

HTML: A Crash Course

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Topics in This Section

- Differences between xhtml and HTML 4
- Differences between HTML 5 and HTML 4
- Basic structure of an xhtml document
- Hypertext links and URLs
- Block-level elements
- Inline elements
- Tables
- Forms
- CSS: thumbnail overview
- References

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Differences between xhtml and HTML 4

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xhtml: Case

- In HTML 4, case does not matter for tag names, attribute names, and predefined attribute values
 - <BODY>, <Body>, and <body> are equivalent
 - <H1 ALIGN="..."> is equivalent to <H1 aLiGn="...">
 - <INPUT TYPE="TEXT"> is equivalent to <INPUT TYPE="text">
- In xhtml, use lower case for tag names, attribute names, and predefined values
 - <body>
 - <h1 align="...">
 - <input type="text" />

xhtml: Quotes

- In HTML 4, quotes are optional if attribute value contains only alphanumeric values
 - <H1 ALIGN="LEFT"> or
 - <H1 ALIGN=LEFT>
- In xhtml, you must always use single or double quotes
 - <h1 align="left"> or
 - <h1 align='left'>

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xhtml: End Tags

HTML 4

- Some tags are containers
 - <H1>...</H1>, <A HREF...>...
- Some tags are standalone
 -
, <HR>
- Some tags have optional end tags
 - <P>, , <TR>, <TD>, <TH>

XHTML

- All tags are containers. End tags always required.
 - ..., ...
- If there is no body content, start/end tags can be merged
 -
>
>
></br>> →

 - An IE bug prevents this for script tags. Use <script ...></script> always.
 - Some people use

 (space before slash) for compatibility with very old browsers. But these old browsers won't support XMLHttpRequest anyhow, so this is less important in Ajax apps.

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xhtml: Boolean Attributes

- In HTML 4, you can use minimized notation for boolean attributes
 - <option value="1" selected>...</option>
 - <dl compact>
- In xhtml, you must write out the attribute values
 - <option value="1" selected="selected">...</option>
 - <dl compact="compact">

Ajax and Dynamic xhtml

- Dynamically inserted HTML should follow same rules as regular HTML
 - Case, quotes, end tags, and boolean attributes
- Wrong
 - document.getElementById(resultRegion).innerHTML =
 '<H1 ALIGN="CENTER">Some
Text</H1>';
- Right
 - document.getElementById(resultRegion).innerHTML =
 '<h1align="center">Some
Text</h1>';

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General Format of xhtml Documents

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