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# Is HTML case sensitive?

Asked 9 years ago    Active 2 years, 9 months ago    Viewed 55k times

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Is HTML case sensitive?

`<!DOCTYPE html>`

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Would `<!doctype html>` or `<!DocType Html>` work differently (or not at all)?

`html`

edited Mar 1 '17 at 20:40  
**Peter Mortensen**  
24.4k 19 89 118

asked Dec 4 '10 at 4:01  
**David Oneill**  
9,746 15 53 67

## 6 Answers

41

No, but it's considered good practice to keep HTML markup lowercase.

edited Mar 1 '17 at 20:44  
**Peter Mortensen**  
24.4k 19 89 118

answered Dec 4 '10 at 4:02  
**Roddick**  
557 5 7

30

Incomplete. Tag names and attribute names are case-insensitive, while attribute values are case-sensitive. — [powerboy](#) Oct 3 '11 at 23:10

17

That's because the names are part of the spec. Values are whatever the user wants them to be. — [Matt Hughes](#) Nov 11 '13 at 16:45

4 @MattHughes, yes, but the attribute value case sensitivity is surely part of the spec, no? – [Bruce Pierson](#) Aug 11 '18 at 19:42

From <http://www.w3.org/TR/html5/syntax.html>

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In other words, `<!DOCTYPE html>` , case-insensitively.

Many strings in the HTML syntax (e.g. the names of elements and their attributes) are case-insensitive, but only for characters in the ranges U+0041 to U+005A (LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A to LATIN CAPITAL LETTER Z) and U+0061 to U+007A (LATIN SMALL LETTER A to LATIN SMALL LETTER Z). For convenience, in this section this is just referred to as "case-insensitive".

answered Dec 4 '10 at 4:06



[Kenny Dorman](#)

331 1 5

13

In addition to the other answers given, if you set the header `Content-type: application/xhtml+xml` , your browser will throw an XHTML error if you don't type DOCTYPE in uppercase and html in lowercase:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

Using the XHTML content type isn't recommended because the page won't be rendered in some browsers (e.g. IE8 and below), but it's certainly interesting to know.

Source: <http://blog.whatwg.org/xhtml5-in-a-nutshell>

edited Apr 24 '15 at 13:20

answered Apr 5 '11 at 12:13



[Liam Newmarch](#)

2,992 2 25 40

7

HTML is case insensitive. XHTML , that is being XML is [case sensitive](#).

answered Dec 4 '10 at 4:05

[Russell Dias](#)



54.6k 4 43 68

6

Generally, HTML is case-insensitive, but there are a few exceptions. Entity names (the things that follow ampersands) are case-sensitive, but many browsers will accept many of them entirely in uppercase or entirely in lowercase; a few must be cased in particular ways. For example, Ç is &Ccedil; and ç is &ccedil;. Other combinations of upper and lower case are no good.

answered Dec 4 '10 at 5:39



supercat

62.9k 4 132 167

1

No, you can use any case you want.

answered Dec 4 '10 at 4:02



Ryan Pedersen

2,787 20 35