HTML Reference Guide

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1. Preface

HTML (***H****yper* ***T****ext* ***M****ark-up* ***L****anguage*) is the standard ASCII mark-up language for Internet hypertext. It contains generic codes for hypertext browsers to interpret, much as postscript is interpreted by postscript printers.

This document is meant to be a ready-reference for those who are writing HTML documents by hand. It is specifically tailored to writing HTML for WWW (***W****orld-* ***W****ide* ***W****eb*) browsers, more specifically NCSA's X-Mosaic 1.0.

Although this document is tailored for X-Mosaic HTML, I have attempted to note any extensions to the HTML standard that are used only by X-Mosaic.

2. Introduction

HTML is an ASCII mark-up language. This means that your hypertext can be written in any ASCII text editor, such as MicroEmacs or vi.

Hypertext instructions are written within *tags*; each tag is set off from the text within left and right angle brackets (**< >**). For example:

<this would be a tag>

Of course, the text inside the tag needs to be an HTML command. All HTML commands *must* go inside a tag; text that is supposed to appear in a document should *not* be inside a tag.

HTML documents are saved with the final extension `.html`. Note that some WWW browsers, like X-Mosaic, will not recognize your text as HTML hypertext unless you use the `.html` extension.

Protocol , *location* , *file*, and *destination* are all parts of what is commonly known as a URL (***U****niversal* ***R****esource* ***L****ocator*). A URL specifies how to get from the current document to the new one.

Your URL need not contain all the information for the location of a file; you can specify a URL relative to the document you are currently viewing.

The general rule of thumb is to leave out the unnecessary pieces of information. For instance, if you aren't instructing the WWW browser to go to a different site to retrieve a document, leave out the *internet address* .

Destination anchors are used as follows:

a name=" *anchorname* **"**

/a

After you see some common uses for anchors, the syntax should become more apparent. Following are examples of common types of link anchors:

Example :

Suppose you wanted to put a link in your current document to point to the top of the document `farout.html` in the same directory . You would type:

```
   Some interesting colors can be seen, as
<a href="farout.html">described</a> by J. Herman
Smith.
```

Example :

Suppose you wanted to point to the Default X-Mosaic Home Page (assuming that NCSA is off-site for you). You would type:

```
   NCSA has a <a href="http://
hoohoo.ncsa.uiuc.edu:80/mosaic-docs/mosaic-
home.html">home page</a> that comes up when you
start X-Mosaic.
```

3.b. T itles

There are two titles you have to consider: the title that's displayed by the WWW browser, and the title that a reader sees on the page.

title

/title

denote the beginning and end of the title that the WWW browser reads (the *Document T itle:* text at the top of the X-Mosaic window).

h1

/h1

denote the beginning and end of the title that the reader will see on the page. (Actually, this marks *Heading 1*, which X-Mosaic displays in large, bold print.)

<u>Example</u>:

```
<title>Fractals and Life Implications</title>
<h1>Fractals and Life Implications</h1>
```

would be a common usage of both commands at the beginning of an HTML document.

3.d. Headings

You can specify a heading in your text using the commands

h2

/h2

Example :

```
<h2>Religious Leaders</h2>

The Pope in Rome…
```

would create a heading called *Religious Leaders*, which X-Mosaic will display in a larger, bold font.

Note this is similar to `h1`, mentioned in section 3.b. You can use `h1` and `h2` as *level 1 headings* and *level 2 headings*.

Example :

```
<h1>Leadership Motivation</h1>

The motivations of leaders in different
disciplines are interesting to study. Following are
interviews which characterize the motives of each
type of leader.

<h2>Religious Leaders</h2>

The Pope in Rome…
```

4. Advanced Commands

The commands herein are not essential to creating hypertext; they will allow you to control the look and feel of your formatted text.

4.a. Special Character Formats

There are a few ways to emphasize certain portions of your text.

i

/i

will display the enclosed text in italics.

b

/b

will display the enclosed text in bold letters.

code

/code

will display the enclosed text in a fixed-width font, like courier (type face). Called *code* probably because it sets off example codes from the regular body text. (Examples in this book are set off in a similar fashion.)

Example :

```
   Below, is an example of a <i>function</i>
declaration in <b>Pascal</b>: <p>

   <code>function Null (idiot : integer) :
boolean;</code>
```

4.c. Reserved Characters

There are 3 reserved characters in HTML. They are <, >, and *&*. If you want the reader to see any of these symbols, you must use the following escape sequences:

&lt for <,

&gt for >, and

&amp for &.

Note : escape sequences *do not* go inside tags (see examples).

Example :

```
   You must enclose your command within angle
brackets, like so:
&lt HTML command &rt
```

Example :

```
<h1>Sanford &amp Son</h1>
```

&Ugrave	Ù
&Uuml	Ü
&Yacute	Ý
&aacute	á
&acirc	â
&aelig	æ
&agrave	à
&aring	å
&atilde	ã
&auml	ä
&ccedil	ç
&eacute	é
&ecirc	ê
&egrave	è
&eth	*Lower case eth*
&euml	ë
&iacute	í
&icirc	î
&igrave	ì
&iuml	ï
&ntilde	ñ
&oacute	ó
&ocirc	ô
&ograve	ò
&oslash	ø
&otilde	õ
&ouml	ö
&szlig	ß
&thorn	*Lower case thorn, Icelandic*
&uacute	ú
&ucirc	û
&ugrave	ù
&uuml	ü

4.e. Graphic Images

This is an NCSA extension to HTML, used only for X-Mosaic. You can include a `.GIF` or `.XBM` image in your text using the following in a tag:

img ***align=*** *position* **src="***pictureURL* **"**

where *position* is:

top	Aligns top of picture with text
bottom	Aligns bottom of picture with text (*default*)

and *pictureURL* is:

the URL for the graphic you'd like to include

Note: `.GIF` files are displayed in color and `.XBM` files are in black and white.

In X-Mosaic, you can make a link anchor with a graphic image. Simply put the `img` tag within the link anchor (see examples).

Example:

```
   The Smithsonian collection includes a lot of
great wildlife pictures, like this one: <img
align=top src="eagle1.gif">
```

Example:

This example (from NCSA's *access online* electronic magazine) uses both an image and text as a link anchor:

```
   <a href="92.http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/Pubs/
access/4/92.4Contents.html"> <IMG SRC = "92.4/
92.4CoverStamp.gif">October-December 1992/Vol. 6,
No.4</a>
```

4.g. Bulleted Lists

If you don’ t want to specify any particular order in your list, you can create a bulleted list of items. This is handy for creating a list of features or contents of a document.

To create an indented, bulleted list of items, use the commands:

ul

li

/ul

Example :

```
<h1>Neat Stuff</h1>
<ul>
<li> <a HREF="http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/
DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html">Info Sources
by Subject</a> <p>
<li> <a HREF="file://sunsite.unc.edu/pub/
multimedia/pictures/smithsonian/gif89a">Digitized
Pics from the Smithsonian</a> <p>
<li> <a HREF="gopher://world.std.com:70 /11/obi/
book"> The Online Books</a> <p>
</ul>
```

Each item in this list is a hypertext link anchor (although they need not be). Y ou may wish to use this at the beginning of long HTML documents as sort of a *Table of Contents* .

5. Usage Notes

5.a. Nested HTML Commands

In HTML, it is perfectly legal to put one formatting command inside another . For example:

```
   The Smithsonian collection includes a lot of
great wildlife pictures, like this one: <a
HREF="file://sunsite.unc.edu/pub/multimedia/
pictures/smithsonian/gif89a"><img align=top
src="eagle1.gif"></a>
```

which would make the picture `eagle1.gif` the hypertext link anchor to the list of Smithsonian images. Y ou might also have a table

```
<pre>
<b>High &amp Low<b>
Sat:           20/15
Sun:           17/12
</pre>
```

with a bold heading that also contains a reserved character representation. Y ou can do lists within lists, use headings as link anchors or destination anchors, etc.

Be careful just *how* complex you get. Nesting HTML commands may cause your code to fail.

The only limitation is that you must include one code completely within another . That is, when writing your HTML, *do not* overlap your formatting commands. The following would be illegal:

```
   <a href="dunce.html"><h1>Failures are Here
</a></h1>
```

Appendix A

Command Quick-Reference

a href="*protocol***://***location***/***file***#***destination***"**
/a .... Start/stop link anchor

a name="*anchorname***"**
/a .... Start/stop destination anchor

title
/title................................ Start/stop WWW browser title

h1
/h1 .... Start/stop a level 1 heading

p .... Paragraph break

h2
/h2 .... Start/stop a level 2 heading

i
/i ....Start/stop italics

b
/b .... Start/stop boldface

code
/code..................................... Start/stop fixed width font

<pre>
</pre> .... Start/stop pre-formatted text

Appendix B

Bibliography

Andreessen, Marc. *A Beginner's Guide to HTML*, 1993.

Finnie, Scot. *PC/Computing's Torture Test: 10 Top 486 Notebooks...* PC/Computing, January, 1993.

Also, a special thanks and credit to all of you who are writing HTML code. I may have peeked at your source while learning HTML, but there are far too many documents to remember and give credit to! Keep up the good work.

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