<< Week 2A >>

COIN-078B
Internet Programming with XML

XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations)

Module Objectives

You'll learn...
- what XSL is and its role on XML
- the differences between XSLT and XSL-FO
- how to use XSLT to transform your XML documents from one structure to another
- how to use XSLT to reorder the output according to a specific criteria
- how to use XSLT to only display certain pieces of information

Reading Assignments:

- **Textbook:** Chapter 13

What is XSL?

XSL is an XML-based language for expressing stylesheets. Designers use an XSL stylesheet to express their intentions about how their XML documents should be presented; that is, how the source content should be styled, laid out, and paginated onto some presentation medium, such as a window in a Web browser or a hand-held device, or a set of physical pages in a catalog, report, pamphlet, or book.

It consists of two parts:

1. **XSLT** (XSL Transformations) which is a language for transforming XML documents, and

2. **XSL-FO** (XSL Formatting Objects) that consists of an XML vocabulary for specifying formatting semantics.

An XSL stylesheet specifies the presentation of a class of XML documents by describing how an instance of the class is transformed into an XML document that uses the formatting vocabulary.

How Does It Work?

An XSL **stylesheet processor** reads an XML document and an XSL stylesheet and produces the presentation of that XML source content in the form that was intended by the designer of that stylesheet. There are two aspects of this