

## HTML Primer

Basics of HTML for those who haven't used it before.

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## HTML

- HyperText Markup Language
- Like all programming languages, simply a plain text file
- Unlike other languages, no variables or commands.
- HTML is merely a way of formatting a document.

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## Tags

- Formatting is accomplished through the use of 'tags'. Tag begins with a less-than sign (<) and ends with a greater-than sign (>).
- Many tags have a 'begin' tag and an 'end' tag.
- End tags have same contents as corresponding begin tag, but start with a front slash (/)
- Examples:
  - <html>...</html> <b>...</b> <p> <br>  
<a>...</a> <table>...</table> <font>...</font>

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## Attributes

- Some tags have key=value pairs known as attributes. They describe or modify what the tag is doing.
- Examples:
  - `<a href=http://www.rpi.edu>...</a>`
  - `<font color="blue">...</font>`
  - `<tr align="center">...</tr>`

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## Format of an HTML Document

- Entire document enclosed by `<html>...</html>`
  - Followed by two sections: head and body
- ```
<html>  
<head>...</head>  
<body>...</body>  
</html>
```
- By the way, white space of any kind is completely ignored by HTML parser (ie, web browser)

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## Head Section

- Contains info about the document. Most common/important: title
- ```
<head>  
<title>My HTML Document</title>  
</head>
```
- "My HTML Document" will appear in title bar of Netscape, IE, Opera, etc...

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## Body Section

- Contains all text displayed in web browser window.
- `<br>` - line break
- `<p>` - paragraph break (equivalent to 2 `<br>`s)
- `<center>...</center>` Center-align all contained text
- `<font>...</font>` - Set font properties for contained text.

### Use attributes

- `color="..."` (color name, or hex number representation)
  - `color="blue"` or `color="0000ff"`
- `size=...` (either absolute point size, or relative change)
  - `size=12` or `size="+4"`
- `face="..."` (name of font type – Courier, Times New Roman)
- Use only attributes you want to.

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## Links

- We've seen these from HW2.
- `<a href="...">...</a>`
- Make contained text link to value of href attribute.

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## Tables

- 4 necessary tags to create a table:
- `<table>...</table>`
  - contains entire table
- `<tr>...</tr>`
  - contains one row of a table
- `<td>...</td>`
  - contains one cell of a table
- `<th>...</th>`
  - contains a table column heading

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### Table example

```
<table>
<tr>
<th>Name</th><th>ID</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td><td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin</td><td>456</td>
</tr>
</table>
```

- Creates following table:

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### Table Example continued

Name	ID
Paul	123
Justin	456

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### Lists

- Three kinds: un-ordered, ordered, definition
- Ordered:

```
<ol>
  <li>...</li>
  <li>...</li>
</ol>
```

- Creates a numbered list. (ala HW FAQs online)

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## Lists

- Unordered
- ```
<ul>  
  <li>...</li>  
  <li>...</li>  
</ul>
```
- Creates a bulleted list (ala announcements on course webpage)

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## Lists

- Definition
- ```
<dl>  
  <dt>...</dt>  
  <dd>...</dd>  
  <dt>...</dt>  
  <dd>...</dd>  
</dl>
```
- Creates a definition list (ala Letter grade ⇔ number grade list on course home page)
  - <dt>...</dt> contains term
  - <dd>...</dd> contains definition.

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## Macros

- Some text is part of HTML itself, so you can't use it in your document.
  - special 'macro' sequences for this text
- &lt; → 'less than' → <
- &gt; → 'greater than' → >
- &amp; → 'ampersand' → &
- &quot; → 'quotes' → “
- &nbsp; → 'non-breaking white space' →

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## HTML on RCS and CS

- to make your HTML documents visible to the world, place them in your public\_html directory on RCS. Then go to <http://www.rpi.edu/~yourID/yourfile>
- on the CS machines, put your documents in your public.html directory, make sure they're world-readable, and go to <http://www.cs.rpi.edu/~yourID/yourfile>

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## For more information...

- [www.htmlgoodies.com](http://www.htmlgoodies.com)
  - [www.w3schools.org](http://www.w3schools.org)
- (and others)

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