

# How to comment HTML tag attribute in HTML source code?

Asked 8 years, 7 months ago   Active 2 years, 7 months ago   Viewed 9k times

▲ **For example:**

23

```
<a /*title="need to be comment out"*/>a link</a>
```

▼ html

edited Jun 7 '12 at 10:16



Zuul

15.1k

6

52

82

asked Jan 20 '11 at 7:05



lovespring

7,551

33

87

137

Is there a reason you only want to comment them out? Do you need them to exist afterwards? If not you could completely remove them. – Pit Jan 20 '11 at 7:19

@Pit Just like coding other languages. sometimes, I need to comment it out for testing. – lovespring Jan 20 '11 at 7:22

On mac (using the program ; Coda) you can simply press CMD + / after selecting the items ofcourse – Marco Geertsma Jun 12 '13 at 13:00

## 4 Answers

▲ The [W3C documentation](#) suggests it cannot be done:

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Note that comments are markup.

▼ This basically means that a `<!-- ... >` comment tag is just like any other tag, so `<a <!--title="need to be comment out"-->a link</a>` is as wrong as `<a <span></span>>a link</a>`.



For quick hacking I believe a common option is to rename that attribute. While you obtain invalid HTML you can temporarily remove the

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```
<a xtitle="need to be comment out">a link</a>
```

If you happen to be using a server side language, you can also use its own comment syntax. For instance, in PHP you can do this:

```
<a <?php/*title="need to be comment out"*/?>>a link</a>
```

... which generates this HTML:

```
<a >a link</a>
```

... and in ASP.NET you can use `<%-- Comment goes here --%>` while the MVC Razor syntax is `@* Comment goes here *@`

edited Jan 18 '17 at 3:48



[Matthew Lock](#)

8,551 7 68 112

answered Jan 20 '11 at 10:33



[Álvaro González](#)

111k 32 201 290

The modified attribute name is a good option – [Jaime Hablutzel](#) Mar 28 '11 at 16:09

2 You might want to make it more obvious you have purposely "commented" the attribute out. For instance with `comment_out_title="..."`. It may be assumed to be a misspelling. – [Matthew Wilcoxson](#) Aug 23 '12 at 13:20 ✎

1 You do not obtain invalid HTML if you use `data-` attributes, for example, `<a data-xtitle="need to be comment out">a link</a>`, though many best practices, including those by such big frameworks as Angular, disadvise this. – [trysis](#) Sep 25 '16 at 13:41 ✎

A minor thing, but in PHP, you can remove the space, as well, with, for example, `<a? php /* title="need to be comment out"*/ ?>>a link</a>`. – [trysis](#) Sep 25 '16 at 13:43



I usually just put `_x` at the end of the attribute name. Then the attribute is ignored because it's unknown. So if I wanted to comment out the `id` attribute from this element:

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```
<input type="text" name="name" id="name">
```

I would change it to this:

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This also has the advantage of being able to search for "`_x=`" to find all commented attributes.

answered Jun 12 '13 at 12:39



[intrepidis](#)

**2,121** 25 27

Obviously this trick should only be used when developing and "commented" attributes shouldn't be left in production code. – [intrepidis](#) Jun 12 '13 at 14:45

1 nice, i use just `-id="name"` – [anisanwesley](#) Apr 7 '17 at 12:26

@ChrisNash In general, commented out HTML shouldn't be left in code. – [nmg49](#) May 2 '18 at 16:25

You can't. Comments can only start and end outside tags.

3

Some people prepend an x to an attribute name, thus changing it and causing it to be all but ignored (since it is still often visible in the DOM), but this is invalid.

answered Jan 20 '11 at 7:12



[Quentin](#)

**687k** 80 931 1085

Yes, this is super-easy, I also do this to "comment" bits of CSS. I call it "spoiling" the line. – [Nick Perkins](#) Jun 20 '13 at 13:44

This cannot be done, but an attribute can be removed via the `removeAttribute(attribute_name)` javascript call.

1

Alternatively, you can prefix the attributes you want removed with a namespace like `<a nosuchns:title="nevershown">click</a>` and remove the namespace via javascript.

answered Jan 20 '11 at 10:22



[Horia Dragomir](#)

**2,572** 19 21

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