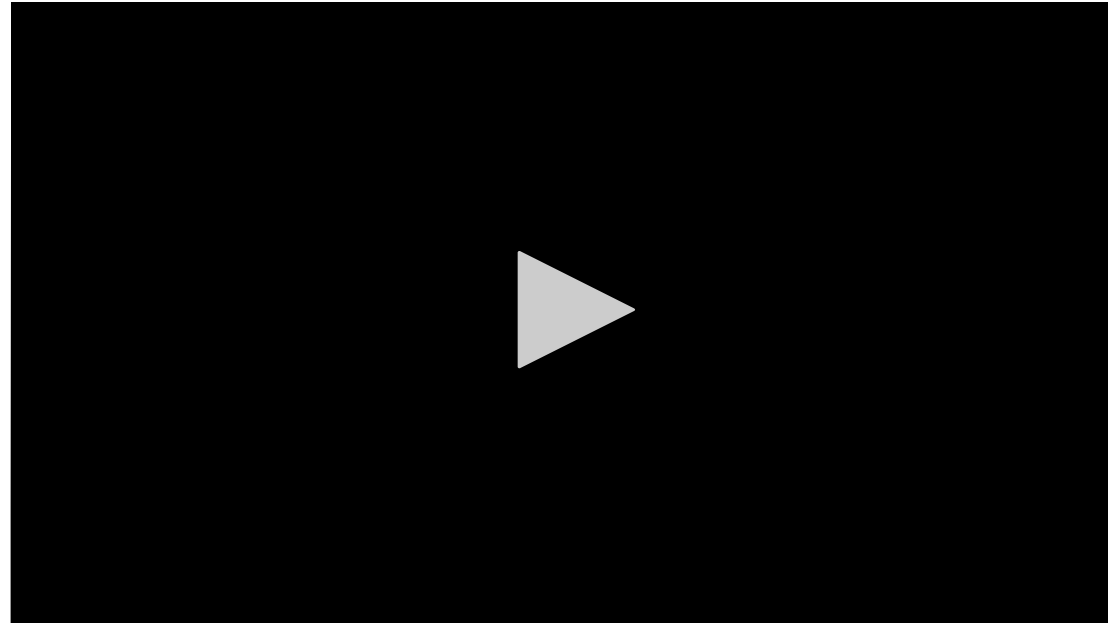


Video Commentary: What is HTML?



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Daniel Quinn is a Freelance Web Developer at *DQuinn.net* with a specialty in WordPress. Daniel delivers end-to-end development to small businesses, entrepreneurs, and established brands. Before

HyperText Markup Language, or HTML, was created by Tim Berners-Lee in 1990 as a language used to create webpage documents. He conceived of HTML as a language for semantically describing scientific documents. This is because he was himself a scientist, and he was working on a way for scientists from around the world to share knowledge and data, even though they all had different computers and software. The first version of HTML had 18 elements, including headings, paragraphs, lists, and links.

These elements are indicated in an HTML document by opening and closing tags, written using angle brackets. These are the building blocks of HTML pages and by extension, the entire World Wide Web.

The **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)** was named the authority to maintain the specifications for HTML in 1996. In 2000, HTML became an international standard (ISO). There have been a number of versions of HTML since it was first introduced. The current version of HTML is HTML5.

It is important to note that HTML is *not* a programming language. Therefore, being conversant in HTML does not make you a programmer.

As a mark-up language, HTML contains a series of tags used to identify elements within a document. For example, HTML includes tags for headings, paragraphs, lists, forms, tables, and so much more. There is no inherent appearance to an HTML webpage, however. The markup language simply identifies elements within the document.

If you want to override the browser default styles for rendering HTML elements, you need to use a different language, Cascading Style Sheets, or CSS. CSS is a style sheet language used for describing the presentation of a document written in a markup language like HTML.

Therefore, HTML defines the *structure* of a page, while CSS defines the *appearance* of the page in a browser window. This distinction is the core idea that drove and still drives the Web standards movement: *separating content from its presentation*.

What Does HTML Allow You To Do?

The list below outlines just some of the things that you can do with HTML.

- Publish online content including — but not limited to — text, lists, images, and tables
- Link to other resources (webpages, images, files, videos) on the web via hyperlinks
- Capture and collect user information, such as email addresses, using forms
- Embed images, videos, audio clips, and other applications within an HTML document

Of course, this is not a definitive list. In this course, we'll learn more about the variety of things you can do with HTML.

HTML is a Mark-up Language

Remember, HTML is a mark-up language, not a programming language! Web browsers interpret HTML tags in order to render page content.



Review Checkpoint

To test your understanding of the content presented in this assignment, please click on the Questions icon below. If you have trouble answering any of the questions presented here, you are always free to return to this or any assignment to re-read the material.



1. What does the acronym HTML stand for?

a. Hypertext Meta Language

Incorrect. Try again.

b. Hypertext Markup Language

Correct. The acronym HTML stands for hypertext markup language.

c. Hypertags Markup Language

Incorrect. Try again.

d. Hypertextual Markup Language

Incorrect. Try again.

2. True or False?

HTML is a programming language.

a. True

Incorrect. Try again.

b. False

Correct. This is a false statement. HTML is not a programming language. HTML is a mark-up language. It identifies elements within a document for a browser.

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