

# XHTML

## HTML+XML

Okay, so what is XHTML? It's a new language that blends HTML and XML. HyperText Markup Language, or HTML, is the code that tells browsers how to display information and graphics on the Web. HTML has provided an adequate language for the Web, but has limitations. XML, eXtensible Markup Language, on the other hand, is computer code that describes information and is very flexible and powerful. The W3C (World Wide Web Consortium), in combining HTML and XML into XHTML, has created a robust and versatile language that allows advancing development in mobile phones, PDAs, televisions, and new technologies.

The difference for the user is that XHTML code requires strict syntax—more attention to details. Benefits include increased compatibility across different browsers, richer computing among mobile applications, and greater extensibility and accessibility. XHTML is the language supported and taught in the ATCS workshops.

### SAMPLE XHTML DOCUMENT

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en">
  <head>
    <title>XHTML</title>
    <meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" />
  </head>
  <body>
    Content of Web page
  </body>
</html>
```

### AS SEEN ABOVE, XHTML REQUIRES

1. DOCTYPE (only tag that can contain uppercase!).
2. Begin XHTML portion of document and declare namespace (html xmlns) with primary language indicated: "en" for English.
3. Meta tag in head section declaring character set (charset) used in the U.S. and Western Europe.

### XHTML REQUIREMENTS

1. DOCTYPE.\*
2. Declaration of namespace.\*
3. Character set meta tag declaration.\*
4. All tags and attributes must be in lower case.
5. All tag attribute values must be contained within quotation marks.
6. All tags must be closed: <b></b>, including tags not requiring closing tags such as br, hr, meta, and img with a space and a slash: <br />.
7. Tags must be nested properly: <b><i>Bold, italic text </i></b> Notice the "i" tags are contained within the "b" tags.
8. The id attribute replaces the name attribute. Using both tags, however, will assure compatibility with older browsers: <id="top" a name="top">
9. Special characters require special codes. For example, the & (ampersand) is coded: "&amp;". For a list of special character codes, access <http://www.cookwood.com/html/extras/entities.html> and click Entities...XHTML.

\* See samples of DOCTYPE, namespace, and character set in the Sample XHTML Document on the reverse side.

### NOTES

- See XHTML tags and attributes list at [www.webreference.com/xml/reference/xhtml.html](http://www.webreference.com/xml/reference/xhtml.html).
- See also the HTML Basic & Intermediate QuikRefs for sample HTML tags and explanations. QuikRefs are available in the Faculty/Staff Resource Center (ARC 3012), at the University Help Desk (ARC 2005), and online at [www.csus.edu/uccs/documents/quikrefsite/](http://www.csus.edu/uccs/documents/quikrefsite/).

### REFERENCES

1. <http://www.w3schools.com>
2. Elizabeth Castro, HTML for the World Wide Web with XHTML and CSS, Peach Pit Press, 2003.