W3C: Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition)

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Table 1: Data sheet for Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition) (W3CAcronym)

Title	Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fifth Edition)
Acronym	XML
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Note: The following is an excerpt from the W3C site. It is provided here as a convenience and is not authoritative. Refer to the original document as the authoritative reference.

Abstract

The Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a subset of SGML that is completely described in this document. Its goal is to enable generic SGML to be served, received, and processed on the Web in the way that is now possible with HTML. XML has been designed for ease of implementation and for interoperability with both SGML and HTML.

Introduction

Extensible Markup Language, abbreviated XML, describes a class of data objects called XML documents and partially describes the behavior of computer programs which process them. XML is an application profile or restricted form of SGML, the Standard Generalized Markup Language ISO 8879. By construction, XML documents are conforming SGML documents.

XML documents are made up of storage units called entities, which contain either parsed or unparsed data. Parsed data is made up of characters, some of which form character data, and some of which form markup. Markup encodes a description of the document's storage layout and logical structure. XML provides a mechanism to impose constraints on the storage layout and logical structure.

*[Definition: A software module called an **XML processor** is used to read XML documents and provide access to their content and structure.] [Definition: It is assumed that an XML processor is doing its work on behalf of another module, called the **application**.] This specification describes the required behavior of an XML processor in terms of how it must read XML data and the information it must provide to the application.*

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