

Getting Started with HTML and TTU s Web Servers

Academic
Computing
Support



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1. Introduction

Before you begin creating web pages, you should be familiar with Netscape Navigator or another graphical based web browser, basic VMS commands, file structures, and a simple text editor (such as EVE or Notepad). Academic Computing Support offers free classes on these topics to help you become more proficient.

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is the basic tool for transforming text, graphics, and multi-media files into a complete web page. Before you begin, you will need to read TTU s World-Wide Web Publication Policy available at http://www.tntech.edu/www/gen/web_publish/policy.html. In addition, you will need to consult the Web Style Guide lines available online at http://www.tntech.edu/www/gen/web_publish/style_guide.html. Before you begin designing your page, you might want to look on the WWW for other examples (both good and bad). You may also contact the Office of Public Affairs (ttunews@tntech.edu) for some additional page layout suggestions.

In addition to the Web Style Guidelines, note the following guidelines to make your web pages a success:

1. Develop a plan for your pages. Who is your target audience? What messages and/or information are you trying to deliver using this webpage?
2. Sketch a brief outline on paper of how you would like your page to look.
3. Transfer this draft into HTML and evaluate the preliminary copy.
4. Test your pages with one or more of the following browsers: Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Mosaic, or Lynx.
5. Revise your errors.
6. When complete, notify other people that your webpage is now online. If this is an official TTU page, that you will need to receive approval from the Office of Public Affairs before the page can be linked into the main TTU site.

2. Initial setup of a WWW directory on Gemini

Before you begin your page design, log in to Gemini. You will need to setup a WWW directory in your account to keep your pages by typing the following commands:

```
$ create/dir [.www][ENTER]
$ public www.dir [ENTER]
```

You will not need to issues these two commands again.

3. HTML The Language of Web Browsers

Information is placed on the web in the form of an .HTML file created using any text editor (EVE, Notepad, Emacs) or by using a word processor (Word, WordPerfect) and saving the files as ASCII text.

HTML is used to define the logical organization of the document, and is not a page-layout program. You can use HTML to identify items such as the title of the document, heading and section levels, lists, insertion points for graphics, special emphasis for keywords or phrases, preformatted areas of the document, and links to other resources.

HTML documents are divided into elements which are marked by tags, generally of the form:

```
<TAG>some text</TAG>
```

The browser displays on the text between the tags (some text), not the tags themselves. Notice that the beginning tags are in the format <TAG> and the end tags are in the format </TAG>. Some commands do not use end tags, as you will see later. HTML tags are not case-sensitive, so you can type them in uppercase or lowercase. The best way to learn HTML is by producing a web document.

3.1 The <HTML> tag

The <HTML> tag signals the browser that this file is a readable HTML file. The tag should be the very first and the ending </HTML> should be the very last tag in your document.

To create an HTML file, you must first be in the correct directory in your VAX account. Type:

```
$ down www [ENTER]
$ eve index.html [ENTER]
```

The eve editor should now display a blank file on your screen. Begin your HTML document by typing:

```
<HTML> [ENTER]
```

Note that you will need to type the </HTML> end tag after you have completed the rest of your document.

3.2 The <HEAD> tag

HTML documents can be roughly divided into two sections the heading and the body. The heading contains some preliminary information, such as a title of the document, while the body contains most of the document information. To create the heading for your document, type:

```
<HEAD> [ENTER]
```

Again, note that you will use the end tag </HEAD> only after you have finished placing all relevant heading information in the document.

3.3 The <TITLE> Tag

The <TITLE> tag allows you to specify a name of your document which will appear in the title bar area of Netscape and on the document itself in Lynx. You probably will want to make your titles short and if the information is officially representing TTU, you might want to preface the title with a TTU:. Create your title by typing:

```
<TITLE>My Personal Home Page</TITLE> [ENTER]
```

The above information is all we need to place in the heading section. You will need to

complete the HEAD section by typing:

```
</HEAD> [ENTER]
```

3.4 The <BODY> tag

The <BODY> tag designates the beginning of the rest of your HTML document, while the </BODY> tag ends the BODY section of the document. To start the body of the document, type:

```
<BODY> [ENTER]
```

3.4.1 Formatting text within an HTML document

As designated above, most of the actual information (text) that you place in your webpage will be done between the two <BODY> tags. Note that none of the spacing or formatting that you do within the editor will be read by your browser. To format text, you must use HTML formatting tags; otherwise your page will display as one contiguous line of text with each word separated by a single space. With HTML, you cannot assume any formatting, even paragraph breaks and tabs.

3.4.2 Adding text using preformatted heading tags

To easily place text in your document, try using a header. There are six header tags: <H1> through <H6> with H1 being the largest and <H6> representing the smallest. Each require an ending tag </H1> at the end of your heading text. Header tags generally apply a blank line before and after the text, along with a larger and bold typeface. To place your name at the top of your personal page, type:

```
<H1>Your Name</H1> [ENTER]
```

3.4.3 The <HR> tag

The <HR> tag allows you to visually separate text on your screen by drawing a horizontal line across your web page. To accomplish this, type:

```
<HR> [ENTER]
```

3.4.4 The <P> tag

The <P> tag allows you to separate your document into paragraphs. It adds a blank line within a block of text, to distinguish one paragraph from another. The paragraph tags requires no ending tag.

Insert a paragraph (or two) about yourself in your web page by typing:

```
<P>Your paragraph text here. It can be as long as you wish.
```

3.4.5 Controlling text style

To learn how to control how text appears within an HTML file, we need to place some additional information on our webpage. Type:

```
<H3>About Me</H3> [ENTER]
```

to create a heading where you will place some additional information about yourself. Next, type:

```
<P>Another paragraph perhaps talking about research, classes, etc.
```

While typing the paragraph, select a few words to which to apply a bold type style. You accomplish this by placing the `` tag directly before the word or words that you wish to make bold. You must use the `` tag to end the bold feature; otherwise the rest of your document will remain in bold print.

Should you encounter other phrases that require underlining, you may add the `<U>` tag directly before the word or words that need to be underlined. Again, you must use the `</U>` ending tag to disable the underline feature for the remainder of the page.

Italics text is also allowed in HTML. Just as with bold and underlined text, you place the `<I>` tag directly before the word or words that need italics. You turn off the italics by placing a `</I>` directly after the last words to which you wish to apply italics.

If you would like text formatted EXACTLY (including spacing and line breaks) as you type it in, you may use the preformatted text tag. Begin preformatted text by placing a `<PRE>` tag in your document. Type your text in exactly how you wish it to look on the screen. When finished, disable preformatted text with the ending tag, `</PRE>`.

Revise your above paragraph(s), including as many of these elements as possible, so you can see how they look once you view your web page.

3.4.6 Lists

Another handy feature of HTML is the automatic list function; by utilizing these tags, you can construct either a bulleted or numbered list. Create a bulleted list within your document by typing:

```
<H6>Things I enjoy</H6> [ENTER]
<UL> [ENTER]
<LI>first item I enjoy [ENTER]
<LI>second item I enjoy [ENTER]
<LI>third item I enjoy [ENTER]
<LI>fourth item I enjoy [ENTER]
</UL> [ENTER]
```

Create a numbered list in your page by typing:

```
<H6>Things I do not enjoy</H6> [ENTER]
<OL> [ENTER]
<LI>first item I dislike [ENTER]
<LI>second item I dislike [ENTER]
<LI>third item I dislike [ENTER]
<LI>fourth item I dislike [ENTER]
</OL> [ENTER]
```

Notice that the `` tag represents a bulleted list and the `` tag signifies a numbered list. Also note that while the `` and `` tags require an ending tag, the `` tag does not.

3.4.8 The <ADDRESS> and
 tags

It is a good idea to always sign your work including an electronic mail reference and any additional information you wish to publish. Do this by typing:

```
<HR> [ENTER]
<ADDRESS>Contact me via E-Mail at [ENTER]
<A HREF="mailto:USERNAME@tntech.edu">USERNAME@tntech.edu</A><BR>
Last updated: CURRENT DATE
</ADDRESS>
```

Make sure that you replace the instances of USERNAME with your username and CURRENT DATE with the correct current date. Also notice the use of the
 tag; it causes your text to appear on the next line of your document within the browser. It does not require an ending tag.

You should also notice the use of <A>, better known as anchor tags. Its use is explained in section 3.4.10.

3.4.9 Adding images

The element allows a .GIF or .JPG file to be displayed in the browser window in your HTML file. The ALT attribute allows text to be shown instead of the image in browsers that are either not capable of displaying graphics or have that option disabled. The ALIGN attribute specifies the vertical alignment of the image with the neighboring text. Its value can be either top, middle, or bottom.

We are going to create a hyperlink in our document so the user can click on some text to take them back to the TTU Home Page. The first part of this process is to place the picture of a home in the document. Do this by typing:

```
<IMG SRC="http://www.tntech.edu/www/home.gif" ALIGN="middle"
ALT=" ">
[ENTER]
```

Note that the source (SRC) of the image file can either be a URL to a file (recommended only if the files are on one of TTU's web servers) or the actual filename such as picture.jpg.

3.4.10 The Anchor Tag

Since we wish to create a clickable link that takes the user back to the TTU Home page, we need to use the anchor tag. Do this by typing:

```
<A HREF="http://www.tntech.edu/">Go to TTU Home Page</A> [ENTER]
```

Notice that the text located between the beginning and the ending anchor tag will be underlined when the HTML files is viewed through a browser.

3.5 Finishing the document

Since we have placed all the information we wish in our document, type in the following finishing elements as discussed in sections 3.1 and 3.4:

```
</BODY>  
</HTML>
```

Press [CTRL] and Z to save the document. Next, you must make the file viewable by anyone who wishes to see it. Do this by typing:

```
$ public index.html
```

Finally, load Netscape, click on the Open button, and type in the following URL:

```
http://gemini.tntech.edu/~username/
```

where username is your Gemini username. If you typed everything carefully, your page should show all the information that you typed. If certain pieces are missing, you will need to make corrections. Do this by editing the `index.html` file, making the necessary changes, and saving the file. You will need to hit the Reload button in Netscape to ensure that you are viewing the most current version of the file.

4.0 Getting help

Should you require additional assistance in HTML publishing or wish to learn more about it, check out some of the online resources available for it at http://www.tntech.edu/www/gen/web_publish/html.html.

You may also contact Lauren Neal via E-Mail (LNeal@tntech.edu) or by phoning (931) 372-3982.

5.0 A Summary of HTML Tags discussed in this document

The following table shows all the HTML tags discussed in this document and a brief description of what they do:

HTML Tag	Brief Description
<code><HTML>your entire page</HTML></code>	Identifies the page as a web page.
<code><HEAD>heading information</HEAD></code>	Identifies the heading area of the page.
<code><TITLE>title of page</TITLE></code>	The title of the page which appears in the title bar.
<code><BODY>body of page</BODY></code>	Identifies the body area of the page.
<code><H1>text</H1></code>	Heading text. H1 through H6 is available.
<code><HR></code>	Inserts a line in your document.
<code>text</code>	Emphasizes text by applying a bold font style to it.
<code><I>text</I></code>	Italicizes text.
<code><U>text</U></code>	Underlines the text. Different than a hyperlink.
<code><PRE>preformatted text</PRE></code>	Displays text exactly how you have typed it.
<code><P>paragraph</code>	Paragraph break.
<code></code>	Bulleted list.
<code></code>	Numbered list.
<code></code>	List item.
<code></code>	Inserts a graphic in your page.
<code><ADDRESS>text</ADDRESS></code>	Contains the signature of your page.
<code>Link Name</code>	Link to another page.