

CS 105 - Survey of Computer Science

Spring 2007 - Very Basic HTML

This handout **very briefly** describes how to create a webpage by writing hand-coded HTML and how to install webpages in the UE homepage webspace. For more information, consult the on-line references that are linked to the course webpage.

Basic HTML Structure

HTML is a *markup* language. This means that the items to be displayed are surrounded by special symbols (called *tags*) that tell a web browser how to display the items. Most tags in HTML come in pairs of the form `<tag>...</tag>` (sometimes called a “begin tag” and “end tag” pair) where the items to be affected by the tag are between the tag pair. A few tags are self-ending with form `<tag />`.

All HTML webpages have the following structure:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Title of page that appears in window heading</title>
</head>
<body>
  <!-- This symbol is the start of a comment that is ignored by the browser.
        The items to displayed go here between the body tags.
        The end of a comment looks like this: -->
</body>
```

Most web browsers require HTML file names to end with `.html` (the actual standard) or `.htm` (what IE accepts, so everyone else must do so too). Most web servers are configured to server the file `index.html` (or `index.htm`) as the default document when presented with a directory/folder name rather than a document name.

Very Basic HTML Tags

Here is a **very brief** list of the most commonly used HTML tags (more or less in the order presented in class) with the most commonly used options and arguments that you would need to know to get started.

`<p>...</p>`

Paragraph tag. A paragraph is a block of text or other items. The text or items are rendered in one long line with the browser determining where linebreaks are based on the actual size of the browser window. There is a double space after each paragraph.

`
`

Linebreak tag. This is a self-closing tag. Forces normally running text to start on a new line.

`...`

Anchor tag. An anchor is the text (or image) that may be clicked on to request another webpage. The requested URL is the value of the href option to the tag. The items between the anchor tag pair are usually highlighted (e.g., underlined and blue for text or a blue border for images).

``

Image tag. This is a self-closing tag. Places an image into the webpage. The name of the image file is the value of the src option. An image source may be a file in the same space as the webpage or a URL to an image file on another webpage.

Without the width and height options, the image will be rendered in its actual size. The height and width options are almost always used to both resize images and also to make webpages load more rapidly, since the browser will know how much space will be needed for the image. However, webpages load even faster if the actual size of the image is the same size as the height and width options.

The alt option provides a text description of an image. This is used by the web browser when the image doesn't load properly (or loads slowly) and by screen readers for the visually impaired.

`<h1>...</h1>, ... , <h6>...</h6>`

Heading tags. `<h1>` is the largest and `<h6>` is the smallest, but the actual sizes depends on the browser settings.

`...`

Emphasis tag. Used to emphasize text. Most browsers rendered the text in italics.

`...`

Strong emphasis tag. Used to emphasize text. Most browsers rendered the text in bold.

` ... `

Unordered list tags. Creates a bulleted list of the list items tagged by `...`. May be nested for sublists.

` ... `

Ordered list tags. Creates a numbered list of the list items tagged by `...`. May be nested for sublists.

`<table> <tr> <th>...</th> <td>...</td> </tr> </table>`

Table tags. Creates a table. Each row is surrounded by `<tr>...</tr>`. Each cell in a row is surrounded either by header tags `<th>...</th>`, which render the text in bold and centered in the cell, or by data tags `<td>...</td>`. Table size is automatically adjusted based on cell contents unless the width option is specified on a cell.

`<hr />`

Horizontal line tag. This is a self-closing tag. Draws a horizontal line across the page.

Installing Webpages in UE Homepages Space

Webpages should be created in your own network drive space using a text editor like Notepad. These files may be viewed using Internet Explorer by double-clicking on the icon for the file.

Homepage webspace is available upon request to OTS, which has been done for all students in the this class. To install the webpages into the UE homepage webspace, do the following if Internet Explorer is your default browser:

1. Click on the Start menu, then Run (lower right item)
2. Enter `ftp://homepages.evansville.edu` and click OK
3. This should start up Internet Explorer. For IE 6 or earlier, a dialog box should appear. Enter `acenet\userid` for the username and your ACENET password. For IE 7, this should give you a view of the main folder of the webspace host. Click on the Page tab and select Open FTP site in Windows Explorer and the dialog box should appear.

4. In either case, a folder window that you can then copy and paste your webpage files into should appear.

If IE is not your default browser, start IE manually, then enter `ftp://homepages.evansville.edu` as the URL and press Enter. This should get you to the same place as Step 3 above.

The URL for these pages is `http://homepages.evansville.edu/userid/filename.html`