

Indentation example:

```
<UL>
    <LI>
        <A>

        </A>
    </LI>
</UL>
```

Write this in logical order, by writing the UL tags together first, then the LI tags together, then the A tags.

It would also be acceptable to do the A tags on one line, with the text between them.

This principle is also maintained in programming languages (HTML is a markup language, not a programming language).

The Wikipedia code looks awful (no indentation) because it was written by a program that constructed it from a database.

Common HTML Tags

```
<font size="3" color="red">This is some text!</font>
```

Here only the text between the tags will be displayed, and the tags specify how it will be displayed.

Attributes are separated only by whitespace.

He emphasised that this is poor coding because you are assuming that there are ways the user normally views things. Some people may view all text as red, so this text won't stand out, for example.

Avoid anything that specifies appearance in html, as a general rule.

Use CSS instead.

More on that later.