

COMP 431/531: Web Development

Lecture 1: HTML

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<https://www.clear.rice.edu/comp431>



Goal: Multi-User Web Application

- Full Stack Development
 - Front-End (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Framework)
 - Back-End (Web servers, Databases, Security)
- Software Engineering Design
 - Test Driven Development (Unit Testing, End-to-end testing)
 - Good design principles (e.g. encapsulation)



Final Web Application

Ricebook

Connect with friends and the world around you on Ricebook

-  See photos and updates from friends in News Feed.
-  Share what's new in your life on your Timeline.
-  Find more of what you're looking for with Facebook Search.

8/19/18 Fall 2017

Email or Phone Password Keep me logged in [Forgot your password?](#)

Sign Up

It's free and always will be.

First name Last name

Email or mobile number

Re-enter email or mobile number

New password

Birthday Why do I need to provide my birthday?

Female Male

By clicking Sign Up, you agree to our [Terms](#) and that you have read our [Data Policy](#), including our [Cookie Use](#).

Create a Page for a celebrity, band or business.



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COMP 431/531, Fall 2025 (M.Joyner)

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Assumptions/Expectations

- No prior HTML/CSS/JavaScript experience
- Motivated to learn about web development and design



Administration

Instructor: Mack Joyner

TAs: Rex Le, Jingbin Qian, Prashithaa Balaji

Office Hours: See course website (www.clear.rice.edu/comp431)

Piazza: <https://piazza.com/class/mdz1yc4pgh44bl>

Github classroom (hw1): <https://classroom.github.com/a/gsvZWVWoo>

Grades: Canvas (has slides)

Acknowledgment: *Special thanks to Scott Pollack and Leo Elworth*



Git Classroom

- We'll use GitHub classroom
 - Create a GitHub account if you don't have one
 - Click on GitHub repo link (slide 5)
 - Link git id (name) to git repo (first repo)
- Submit code often
 - Recommend using an IDE (IntelliJ - ultimate edition)
 - `git add`
 - `git commit -m "description of change"`
 - `git push origin main` (don't forget)



Grade Policies

Course Rubric

- Homework (not including final web app, with 531 presentation) 60%
- Final Web App 20%
- Quizzes 10% (on-line quizzes on Canvas)
- Class Participation 5% (in-class worksheets)
- Peer Reviews 5%



In-Class Exercises

- We'll have 1 for each class lecture
- Based on material presented in the lecture
- Grade rubric
 - 1 = submit before end of class
 - 0.5 = submit before beginning on next class
- Submit in-class exercises in Canvas



Assignments

1. Simple HTML page
2. Dynamic Page
3. JavaScript Game
4. Draft Front-End
5. Front-End Application
6. Draft Back-End
7. Final Full Web App



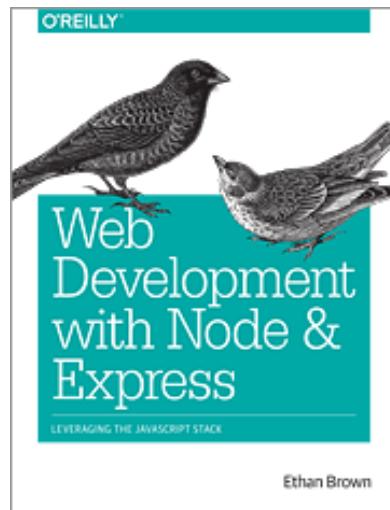
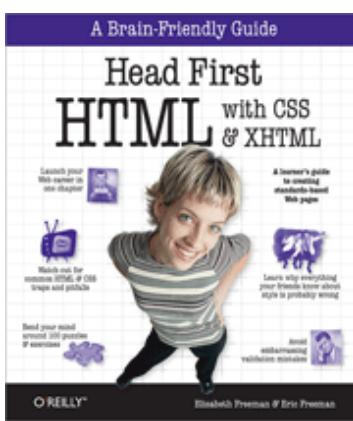
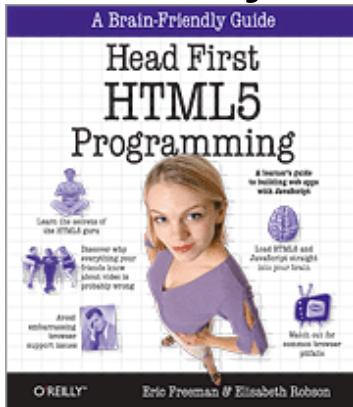
Late Assignment Policy

- You will have 3 slip days
 - When you use a slip day, you'll have an additional 24 hours to turn in assignment
 - Use README to indicate when you are using a slip day
- No late submissions (other than those using slip days) will be accepted

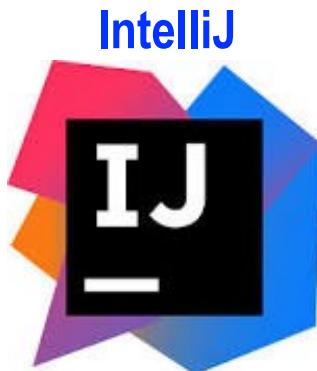
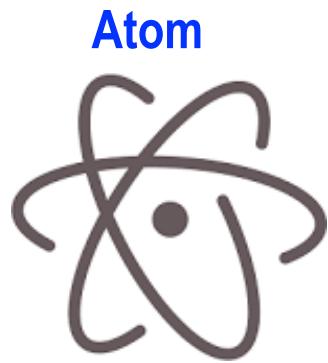


Textbooks

- No required texts
- You may find these helpful...



Editors



Advice

- Start assignments early
- Ask for help often (check Piazza for questions/answers)
 - most of the TAs all went through course last semester
- Finish homework assignments
 - assignments build on each other (challenge to catch-up)
- Use people outside the course to test your web application



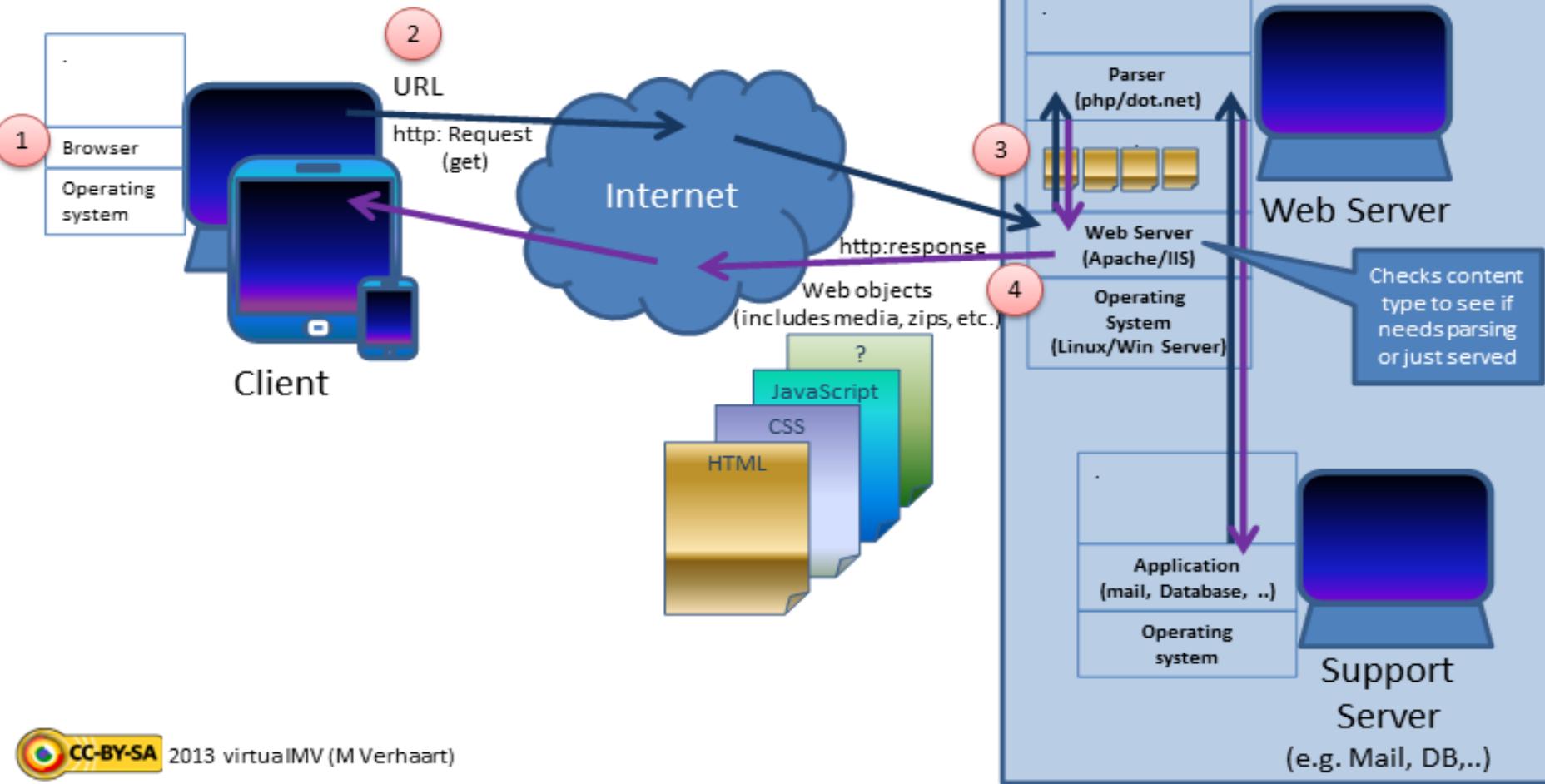
History of HTML

- 1989 - World Wide Web
- 1991 - HTML tags formally introduced
- 1993 - HTML specification [Netscape]
- 1995 - HTML 2.0 [Internet Explorer]
- 1997 - HTML 4.0
- 2000's - Browser wars [Firefox, Safari, Chrome, ...]
- 2014 - HTML5



World Wide Web Ecosystem

Client-server ecosystem

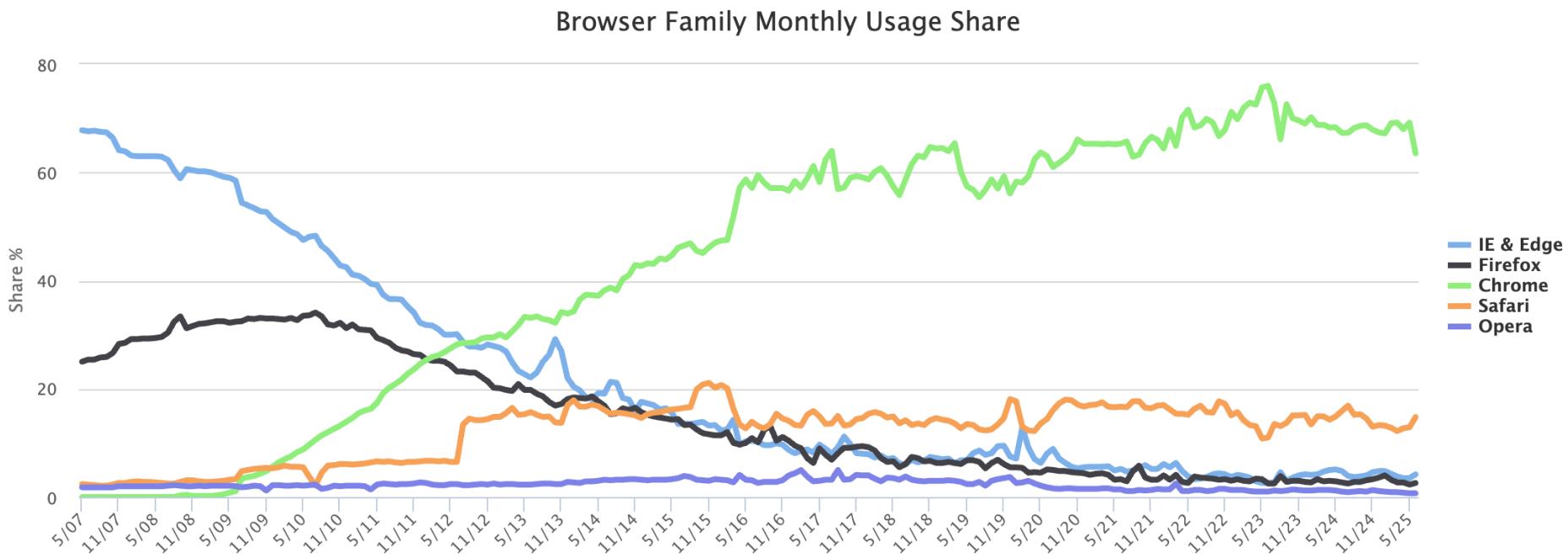


2013 virtualMV (M Verhaart)



Web Browser Usage Trends

<https://www.w3counter.com/trends>



HTML 5

- First line of document defines document type
- HTML 4.01 Strict (old way)

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/strict.dtd">
```

Current HTML 5

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en-US">
<!-- language is helpful for screen
    readers and search engines --&gt;</pre>
```

- HTML body by default
 - Could omit `<html>`, `<head>`, `<body>` tags
 - We won't omit the tags, write “complete” HTML

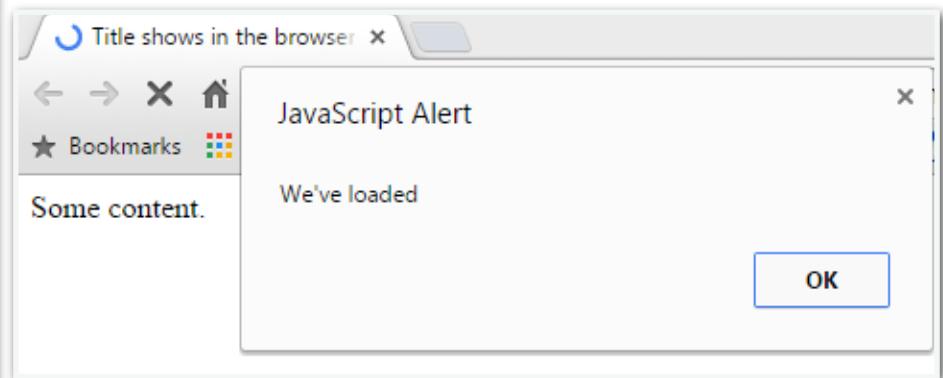
Initial file created in IntelliJ

```
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2  <html lang="en">
3  <head>
4      <meta charset="UTF-8">
5      <title>Title</title>
6  </head>
7  <body>
8
9  </body>
10 </html>
```



Basic structure of an HTML page

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en-US">
3 <head>■
4 </head>
5
6 <body onload="doSomething()">
7 Some content.
8 </body>
9 </html>
10
11 <script>
12 function doSomething() {
13     alert("We've loaded");
14 }
15 </script>
16
```



W3Schools is a good resource (www.w3schools.com)



jsfiddle.net

Run Save Collaborate Change Fiddle listing shows latest version Settings Sign in

Fiddle meta

Untitled fiddle
No description

Private fiddle EXTRA

Groups EXTRA

Resources URL cdnjs

Async requests

Other (links, license)

HTML ▾

```
1 <html>
2 <h1>
3   Welcome to COMP 431/531
4 </h1>
5 </html>
```

Tidy

CSS ▾

```
1
```

JavaScript + No-Library (pure JS) ▾

```
1
```

Welcome to COMP 431/531

DigitalOcean

Provision MongoDB clusters in minutes. Get \$100 free credit.



Markup

```
25 <body>
26
27 <h1>Sample Page</h1>
28
29 <p>Paragraphs are separated as "blocks" of text.</p>
30 <p>Simple markup such as <b>bold face</b> or <em>
emphasized</em> text.
31
32 Note that white space is ignored.
33
34 If we want to "control" the layout, we should use
styles. If we need some small control we can
insert a line break. For example,</p>
35 
36 <br/>
37 
38 <p>Hyperlinks are contained within <a name="anchor">
anchors</a> which can be referenced within a page
using another <a href="#anchor" title="go here">
anchor</a>. In general we want links to go to
other pages, such as <a href="https://developer.
mozilla.org">this</a> one.</p>
39 </body>
40 </html>
```

Sample Page

Paragraphs are separated as "blocks" of text.

Simple markup such as **bold face** or *emphasized* text. Note that white space is ignored. If we want to "control" the layout, we should use styles. If we need some small control we can insert a line break. For example,



Hyperlinks are contained within anchors which can be referenced within a page using another [anchor](#). In general we want links to go to other pages, such as [this](#) or [go here](#).



Inline vs Block

- We markup to control layout.
 - Sometimes you want content “blocks” separate from other blocks.
 - Sometimes you want to inline layout or style
- Inline:
 - ``
 - ``
 - `
`
 - ``
- Block:
 - `<p>`
 - `<div>`



More HTML Fundamentals

```
40 <hr/>
41 <!-- this is a comment -->
42▼ <table border="1">
43     <thead>
44         <tr><th>Centered by Default</th><th>Column Header</th></tr>
45     </thead>
46▼ <tbody>
47     <tr><td>Row</td><td>Content</td></tr>
48     <tr><td colspan="2">span two columns to format our table better</td></tr>
49     <tr><td>Lazy...</td></tr>
50▼ <tr>
51▼     <td>Here is an ordered list
52▼         <ol>
53             <li>first item</li>
54             <ol>
55                 <li>nested item</li>
56             </ol>
57             <li>another item</li>
58         </ol>
59     </td>
60▼     <td>and an unordered list
61▼         <ul>
62             <li>first item</li>
63             <li>another item</li>
64         </ul>
65     </td>
66     </tbody>
67 </table>
```



More HTML Fundamentals

Centered by Default	Column Header
Row	Content
span two columns to format our table better	
Lazy...	
Here is an ordered list 1. first item 1. nested item 2. another item	and an unordered list • first item • another item

We must escape < and > in addition to & and a few other characters. Sometimes we want to control the amount of space " " in a cell in a table, we can do that with non-breaking spaces for example.

Pre-formatted text will appear as it is written
exactly (we hope)
And it *renders* some HTML!

```
function example() { var foo = "bar"; console.log(foo); }
```



Metadata (Tag)

- The `<meta>` tag provides page metadata:
 - details about the page (e.g. author)
 - data not displayed on page
- Always put `<meta>` tag inside `<head>` tag
- Pass metadata as key/value pairs
 - attribute (e.g. name, content) defines type
 - need content attribute if name attribute is defined

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5

```
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<meta name="author" content="Mack Joyner">
```



Metadata (Viewport)

- Set the viewport to change the page based on device size:
- width=device-width sets width of page based on device width
- initial-scale=1.0 sets the initial zoom level

```
9 <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
```



Some HTML Resources

- W3Schools (<http://www.w3schools.com/>)
- Mozilla Developer Network (<https://developer.mozilla.org/>)
- Validate your HTML (<http://validator.w3.org>)
- Real-time HTML rendering (<http://jsfiddle.net/bpenp4dq/>)

