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XML Notes

Getting Started

* What is XML?
  + XML = eXtensible Markup Language. W3C Recommendation in 1998. Tag based syntax like HTML, but it is not a replacement for HTML (it is much more general purpose). X means eXtesnible, so you can make your own tags.
  + It is the foundation of several Web technologies. Example: XHTML: HTML formatted as XML syntax. (XML is more strict with syntax.) Also is the basis for RSS and ATOM, which are used for publishing (e.g. blogs). Also the foundation for AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML). XML is one of the ways of exchanging data over the web using web services.
  + What it is used for: structures and describes information. XML was intended to be used over the internet. Used to exchange data between disparate systems.
* XML-related technologies
  + XPATH – eXtensible Path Language. Similar to how folders and directories on a computer are organized through the use of a path, XPATH finds and extracts information from XML documents.
  + XSLT – XML Stylesheet Language Transformations. Takes XML information and transforms it into something else (pretty much any other file format).
  + XQuery – More advanced querying language than XPath. Like a database language, like SQL except for XML. Used to extract information in a very advanced way from XML data.
  + XPointer/XLink – creates links between and within XML documents.
* Installing the developer tools
  + Any text editor. Development tools: Aptana Studio 3