XML Tutor Marked Assignment (TMA)

Introduction

The TMA, which carries 25% of the total marks for this module, requires you to create your own address book that captures Contacts data in XML format. Its aim is to help you understand the basic principles of XML and ensure that you have mastered the basic tasks needed to complete the FMA.

The completed TMA deliverables should be submitted electronically in the assignment dropbox in Moodle BEFORE the start of session 5. As part of this assignment you must also make sure that all your work is published to your Birkbeck student we-bsite as described further below.

Completing the TMA

You should work on your TMA after class and during the self-study session scheduled after Session 4. Begin your work early, as the TMA is a substantial task that requires planning and effort to complete satisfactorily. The TMA prepares you for the FMA so you greatly reduce your risk of a poor overall mark by completing and submitting a TMA.

Getting support

Support for the TMA work will be available in class during Session 4.

TMA Specifications

Introduction

XML, the extensible mark-up language defines a generic syntax used to mark up data with simple, human-readable tags. The format is flexible enough to be used for a wide variety of applications such as web sites, voice-mail systems, chemical formulas, musical scores, real- estate listings and many more.

Your Task

Many business applications need to share Contacts data. In most cases, an organisation will store a master copy of this data in a centralised location. Other systems then interact with this master data store to obtain a copy of the data. This copy of the data, obtained in an XML format, is then generally used as a read-only data source for displaying Contacts information.

You are tasked with creating your own address book that captures Contacts data in an XML format. The XML file that you submit must contain at least 10 different contacts and your address book should have at the very least the following information:

- The name of the individual or organisation: in the case of a person you should capture the first name and surname.
- The full address of the individual or organisation.
- Telephone details: home, work, fax and mobile for individuals and phone and/or fax for organisations.
- The email address of the person or main contact in the organisation.

Any additional elements to the XML, that you consider significant, should be explained in the Learning/Development Log.

Method

Use any XML parser to read and edit your XML documents. You can use a simple text editor (e.g. Notepad++ or any Open Source text editor, such as JEdit), Netbeans, oXygen or XMLSpy to create your files.

Deliverables to Submit for Assessment

TMA documentation

The following TMA deliverables must be submitted electronically in the Assignment Dropbox in Moodle BEFORE the start of Session 5:

A ZIP file (saved as username_xmtma.zip) containing the following files:

1. An XML file that is well-formed and validated and contains 5 entries of individuals and 5 entries of organisations.
2. A document type definition (DTD) file that defines what elements and attributes may be included in the XML document.
3. An XML Schema file that defines what elements and attributes may be included in the XML document.
4. Your Learning/Development Log (username_ xmtma.pdf), including the results of your XML, DTD and XML schema validation reports.

Notes:

- Remember to replace username in the above specified file names with your own ITS username!
- Please ensure that all files submitted include your Full Name, ITS Username, Module Name and Tutor Name. If a required file is not submitted, the examiners will not search for missing files and 0% will be awarded for any missing components.

TMA Website

You must publish your webpage on your Birkbeck student website using the following URL (where username = your ITS Username):

http://www.bbk.ac.uk/~username/xmtma/index.html

Note: You will be awarded a No Credit if your tutor cannot access your live website.

Getting feedback

Feedback on the marked TMA can be downloaded from Moodle and will normally be returned to you within 2 weeks of submission. The feedback on your TMA and any issues that arise can be discussed with your tutor within 2 weeks of the return of the marked TMA.

Backing up files

Always keep a back-up copy of all work submitted for assessment in case of unforeseen submission problems.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is claiming the work of others as your own, is a serious offence and can result in your exclusion from all colleges of the University of London. You should be aware that we use a range of automated tools to spot potential plagiarism in work submitted for assessment. Providing you clearly reference work done by others that you have included in your TMA you will not be penalised.

Criteria for assessment

The criteria below show the proportion of the marks (out of 100%) that will be awarded for each component of the assignment:

1. General Skills (10%): Focus on TMA, planning and use of IT skills.
2. Correct use of XML (30%): level of understanding shown; evidence of additional reading. Is your XML document well-formed, i.e. element names are legal, which attributes are attached to which elements.
3. Deliverables (50%): XML, DTD and XML Schema documents; their validity and appropriateness.
4. Development Report/Log (10%): should correctly, clearly and concisely explain the design decisions taken during the production of your address book, the reasons you took them and any problems you had to resolve. It should also include a brief assessment of the completed application.