XML Syntax

Lecture 2 – 06/25/02
XML Building Blocks

✓ XML Declaration
✓ Document Type Declaration
✓ Elements
  ✓ Attributes
✓ Comments
  ■ Entities
  ■ Processing Instructions
  ■ Namespaces
XML Declaration

<?xml name1 = "val1" name2 = "val2" ?>

<?xml version = "1.0"?>
<?xml version = '1.0' encoding = 'US-ASCII' standalone= 'yes' ?>
<! DOCTYPE root-element
   SYSTEM uri-of-dtd
>

<!DOCTYPE RECIPE SYSTEM "recipe.dtd">
Elements and Attributes

Example in HTML: <body bgcolor="blue"></body>
Why attributes?

- Convey more information than *name* and *content* can express
- Give unique identity to each element
- Used to label an element
- In short, it’s more muscle for the element
Comments

<! - - comment_text
- - >

<!- - you are following this recipe at your own risk - - >
DTD Basics

Structural blueprint for an XML document

- Declares allowed elements
- Content model for each element
- Allowed set of attributes for each element
Well formed Document

A document is well-formed if it adheres to the structure as specified by the dtd.
Empty Element Tag

Example: <img src="pic.jpg"/>
CAVEATS

- XML mark-up is case sensitive
- Start and end tags are required
- Whitespace is treated as content (unless explicitly told not to)
Assignment 0

- Practice creating your own document
- Write your own dtd
- Don’t worry about the technicalities
- Will be used to discuss in class on Wednesday and Thursday
- It carries no credit
XML II – Programming

- 4 week course
- Runs from week 5 – week 8
- Same class timings
- Prereqs: introduction to XML
  And java programming
- Programming intensive
What's in It for U

- Writing XML apps is an exciting new field
- It will help you in advanced courses
- Find a job
- Will result in a truly complete XML experience
Possible Project list

- Implementing an XML database
- Designing an XML query language
- Design effective indexing and demonstrate superior search in an information system
- Visualize XML document data
- Off-loading and reloading databases
- And any projects of your choice
We Want to Hear From You

- Let us know by this weekend if you would be interested
- We need a minimum of 12-14 students for the course to be offered