XML “Elements” (or Nodes)

- Simple Element
- Complex Element

```
<people>
  <person>
    <name>Chuck</name>
    <phone>303 4456</phone>
  </person>
  <person>
    <name>Noah</name>
    <phone>622 7421</phone>
  </person>
</people>
```

eXtensible Markup Language

- Primary purpose is to help information systems share structured data
- It started as a simplified subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), and is designed to be relatively human-legible

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML

XML Basics

- Start Tag
- End Tag
- Text Content
- Attribute
- Self Closing Tag

```
<person>
  <name>Chuck</name>
  <phone type="intl">
     +1 734 303 4456
   </phone>
   <email hide="yes" />
</person>
```

White Space

```
<person>
  <name>Chuck</name>
  <phone type="intl">
     +1 734 303 4456
   </phone>
   <email hide="yes" />
</person>
```

Line ends do not matter.
White space is generally discarded on text elements.
We indent only to be readable.

```
<person>
  <name>Chuck</name>
  <phone type="intl">+1 734 303 4456</phone>
  <email hide="yes" />
</person>
```

Some XML...

```
<recipe name="bread" prep_time="5 mins" cook_time="3 hours">
  <title>Basic bread</title>
  <ingredient amount="8" unit="dL">Flour</ingredient>
  <ingredient amount="10" unit="grams">Yeast</ingredient>
  <ingredient amount="4" unit="dL" state="warm">Water</ingredient>
  <ingredient amount="1" unit="teaspoon">Salt</ingredient>
  <instructions>
    <step>Mix all ingredients together.</step>
    <step>Knead thoroughly.</step>
    <step>Cover with a cloth, and leave for one hour in warm room.</step>
    <step>Knead again.</step>
    <step>Place in a bread baking tin.</step>
    <step>Cover with a cloth, and leave for one hour in warm room.</step>
    <step>Bake in the oven at 180(degrees)C for 30 minutes.</step>
  </instructions>
</recipe>
```

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML

XML Terminology

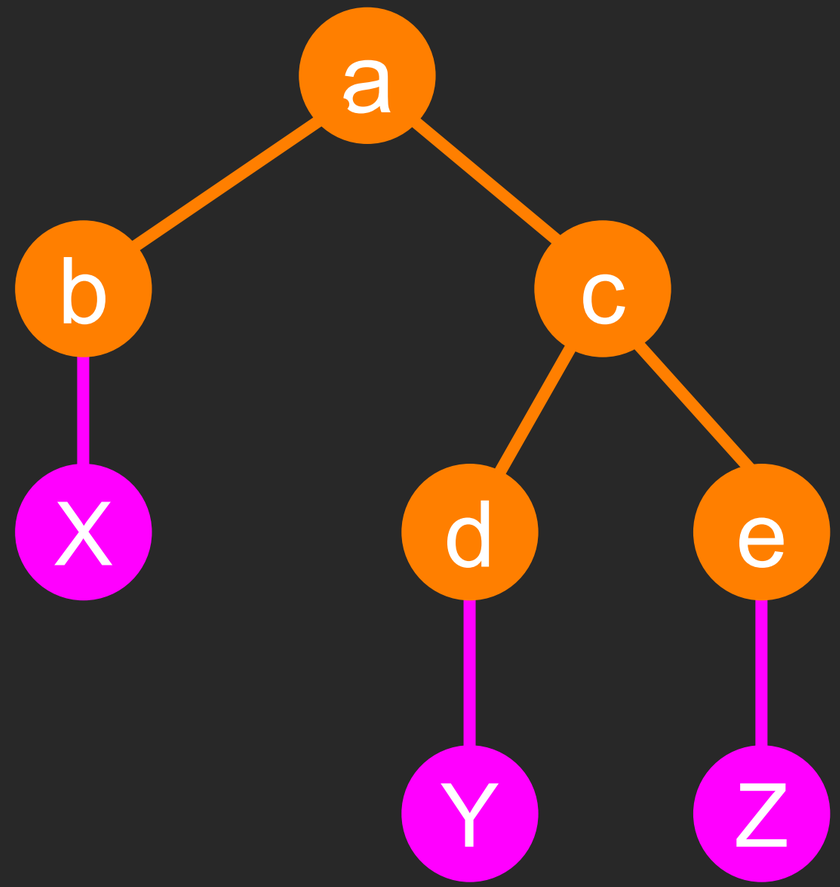
- Tags indicate the beginning and ending of elements
- Attributes - Keyword/value pairs on the opening tag of XML
- Serialize / De-Serialize - Convert data in one program into a common format that can be stored and/or transmitted between systems in a programming language-independent manner

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serialization

XML as a Tree

```
<a>
  <b>X</b>
  <c>
    <d>Y</d>
    <e>Z</e>
  </c>
</a>
```

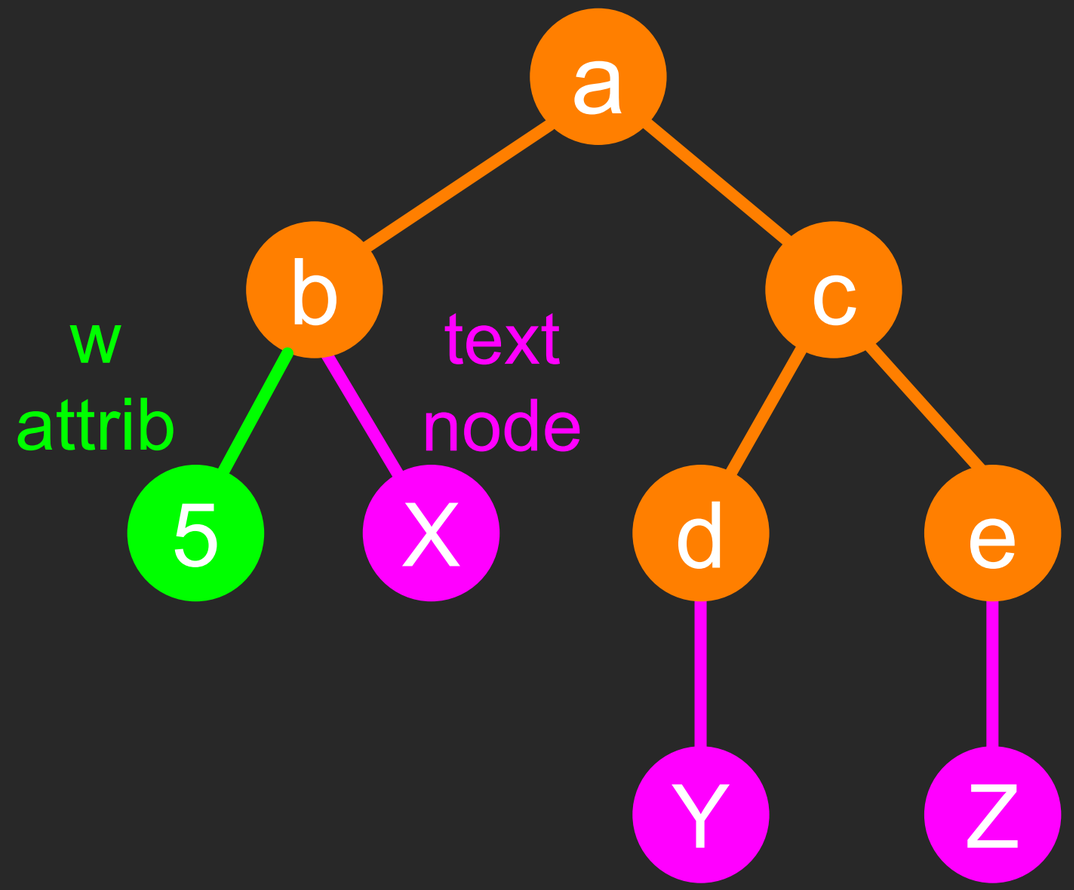
Elements Text



XML Text and Attributes

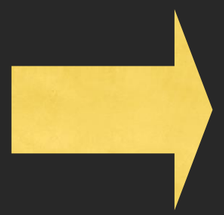
```
<a>
  <b w="5">X</b>
  <c>
    <d>Y</d>
    <e>Z</e>
  </c>
</a>
```

Elements Text

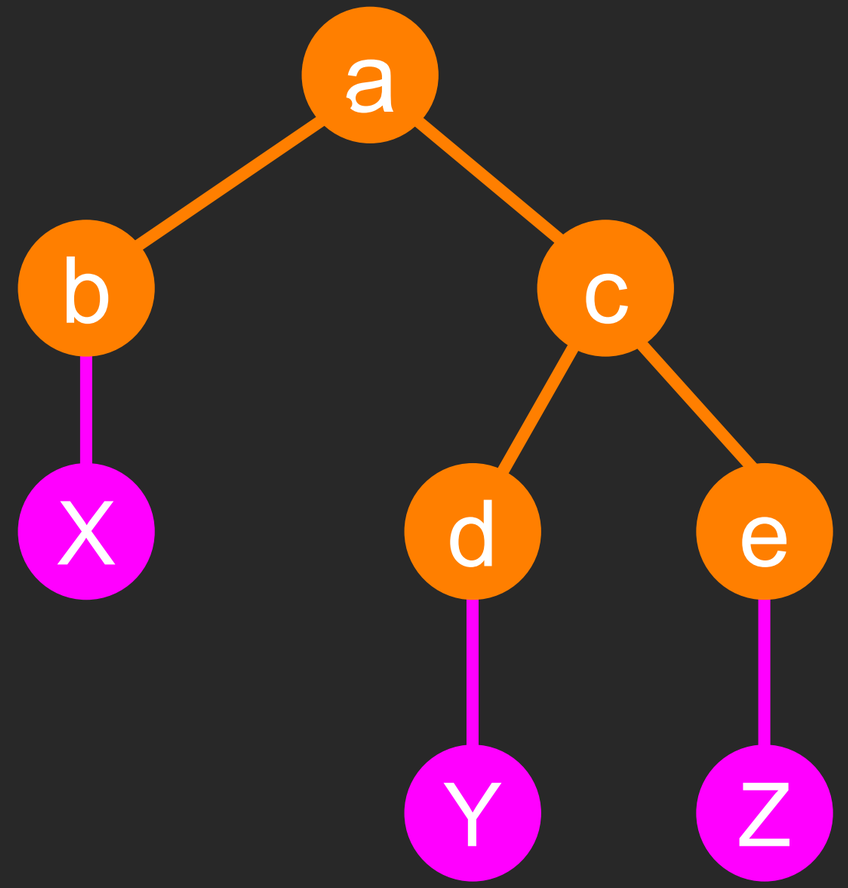


XML as Paths

```
<a>
  <b>X</b>
  <c>
    <d>Y</d>
    <e>Z</e>
  </c>
</a>
```



/a/b	X
/a/c/d	Y
/a/c/e	Z



Elements Text

XML Schema

Describing a “contract” as to what is acceptable XML.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xml_schema

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/XML_Schema

Acknowledgements / Contributions

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