

an Open standard for structuring data

With the Extensible Markup Language [XML], the W3C has a chance to start from scratch in defining a standard markup language, instead of playing catch-up as it had to do with HTML. XML is also a subset of SGML. Unlike HTML, XML is a Meta-language, not a language itself, but a language that lets you describe other languages. As a meta-language, XML allows you to create your own elements to meet your information needs, which significantly distinguishes it from the predefined elements of HTML. XML provides a format for describing structured data that can be shared by multiple applications across multiple platforms.

XML Describes data

The power of data representation in XML comes from separating display and not from the structure of data. XML elements describe data and structure only and not presentation. Where HTML conation elements that describe a word as bold or italic XML declares an element to be a book title, item price, or product measurement. Once the data is structured in XML, it can be displayed across a variety of media, such as a computer display, television screen, or handheld device, using an associated style sheet that conations the appropriate display information. Currently, cascading style sheet is the only complete style language for XML, though the W3C is working on the Extensible style Language [XSL], which is derived from XML.

XML Allows Better Access to data

XML is valuable because it allows access to more to more meaningful searches for information, development of flexible application, multiple views of data, and is based on a non – proprietary standard that supports the open nature of the web

The HTML elements have no inherent meaning or connection to the data. They simply describe text types and display information. If customer wants to search for a particular recording, the search program must read each line of code to find the title or artist based on the content. In contrast, the XML code has meaningful element names, which could match the field names in a database and search London. The search program could look for a particular element quickly those matchers the user's request. An invoicing program could extract the price easily and list it on the customer's invoice. The possibilities are endless because the element names match and describe the data they contain.

People as well as machines can read XML code some years from now, someone could open your XML file and understand what you meant by using and as markup elements. The crossplatforms, independent nature of XML markup supports a variety of data application migrating to the London webdesign. XML lets you display data on many devices without changing the essential data descriptions

XML Lends itself to customized Information

XML is ideal for distributing complex, esoteric information among many users sharing the same types of knowledge. With the customized elements of XML, standards organizations for various industries and information types can enforce the users.

About the Author

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