

Web Design and Development I

Topic 6: Hyperlinks

1.0 Overview

Hyperlinks are one of the most exciting innovations the Web has to offer. They've been a feature of the Web since the beginning, and are what makes the Web *a web*. Hyperlinks allow us to link documents to other documents or resources, link to specific parts of documents, or make apps available at a web address. Almost any web content can be converted to a link so that when clicked or otherwise activated the web browser goes to another web address.

A basic link is created by wrapping the text or other content, see Block level links, inside an `<a>` element and using the `href` attribute, also known as a **Hypertext Reference**, or **target**, that contains the web address.

In HTML, links are defined with the `<a>` tag:

```
<a href="url">link text</a>
```

Example

```
<a href="http://www.tum.ac.ke">This is TUM website link</a>
```

The **href** attribute specifies the destination address (`http://www.tum.ac.ke`) of the link. The **link text** is the visible part (This is TUM website link). Clicking on the link text will send you to the specified address.

1.2 The target Attribute

The **target** attribute specifies where to open the linked document.

The target attribute can have one of the following values:

- `_blank` - Opens the linked document in a new window or tab
- `_self` - Opens the linked document in the same window/tab as it was clicked (this is default)

- `_parent` - Opens the linked document in the parent frame
- `_top` - Opens the linked document in the full body of the window
- `framename` - Opens the linked document in a named frame

1.3 Types of Hyperlinks

1.3.1 Use an Image as a Link

To use an image as a link, just put the `` tag inside the `<a>` tag:

```
<a href="default.asp">  
    
</a>
```

1.3.2 Link to an Email Address

Use `mailto:` inside the `href` attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program (to let them send a new email)

```
<a href="mailto:someone@example.com">Send email</a>
```

1.3.3 Button as a Link

To use an HTML button as a link, you have to add some JavaScript code. JavaScript allows you to specify what happens at certain events, such as a click of a button

```
<button onclick="document.location='default.asp'">HTML Tutorial</button>
```

1.4 Link Titles

The `title` attribute specifies extra information about an element. The information is most often shown as a tooltip text when the mouse moves over the element.

```
<a href="https://www.w3schools.com/html/" title="Go to W3Schools HTML  
section">Visit our HTML Tutorial</a>
```

✓ 1.5 Chapter Summary

1. Use the `<a>` element to define a link
2. Use the `href` attribute to define the link address
3. Use the `target` attribute to define where to open the linked document
4. Use the `` element (inside `<a>`) to use an image as a link
5. Use the `mailto:` scheme inside the `href` attribute to create a link that opens the user's email program