World Wide Web Consortium

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Founded and currently led by Tim Berners-Lee, the consortium is made up of member organizations which maintain full-time staff for the purpose of working together in the development of standards for the World Wide Web. As of 4 November 2015, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has 408 members.

The W3C also engages in education and outreach, develops software and serves as an open forum for discussion about the Web.

History

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The organization tries to foster compatibility and agreement among industry members in the adoption of new standards defined by the W3C. Incompatible versions of HTML are offered by different vendors, causing inconsistency in how web pages are displayed. The consortium tries to get all those vendors to implement a set of core principles and components which are chosen by the consortium.

It was originally intended that CERN host the European branch of W3C; however, CERN wished to focus on particle physics, not information technology. In April 1995, the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (INRIA) became the European host of W3C, with Keio University becoming the Japanese branch in September 1996. Starting in 1997, W3C created regional offices around the world. As of September 2009, it had eighteen World Offices covering Australia, the Benelux countries (Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium), Brazil, China, Finland, Germany, Austria, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, South Korea, Morocco, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom and Ireland.[4]

In October 2012, W3C convened a community of major web players and publishers to establish a MediaWiki wiki that seeks to document open web standards called the WebPlatform and WebPlatform Docs.

Specification maturation

Sometimes, when a specification becomes too large, it is split into independent modules which can mature at their own pace. Subsequent editions of a module or specification are known as levels and are denoted by the first integer in the title (e.g. CSS3 = Level 3). Subsequent revisions on each level are denoted by an integer following a decimal point (e.g. CSS2.1 = Revision 1).

The W3C standard formation process is defined within the W3C process document, outlining four maturity levels through which each new standard or recommendation must progress.

Working draft (WD)

Abbreviation	W3C
Motto	Leading the Web to Its Full Potential
Formation	October 1994; 21 years ago
Type	Standards organization
Purpose	Developing protocols and guidelines that ensure long-term growth for the Web.
Headquarters	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.
Location	MIT/CSAIL,USA, (Main Office); ERCIM, France; Keio University, Japan; Beihang University, China[1] and many other offices around the world
Region served	Worldwide
Membership	408 member organizations[2]
Director	Tim Berners-Lee
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Website	www.w3.org

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