

Objectives:

- Use PMD as a code quality metric tool for preemptive defect detection.
- Obtain an html report with the different detected issues in the code using Maven.

Requirements

- Eclipse IDE for Java Developers >= 2021-03
- Git

Introduction

PMD is a source code analyzer. It finds common programming flaws like unused variables, empty catch blocks, unnecessary object creation, and so forth [1]. Like other tools, PMD can verify that coding conventions and standards are followed. PMD is more focused on preventive defect detection. It comes with a vast set of rules and is highly configurable. PMD can also configure - in a simple way - particular rules to use in a specific project [2].

PMD integrates well with IDEs such as Eclipse and NetBeans, and it also fits well into the build process thanks to its smooth integration with Ant and Maven [2].

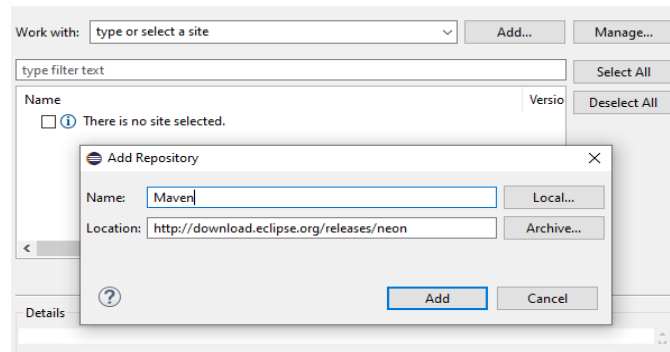
For this lab, we will use Eclipse and Maven together with PMD to inspect the source code of a project.

Activity

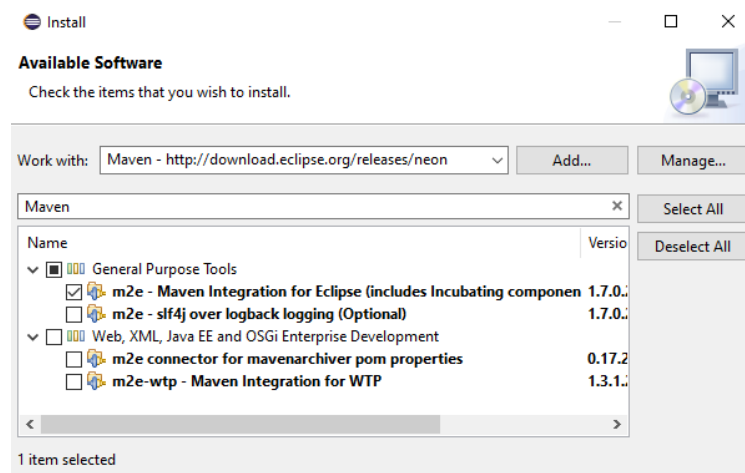
Part 1: Install Maven for Eclipse.

Most Eclipse downloads include the maven tooling already. If this is missing in your installation, follow these steps, else jump to part two:

1. Open the plugin installation window by selecting “Help → Install new software”.
2. Click on Add and type “Maven” for the name and <http://download.eclipse.org/releases/neon> for the location.



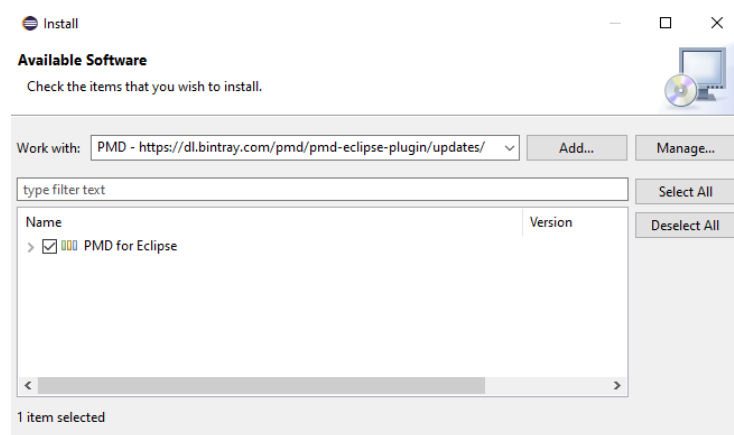
3. Click “Add” again and wait until the process finishes.
4. Search Maven and check “Maven Integration for Eclipse” under “General Purpose Tools”



5. Click “Next” and step through the following installation screens.

Part 2: Install the Eclipse PDM plug-in

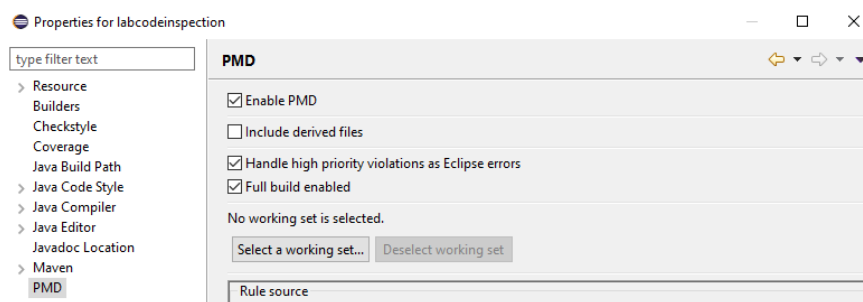
1. Open the plugin installation window by selecting the “Help → Install new software”.
2. Click on Add and Enter “PMD” into the Name field and <https://dl.bintray.com/pmd/pmd-eclipse-plugin/updates/> into the URL field.
3. Click “Add” again and wait until the process finishes.
4. Check “PMD for Eclipse”.



5. Click “Next” and step through the following installation screens.

Part 3: Download and configure the project.

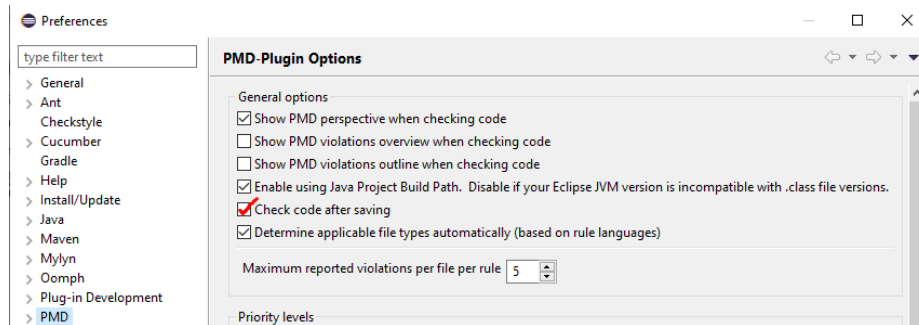
1. Clone the following repository:
<https://github.com/leortyz/CodeInspection.git> and open the project in eclipse.
2. PMD will not be activated for the project by default. Open the project properties window by clicking in “Project → Properties”.
3. Select “PMD” on the side bar and check “Enabled PMD “.



4. Look at all the rulesets that come with PMD, leave the default set of rules.
5. Click “Apply and Close” and “Yes”.

Part 4: Using PMD

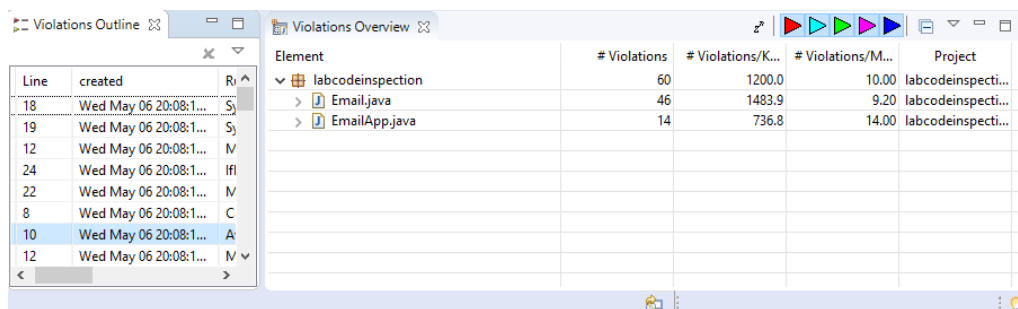
Go to “Window → Preferences”, select “PMD” and check “Check code after saving”



To run PMD, right click on the project and select “PMD → Check code”

Two new windows are displayed with all violations. Each violation has its priority represented by a color and corresponding rule. The meaning of the colors is:

- **Red** is blocker → High priority.
- **Cyan** is critical → Medium priority.
- **Green** is urgent → Medium priority.
- **Pink** is Important → Medium priority.
- and **Blue** is Warning → Low priority.



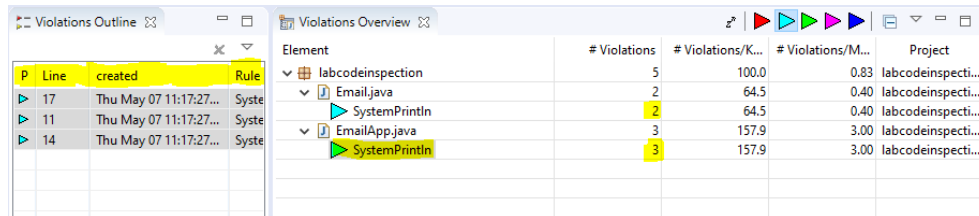
If you see that files are duplicated in the Violation Overview Window, check code again.

PMD shows the violations next to the lines that generate them.



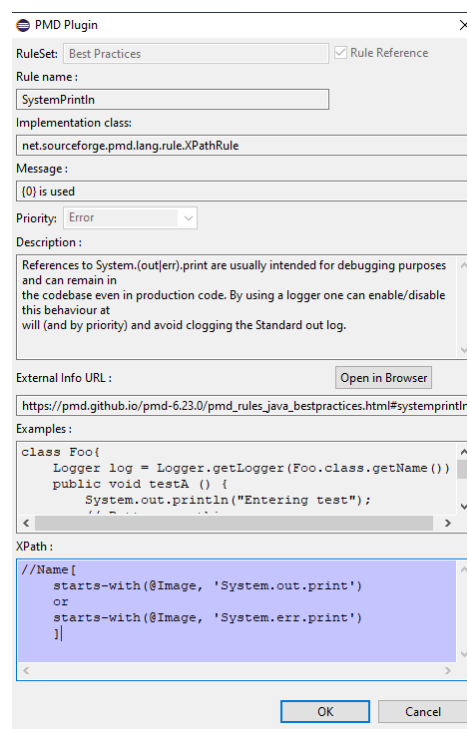
We can filter violations using the color indicators on the top right of Violations Overview window.

For example, if we filter only by [critical](#) violations, Violations Overview window shows that Email.java and EmailApp.java have 2 and 3 violations respectively for the rule “SystemPrintln”. If we double-click on an element, the Violation Outline window will update showing all errors related to a file and some important data such as the violation line, the affected rule, and the error message.



Element	# Violations	# Violations/K...	# Violations/M...	Project
labcodeinspection	5	100.0	0.83	labcodeinspecti...
Email.java	2	64.5	0.40	labcodeinspecti...
SystemPrintln	2	64.5	0.40	labcodeinspecti...
EmailApp.java	3	157.9	3.00	labcodeinspecti...
SystemPrintln	3	157.9	3.00	labcodeinspecti...

We can right-click on a violation and select "Show details..." for more information and an example solution.



PMD Plugin

RuleSet: ☒ Rule Reference

Rule name:

Implementation class:

Message:

Priority:

Description:

External Info URL:

Examples:

```
class Foo{
    Logger log = Logger.getLogger(Foo.class.getName())
    public void testA () {
        System.out.println("Entering test");
    }
}
```

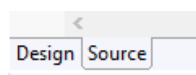
XPath:

For more information about configurations, refer to section 2 and 3 from chapter 22 of the book [2] and PMD website [1].

Part 5: Creating PMD rulesets

A PMD ruleset is simply an XML file that lists a set of rules that fit the project. You can include entire rulesets, or selectively choose specific rules from within other rulesets. You can also provide extra parameters to certain rules to customize their behavior. To do so, follow these steps:

1. Right click on the project, then “New → Other → XML → XML File”.
2. Select the project, enter a file name as “<your name>_ruleset”
3. Click “Source” in the bottom tab to change the view and edit the file directly.



4. Here is a fragment of a typical configuration document, copy and paste into the file:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

<ruleset name="<your name> Rules"
  xmlns="http://pmd.sourceforge.net/ruleset/2.0.0"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://pmd.sourceforge.net/ruleset/2.0.0
    https://pmd.sourceforge.io/ruleset_2_0_0.xsd">

  <description>
    Code Inspection Lab, <full name>
  </description>

</ruleset>
```

5. Let's reference a complete ruleset. Add the following line below the description tag:

```
<rule ref="category/java/performance.xml" />
```

This ruleset comes by default with PMD and it has rules that flag suboptimal code.

6. Now, add another reference, but exclude some rules from the ruleset:

```
<rule ref="category/java/bestpractices.xml">
  <exclude name="SystemPrintln" />
</rule>
```

This ruleset also comes by default with PMD and it has rules which enforce generally accepted best practices but excluding "SystemPrintln" rule.

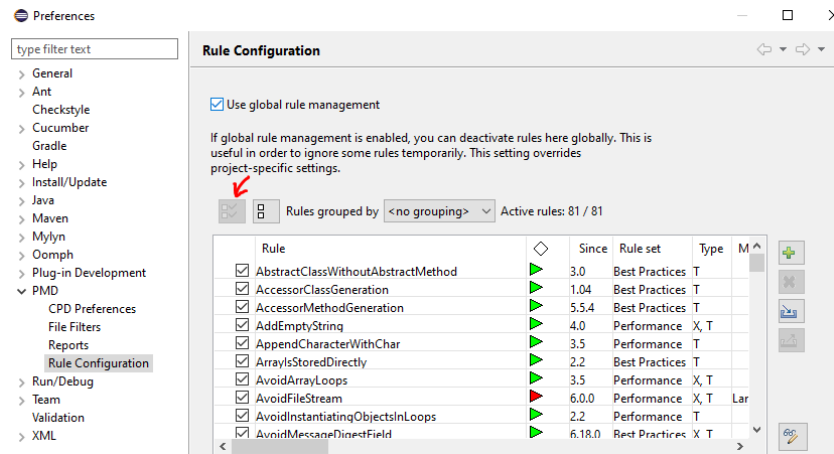
7. We can add rules from a specific ruleset as follow:

```
<rule ref="category/java/design.xml/ImmutableField" />
<rule ref="category/java/design.xml/UseUtilityClass">
  <priority>1</priority>
</rule>
```

Here, we are adding "ImmutableField" rule and "UseUtilityClass" rule from the Design ruleset and changing its priority to 1. Priority is an integer ranging from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority.

For more information about PMD rulesets, refer to PMD documentation [3]

8. To use an external ruleset, we need to go to the PMD Configuration Window. Go to "Window → Preferences → PMD → Rule Configurations".
9. Check "Use global rule management", then group rules by "Rule Set".
10. Select all the rule sets and click in the "X" button to delete them.
11. Click "Import rule set..." (under the "x"), browse your file and Click "Ok".
12. The rules we added are not listed yet, press "Apply and close", then "Yes".
13. Return to PMD Configuration Window. Notice that the checkbox next to the rule names is unchecked.



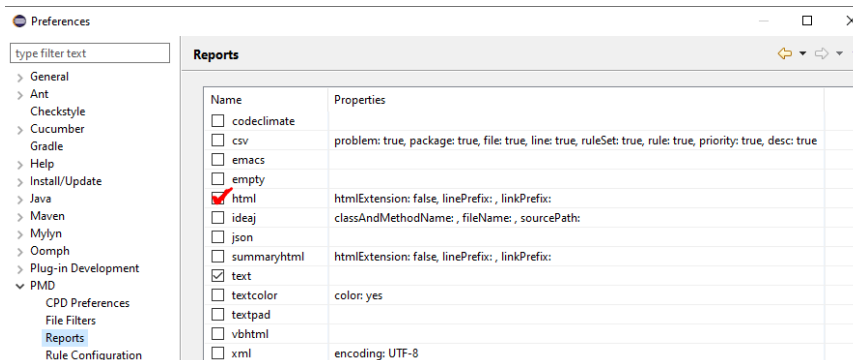
14. Press "Apply and close", then "Yes".

15. Right click on the project and select “PMD → Clear Violations”. Then “PMD → Check Code.”

Note that it is possible to configure the properties for each rule we add. To learn more about rulesets and their properties, refer to PMD Java Rules [3]

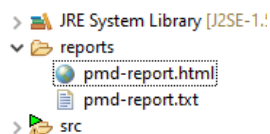
Part 6: Generating a PMD report

1. Open PMD configuration window, select Reports and check “html.”



2. Right-click the project then click “PMD → Generate Report.”

3. A folder named reports is created in the tree project. Open it and double click the “pmd-report.html” to see the full report.



Part 7: Suppressing PMD Rules

Sometimes you will have a legitimate reason for not respecting one of the PMD rules. PMD provides several methods by which Rule violations can be suppressed. We will be using comments and annotations.

1. Go to Email.java. See that line 5 has a violation related to ImmutableField rule.
2. Write “NOPMD” as a comment in the same line where the violation occurred.
3. Optionally, add a message placed after the NOPMD marker. This will get placed in the report.

```

3 public class Email {
4
5     private String firstName; //NOPMD This field will be manipulated later.
6     private String lastName;
7     private String password = null;
8     private String department;
9     private int defaultpasswordLength = 8;
10    private String email;
11

```

4. Go to EmailApp.java and check the violation. The rule violated is “UseUtilityClass”.
5. Write an annotation above the line as follow:

```

5 @SuppressWarnings("PMD.UseUtilityClass")
6 public class EmailApp {

```

Please note that only that rule will be ignored.

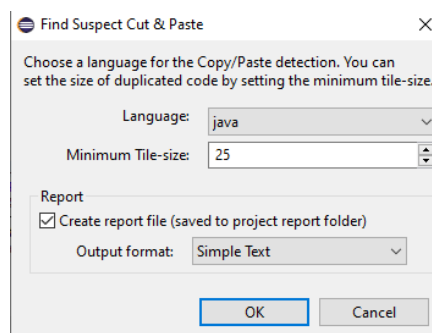
6. Save the file and see the results.

For more information about suppressing rules, check the PMD website [4] and section 7 from chapter 22 of the book [2]

Part 8: Detecting Cut-and-Paste with CPD

PMD comes with a useful tool for detecting cut-and-pasted code called CPD (Cut-and-Paste Detector). Follow these steps to use it and generate a report.

1. Just for demonstration purpose, copy and paste the “randomPassword” method from Email.java to EmalApp.java.
2. Right-click the project and select “PMD → Find Suspect Cut and Paste” from menu options.
3. Select “java” for Language, then click “Ok”.



4. CPD View Window will open with the results. Also, a text file called cpd-report.txt will be generated in the /report directory.

```

1 Found a 11 line (74 tokens) duplication in the following files:
2 Starting at line 33 of C:\Users\josea\OneDrive\Documents\EclipseProjects\labcodeinspection\src\main\java\labcodeinspection\Email.java
3 Starting at line 26 of C:\Users\josea\OneDrive\Documents\EclipseProjects\labcodeinspection\src\main\java\labcodeinspection\EmailApp.java
4
5 }
6
7 private String randomPassword(int length) {
8     String set = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ1234567890#$%&*";
9     char[] password = new char[length];
10    for (int i = 0; i < length; i++) {
11        int rand = (int) (Math.random() * set.length());
12        password[i] = set.charAt(rand);
13    }
14    return new String(password);
15 }

```

5. Revert the changes made in EmailApp.java.

Part 9: PMD and Maven

1. Open “pom.xml” file

```
1 <project xmlns="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0"
2   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
3   xsi:schemaLocation="http://maven.apache.org/POM/4.0.0 http://maven.apache.org/xsd/maven-4.0.0.xsd">
4   <modelVersion>4.0.0</modelVersion>
5   <groupId>com.espol.edu</groupId>
6   <artifactId>labcodeinspection</artifactId>
7   <version>0.0.1-SNAPSHOT</version>
8   <name>Lab Code Inspection</name>
9   <description>Software Engineering II</description>
10  </project>
```

2. Add the following lines under project tag to install all the necessary plugins:

```
<build>
  <pluginManagement>
    <plugins>
      <plugin>
        <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
        <artifactId>maven-site-plugin</artifactId>
        <version>3.7.1</version>
      </plugin>
      <plugin>
        <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
        <artifactId>maven-project-info-reports-plugin</artifactId>
        <version>3.0.0</version>
      </plugin>
      <plugin>
        <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
        <artifactId>maven-pmd-plugin</artifactId>
        <version>3.13.0</version>
      </plugin>
    </plugins>
  </pluginManagement>
</build>
<reporting>
  <plugins>
    <plugin>
      <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
      <artifactId>maven-pmd-plugin</artifactId>
      <version>3.13.0</version>
      <configuration>
        <rulesets>
          <ruleset><youname>_ruleset.xml</ruleset>
        </rulesets>
      </configuration>
    </plugin>
  </plugins>
</reporting>
```

The ruleset tag is used to specify a file that contains rules to use in the checking process. In this case, we are telling the plugin to use our ruleset file.

3. Save the file, right Click on it, then “Run as → Maven build...”
4. Type “site” for the Goals and Click Run.

Name: labcodingstandards

Main JRE Refresh Source Environment Common

Base directory: \${project_loc:labcodingstandards}

Workspace... File System... Variables...

Goals: site

Profiles:

User settings: C:\Users\josea\.m2\settings.xml

- Wait for the process to finish.

```
[INFO] -----
[INFO] BUILD SUCCESS
[INFO] -----
[INFO] Total time: 17.972 s
[INFO] Finished at: 2020-05-07T23:17:24-05:00
[INFO] -----
```

- Go to your project directory, open “target→ site”. This folder is visible from the tree project in Eclipse too.
- Several html files are shown. Open “index.html”.

Lab Code Inspection

Last Published: 2020-05-07 | Version: 0.0.1-SNAPSHOT Lab Code Inspection

Project Documentation

- Project Information
- Dependency Information
- About**
- Plugin Management
- Plugins
- Summary
- Project Reports

About Lab Code Inspection

Software Engineering II

Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.

- Click on “Project Reports → PMD” to see a detailed PMD report of your project.

Files

labcodeinspection/Email.java

Rule	Violation	Priority	Line
ImmutableField	Private field 'lastName' could be made final; it is only initialized in the declaration or constructor.	3	6
RedundantFieldInitializer	Avoid using redundant field initializer for 'password'	3	7
ImmutableField	Private field 'defaultpasswordLength' could be made final; it is only initialized in the declaration or constructor.	3	9
SwitchStmtsShouldHaveDefault	Switch statements should have a default label	3	23-32

Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved.

Development

1. Delete all comments and annotations from the code.
2. Add the following ruleset and rules:
 - Code Style Ruleset
 - Rule “BeanMembersShouldSerialize” from Error Prone ruleset with a priority of 2
 - Rule “UseLocaleWithCaseConversion” from Error Prone ruleset
 - Rule “CommentRequired” from Documentation ruleset with these properties set to “Ignored”:
 - classCommentRequirement
 - headerCommentRequirement
 - fieldCommentRequirement

TIP: Refer to the PMD Java Rules [3].

The errors per class are show below:

Element	# Violations
labcodeinspection	35
> Email.java	26
> EmailApp.java	9

3. Generate an html report, make a copy and save it somewhere on your disk.
4. Correct any violation in the code that have been generated in the report.
5. Generate a new report (without violations).

Deliverables

1. Lab report with screenshots of the process.
2. Two PMD reports.
3. Include in the report the **url** of the repository where you performed the lab.

Rubric

Description	Value
Project code (in the repository)	50
Lab report	50
Penalty per hour or fraction of delay.	-30
Penalty for not uploading required deliverables as specified	-30

References

- [1] PMD, "PMD Source Code Analyzer," [Online]. Available: <https://pmd.github.io/>.
- [2] J. Ferguson, Java Power Tools, O'Reilly Media, 2008.
- [3] PMD, "Java Rules," [Online]. Available: https://pmd.github.io/latest/pmd_rules_java.html.
- [4] PMD, "Suppressing warnings," [Online]. Available:
https://pmd.github.io/latest/pmd_userdocs_suppressing_warnings.html.