Discussion Questions

Respond to five of the following threads with your answers or additional questions about the post from others. Before you post a response, read the other responses. Try to add additional information to those responses or at least clarify other responses.

1. Importance of adding Style.

XML is useful for storing data and is self-descriptive with its tags. However it is helpful to apply presentation styles to the data so viewers can easily find information they need. Name a couple of ways that styles help to present data.

2. Separating Content from Style.

One of the advantages sited for using CSS is that it allows you to separate content from style. What does this mean and why is this helpful?

3. Limitations of CSS.

There are several things that CSS can do and it is relatively easy to apply. There are alternatives to using CSS. For example you could use a programming language. Another alternative is to use XSL. These alternatives are used because CSS have a few limitations. We will study how to use program languages with CSS and how to use XSL in later units in this course. However we need to know what limitations there are of CSS. What are a couple of limitations of CSS?

4. Example of CSS property declaration.

Give an example of a CSS property and value declaration for each of the following categories: Font, Text, Color and border.

5. How do you create a rule?

What is the syntax for creating a CSS rule?

6. What is the difference between block and inline?

Sometime you want the CSS rule to continue in the same line, this would be an inline style. Other CSS rules will cause the display to start on a new line. The CSS display property allows you to create a block or inline rule based on your own needs.

In XHTML some of the tags are created as inline and some are created as block tags. Give
two examples of XHTML tags that are block tags and two that are inline tags.

7. Differences in browsers.

View your xml project file as a raw file (no CSS style) and view it using CSS rules. Do both views in three different browsers. What if any differences do you see from the different browsers.

8. Cascade.

CSS stands for Cascading style sheets. What does cascade mean in this context?


An element has its own rules but it can also inherit rules from its parent element. Sometime there is a rule that is inherited from the parent element and duplicated in the child element. When this happens the child element’s rule overrides the parent element. Using the example in the mini-lecture give an example of an inherited rule and an overridden rule.

10. Default rule.

To specify a rule that is a default you use the * symbol. When you have an element that doesn’t specify a rule, it will use the default rule. Otherwise if the element has the rule specified it overrides the default rule. Give an example of an element from the mini-lecture that uses a default and give an example of an element from the mini-lecture that overrides the rule from the default rule.

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