



HTML

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MODULE 2- HTML Tag Basics

Understanding the structure of an HTML document

HTML (Hyper text markup language) is the primary language of Web Pages. It is a tag-based language for coding web pages. The browser reads the HTML code and displays the page to the user. HTML documents are plain-text (also known as ASCII) files that can be created using any text editor (e.g., Emacs or vi on UNIX machines; Simple Text on a Macintosh; Notepad on a Windows machine). In this course, we will use notepad to write our HTML codes.

Structure of an HTML Document

To begin coding a web page in HTML, we must tell the browser where the HTML document begins. This is achieved by using the begin HTML tag as follows:

```
<HTML>
```

Next, we declare the head section of our document as follows:

```
<HEAD>
```

Within the HEAD section of your web page, you can add the title of your web page. The title tag will not display on your web page but will display on the top bar of the users browser.

The Title tag is written as follows:

```
<TITLE>My First Web Page</TITLE>
```

Next, you will need to end the HEAD section of your document

`</HEAD>`

Note: If you fail to close the TITLE and HEAD tag Netscape will not display anything in the browser window.

To continue coding our web page, we will now indicate the BODY section of our web page. The body section usually contains most of the information you would like to display. To indicate the beginning of the BODY section, you will need the following tag:

`<BODY>`

Now, most of the content of a web page is usually enclosed in the BODY section of the document. Since, we are still learning the structure of an HTML document, simply type the following text:

`Text...`

Next you will need to close the BODY section:

`</BODY>`

Note: Everything we display between the open and close BODY tags will display in the browser window.

To indicate the end of the HTML document, the following tag is used:

```
</HTML>
```

Saving Your HTML Document

HTML documents are saved with the ".htm" or ".html" file extensions. So far, your documents should look like the one below:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>My First Web Page</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
text ...

</BODY>
</HTML>
```

To save the file from notepad, do the following:

- Select 'file' from the menu bar
- Select 'save'
- Locate the folder you created in module 1
- Change the file type to 'all files' and give it the name 'firstweb.html'.

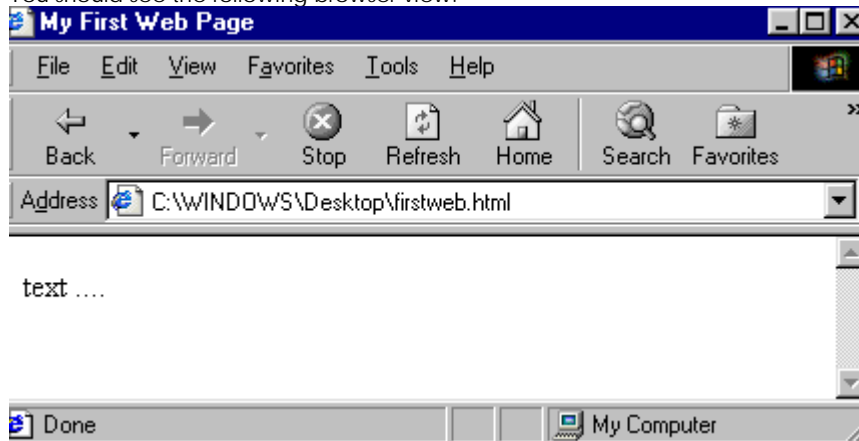
Note: While ".htm" and ".html" are valid file extensions, a file saved as firstweb.htm and firstweb.html are two individual files, in other words, they do not mean the same thing.

Viewing your page on the browser

There are several ways you can view you web page on the browser, one way is to do the following:

- Locate and open your web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer)
- From the 'file' Menu
- Select 'open'
- Locate the saved file (firstweb.html) in your system
- Click 'OK'

You should see the following browser view:



Review:

As you can see, the text in the browser window looks nothing like what you have on your HTML file. The tags have special meaning to the way the browser reads the code. The tags provide the instructions for displaying the HTML page. Notice that the title of the document is displayed in the top bar of the browser, not in the page content.

Understanding HTML Attributes

Many tags have attributes that can be used for more granular control over the enclosed text. Attributes are used to further describe the tags by specifying the desired value for the tag. For example, notice that the body has a background color of white, sometimes you want a different background color e.g blue. To achieve this you would use background color attribute with the value of blue.

The syntax for attributes is as follows:

```
<HTMLTAG ATTRIBUTE_NAME="ATTRIBUTE_VALUE">
```

Note: Not all tags have attributes, attributes must be used with the appropriate tags.

BODY Tag Attributes

The following is a list of some of the attributes that can be used with the BODY tag:

bgcolor: This attribute sets the background color of your web page. If we chose not to add this attribute, the default color will be used. The default background color is white.

text: This attribute sets the text color for your web page. Again, if the text attribute is not specified, the default color will be used. The default text color is black.

Note: The body tag has a few more attributes but we will talk about them later in this course.

Colors

Color values are represented in either hexadecimal numbers (prefixed with a hash sign) or color names. Though you can specify any color by its hexadecimal value, you can specify only 16 colors by name. The table below shows the 16 HTML named colors and their equivalent hexadecimal values.

Name	Hexadecimal	Name	Hexadecimal
White	#FFFFFF	Yellow	#FFFF00
Fuchsia	#FF00FF	Red	#FF0000
Silver	#C0C0C0	Gray	#808080
Olive	#808000	Purple	#800080
Maroon	#800000	Aqua	#00FFFF
Lime	#00FF00	Teal	#008080
Green	#008000	Blue	#0000FF
Navy	#000080	Black	#000000

Hexadecimal numbers range from 0-9,A-F. The first two digits in the 6-digit hexadecimal value represents the amount of red, the next two digits represents the amount of green and the last two digits represents the amount of blue. You can create colors by changing these values. For example the value #FF00FF would tell the browser to use maximum amount of red and blue, with no green. The resulting color would be bright purple.

Note: Think of it as mixing paint to create different colors.

Applying the 'bgcolor' and 'text' attributes to the BODY tag would look like the following:

```
<BODY BGCOLOR="#FF00FF" TEXT="WHITE">
```

Exploring HTML Tags

Formatting with Headings:

Header tags are used to put emphasis on text. The most commonly used header tag is the <Hx> tag. The <Hx> tag contains 6 different header formatting styles. These styles range from 1 through 6, 1 being the largest size and 6 being the smallest. The syntax for the starting and ending header tag is as follows:

```
<Hx>Text </Hx>
```

The 'x' in the above syntax would be a number from 1 through 6 indicating the header style to use. The header tags have a begin <Hx> and an ending </Hx>. The following is another example:

```
<H1>Text </H1>
```

The Align Attribute

The 'align' attribute is used to align the header text. The values for the 'align' attribute are: **left**, **right**, **center**, **justify**. If you do not add the 'align' attribute the browser will use the default alignment. The default value for the align attribute in the header tag is "left". The syntax is as follows:

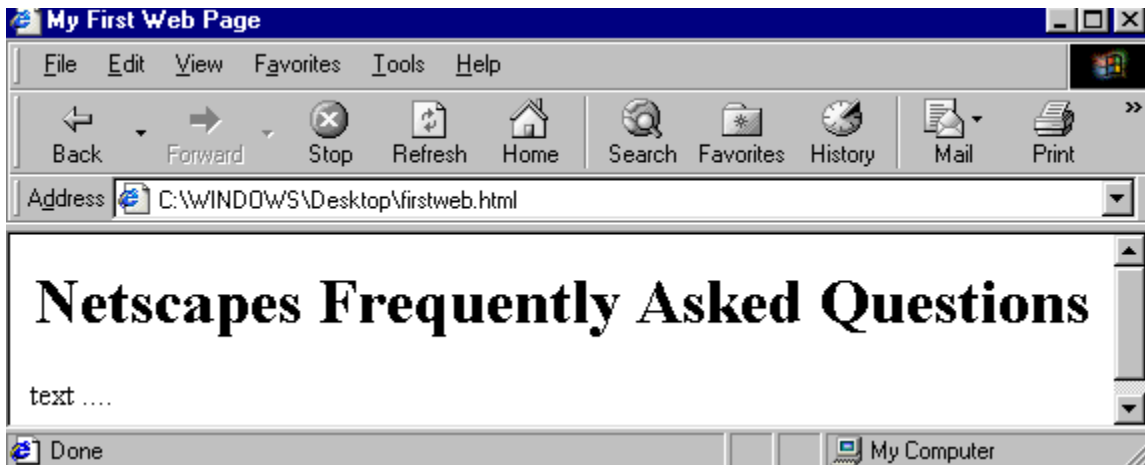
```
<Hx align="value">Text</Hx>
```

At this point, your instructor will provide you with some text on a disk to format. You will need to copy the text and place it in between the two body tags. If you do not have the text, simply type it in as you go through the exercises.

- Start your text editor and open the firstweb.html and add the tags to the first line (between the <body> and </body>) as follows:

```
<H1 align="center">Netscape's Frequently Asked Questions</H1>
```

- Save it and open your firstweb.html file in your browser.



- You should see that the font size is very large and bold, the text is centered and that it added a line feed (double space) before starting the next line.
- Add the following to the next line in your firstweb.html file:

`<H3>What's changed about Netscape Search?</H3>`

Once again, save it and view in your browser. Notice that the text is aligned to the left (the default) and the font size is smaller but still bold.

You should now take the time and try changing the size and alignment around so you can get a feel of the effects this tag has to the text it surrounds.

Structuring with Paragraphs:

The paragraph tag is a simple tag. It doesn't change your text in anyway but it will separate your paragraphs with a line feed (double space). The paragraph tag has an optional ending tag.

The Align Attribute

The paragraph tag also has the 'align' attribute and is used in the same way as with the header tag. The syntax for the paragraph tag is as follows:

`<P align="value">text`

If you chose to use the ending tag:

```
<P align="value">TEXT</P>
```

Now let's add it to the first paragraph of your firstweb.html:

```
<P>In the past, ....  
.... it for yourself.</P>
```

Don't forget to save it and view it on the browser

The Block Quote Tag:

The block quote adds a line feed and indents the paragraph on the left and right side. The open and close block quote tags surrounds the text that the effect is being applied to. You can use the 'align' attribute as we did in the header Tag.

The syntax for the block quote is as follows:

```
<BLOCKQUOTE>  
Text ....  
</BLOCKQUOTE>
```

If you want to double the indent effect you may use two block quotes but remember to close both:

```
<BLOCKQUOTE><BLOCKQUOTE>  
Text ....  
</BLOCKQUOTE></BLOCKQUOTE>
```

Add the block quote tags to the next paragraph of your firstweb.html file and preview it on the browser:

```
<BLOCKQUOTE>  
Like Yahoo!, Netscape ...  
...</BLOCKQUOTE>
```

Observe how the block quote is used in the following code and how it is nested:

```
<blockquote>
  This paragraph is indented
</blockquote>
  This paragraph will be double indented because I haven't ended the first opening 'blockquote'
</blockquote>
  The ending blockquote above closes the second starting blockquote but since the first blockquote is still open
  this paragraph will be indented as that in the first paragraph.
</blockquote>
```

Pre-Formatted Text:

Normally, the browser will disregard blank space and line feeds that you add to your HTML file (notepad). The `<pre>` tag is used to display text on the browser, the same way that you type it in notepad. The pre-tag has an ending tag but does not have any attributes associated with it. To see how it works. The following is an example:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Pre-Formatting</TITLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<PRE>
    ONE
    TWO,THREE
    FOUR, FIVE, SIX
</PRE>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

Horizontal Rule :

To separate different parts of you page with a notable separator, the horizontal rule `<hr>` tag is used. The horizontal rule has several attributes including 'align', 'width', 'color', and 'height'.

The 'align' attribute for the horizontal rule can have the value of 'center', 'left', or 'right'. The value of the 'width' can be a percentage of the available width (which until you learn tables is the window length) or a fixed pixel length.

To assign the width value in percentage the attribute will be similar to `width='75%'` which would spread across 75% of your browser window. To assign the width in pixel length it would look similar to `width="200"`, which would spread 200 pixels (approximately 1/3) across the browser window. Remember attributes are optional and the order does not matter as long as the tag name is first. The syntax for the horizontal rule is as follows:

```
<HR width="value" align="value">
```



In your firstweb.html file, add the horizontal rule after the answer to the first question as follows:

```
<P>In the past, ....  
.... it for yourself.</P>
```

```
<HR align="center" width="90%" color="blue" Height="5%">
```

Save it and preview it.

REVIEW QUESTIONS & LAB EXERCISE

Review Questions

What does HTML Stand For?

What are Attributes?

What are the three basic HTML tags?

List Three Colors in Hexadecimal Format?

Lab Exercise

After you have answered the review questions, create a web page that displays the questions and the answers. Use the header tags for the questions, either the paragraph or blockquote tag for the answers and a horizontal rule to indicate the start of a new question.