Introduction to HTML

Shih-Heng Chin

Department of Computer and Information Science
Soochow University
Preface

- What is HTML
- Characteristic of HTML
- Goals of This Semester
- Useful stuff
- Reference
What is HTML

- When to use HTML
- Hypertext Markup Language
- What is Hypertext
- What is Markup Language
What is Hypertext

- Hypertext is text which contains links to other text.
- Abstract first from Vannevar Bush in the 1940’s
- The term coined by Ted Nelson in 1967
- First real system, HyperCard, created by Bill Atkinson in 1987
What is Markup Language

Language use tags to define format of text

Example:

```xml
<Book>
  <Name>Concepts of Programming Languages</Name>
</Book>
```
Timeline of HTML

1989: WWW Project Proposal
1992: The first version of HTML
1994: HTML+
1995: HTML 2.0
1996: HTML 3.2
1997: HTML 4.01
Now: XHTML
Changes Between Versions

- **HTML to HTML+**
  - Added figures, tables, forms....

- **HTML to HTML 2**
  - Added `<IMG>`, `<FORM>`,...

- **HTML 2 to HTML 3.2**
  - Added `<TABLE>`,...
Changes Between Versions

- **HTML 3.2 to HTML 4**
  - Added Style Sheets, Script, ...

- **HTML 4 to XHTML**
  - Reformulated in XML
Characteristics of HTML

- Plain text
- Tags contain display format of data
Plain Text

- Easy to edit
- Totally platform independent
- Use browser to parse it
  - May get different output with different browsers
Tag Contains Display Format

- Hard to mine information from data

- Example:

```html
<table>
  <th>Class</th><th>ID</th><th>Name</th>
  <tr><td>CS 101</td><td>90123456</td><td>Steven</td></tr>
  <tr><td>CS 102</td><td>90123457</td><td>Amy</td></tr>
</table>
```
Tag Contains Display Format

- Hard to change display format dynamically
  - Example: $<Hn>$ tag ($n=1$ to 7)
- Existing tags are not enough to present all kinds of documents
- Use CSS to solve these problems
Goals of This Semester

Edit/Create web pages in HTML tags
Useful Stuff

- Spec/Doc
  - W3C (http://www.w3c.org)

- Text Editor
  - Edit+ (http://www.editplus.com)

- WYSIWYG Editor
  - Dreamweaver (http://www.macromedia.com/)
Reference

- W3C (http://www.w3c.org)