When describing HTML, I thought it be best to provide some history on the hypertext markup language. Throughout its history, it has had many changes in its uses and the standards that it has been kept to rather it be from either Netscape or Microsoft. Author Jeffrey Veen describes the origin as, “When Tim Berners-Lee was putting together his first elementary browsing and authoring system for the Web, he created a quick little hypertext language that would serve his purposes.” What happened next for the creator, he did not expect.

With the markup text language, since it was so simple, many people were able to learn it very quickly which led to the creation of hundreds of web pages. As the years went by, the language would be updated by people across the web rather than Tim Berners-Lee, who had no intention of being the only developer. An example mentioned is how a college student named Marc Andressen added the “<img>” aspect of the language. (Veen, 1997) With the language constantly growing by different creators, the language needed some order or else there would be completely different markup languages rather than the one. In understanding that this may become a reality, companies that were developing different versions knew that they had to cooperate as much as possible to ensure that there is one version for the most part even though there may be challenges on agreeing certain standards.

But, what is really HTML, a format that has changed throughout the years? In simple, HTML is a computer language developed to allow website creation for anyone on the Internet to view. Like how I mentioned that it is always changing, it is to ensure that website are able to meet the demand of an Internet audience that are becoming more capable of accessing information. With HTML, you can break it up into three separate parts: HyperText, Markup, and Language. (Shannon, 2020)

Hypertext: how someone can move around the Internet by clicking different hyperlinks. The ‘hyper’ aspect refers to how the movement is not a linear process for people.

Markup: it includes the HTML tags which are wrapped around certain text giving those different meanings such as imbedded images or make text headers.

Language: like all other code languages, it contains syntax and a certain structure.

Once you have developed your HTML file, you can then have the opportunity of seeing your creation through a browser where it will read your file and translate it into the web pages that we see on a daily basis.

For HTML, even though it is constantly being changed to include new features and opportunities, it makes you consider how this fits into our field and the world of data. It can either be from us pulling data from the sites or performing analysis on how much interaction a site is receiving. For us to understand the foundation of web pages, I believe we will be able to have a better picture of how data is stored on these sites and how we can access them.

References:

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