

2018 COMP20008

Workshop 2

When to use elements versus attributes

<https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/library/x-eleatt/>

Principle of core content

- If you consider the information in question to be part of the **essential material** that is being expressed or communicated in the XML, put it in an **element**.
- If you consider the information to be **peripheral or incidental** to the main communication, or purely intended to help applications process the main communication, use **attributes**.

Principle of structured information

- If the information is expressed in a **structured form**, especially if the structure may be **extensible**, use **elements**. On the other hand: If the information is expressed as an **atomic token**, use **attributes**.

Principle of readability

- If the information is intended to be **read** and understood by a **person**, use **elements**. If the information is most readily understood and digested by a **machine**, use **attributes**.

When to use elements versus attributes

Principle of element/attribute binding

- Use an **element** if you need its value to be **modified by another attribute**.

Install lxml in Anaconda 3

Anaconda Prompt

```
> pip install lxml
```