

INTRODUCTION TO HTML

HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is a computer language used to create Web pages. Web pages are HTML documents that consist of text and HTML tags. HTML documents have the *.html* or *.htm* extension (example: *index.html*). A Web browser interprets the tags in an HTML document and displays the document as a Web page.

You do not have to create different HTML documents for different types of computers. Any computer that has a Web browser installed can display Web pages, including computers running a Unix, Windows or Macintosh operating system.

HTML ESSENTIALS

HTML Tags

HTML tags tell a Web browser about the structure and formatting of a Web page. Each tag gives specific instruction and is surrounded by angle brackets `< >`. Most tags have an opening tag and a closing tag that affect the text between the tags. Some tags have only an opening tag. Although tags can display uppercase or lowercase letters, most people use uppercase letters to make the tags stand out.

Many tags have attributes that offer options for the tags. For example, the `` tag has a **COLOR** attribute that lets you change the color of text. Most attributes have values that you can specify. For example, the **COLOR** attribute can have a value of *red*.

Web Browsers

A Web page may not look the same when displayed in different Web browsers. Each Web browser may interpret tags differently and many Web browsers do not support all of the features of HTML.

Some companies that make Web browsers, such as Netscape and Microsoft, have developed additional tags and attributes that Web browsers made by other companies may not understand. When a Web browser does not understand a tag or attribute, the information is usually ignored. These tags and attributes are commonly known as extensions and are not part of the HTML standard.

VIEW HTML CODE FOR A WEB PAGE

Viewing the HTML code used to create other pages on the Web is a great way to get ideas for your own Web pages. Viewing the HTML code for a Web page allows you to see how other people use HTML tags. This can help you learn HTML techniques and can improve your understanding of HTML.

Examining the HTML code used to create other Web pages can also help you troubleshoot problems you are experiencing with your own Web pages. For example, if you are having a problem creating a table, you should view the HTML code for a Web page that contains a table.

Although you can use the HTML code you find on the Web, you should never copy any content on a Web page without first obtaining permission from the author.

View HTML Code For A Web Page

- 1.) Start the Internet Explorer Web browser.
- 2.) Display the Web page you want to view the HTML code for.
- 3.) Click View.
- 4.) Click Source.
- 5.) A window appears, displaying the HTML code used to create the Web page.
- 6.) When you finish viewing the HTML code, click the “X” (top right) to close the window.

SET UP A WEB PAGE

It’s best to use a *simple* text editor or word processor when creating Web pages. Popular text editors include Notepad and WordPad for Windows and SimpleText for Macintosh. All of your HTML documents **MUST BE SAVED AS BASIC “TEXT DOCUMENTS”** or you will see unusual characters on your page. (these characters are complicated formatting codes that you don’t need).

MAIN PARTS OF AN HTML DOCUMENT

- The EIGHT Basic Tags

1. Every HTML document begins with **<HTML>** and ends with **</HTML>**
2. Within these two main tags are two parts to the document: the **<HEAD></HEAD>** and **<BODY></BODY>**
3. Within the HEAD section is the **<TITLE></TITLE>** tags. You can type the name of your page between these tags.
4. The main viewable portion of your Web page is contained between the BODY tags. Make sure you have only **one** BODY tag in your HTML document.

These are known as the **EIGHT Basic Tags**. They are shown as follows:

```
<HTML>

<HEAD>
<TITLE>My Page</TITLE>
</HEAD>

<BODY>

</BODY>

</HTML>
```

From here, you can add more tags, tag attributes, and images, to “fancy-up” your page.

For example, I added some text and changed the color of the background by adding to the <BODY> tag like this:

```
<HTML>

<HEAD>
<TITLE>My Page</TITLE>
</HEAD>

<BODY BGCOLOR="yellow">
Hello ... My name is Sam!

</BODY>

</HTML>
```

If I wanted to add an image, I would do this:

```
<HTML>

<HEAD>
<TITLE>My Page</TITLE>
</HEAD>

<BODY BGCOLOR="yellow">
Hello ... My name is Sam!
<IMG SRC="dog.jpg">

</BODY>

</HTML>
```

If I wanted everything centered, I could add these tags:

<HTML>

<HEAD>

<TITLE>My Page</TITLE>

</HEAD>

<BODY BGCOLOR="yellow">

<CENTER>

Hello ... My name is Sam!

</CENTER>

</BODY>

</HTML>

REMEMBER!!!

Everything that actually displays on your Web page MUST BE BETWEEN THE <BODY> and </BODY> tags.

You can go **HERE** <http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/galena/resources/> to find some simple resources to experiment with.

After getting a grasp of the concepts, you will be given an assignment to create your own Web page(s).