

INFORMATION SCHOOL BOOT CAMP

Session Four: Structures of the Internet

September 27, 2001

GENERAL INFORMATION AND UW STUDENT WEB SITE DETAILS

A. What is an HTML document?

HTML, abbreviated for Hypertext Markup Language, is the authoring language used to create/format documents for display on the World Wide Web. Web pages are essentially forms of Word documents that are simply designed with a different programming language using HTML tags in order that they may be displayed and viewed on the WWW. By applying various HTML tags in a document, the designer is defining the structure and layout of the page and, consequently, instructing the browser how to read the content.

B. Activating your Public HTML folder

To create a web site, the designer must first acquire server space. All students at the University of Washington are provided with free web page space by way of the Dante Server, but it must be purposely activated by the student. The following page from the Computing and Networking department explains the process step by step:

<http://www.washington.edu/computing/web/publishing/students.html>

C. Default Settings

The University of Washington, as well as many other web hosts, names the file for the main page (i.e., the homepage or the default web page) "index.html." When other people type your designated URL into their browser, the page retrieved first is the "index.html" page. After you are no longer a student at UW, you will likely choose to download your HTML files from the Dante server and upload them to your new server. At this point, it may be necessary to change the file name of your home page from "index.html" to something else, depending on the designation assigned by the new host.

D. What are HTML Tags?

A tag is a command inserted into a Word document that indicates how the page will be formatted. All Web pages must be written using some form of tags; in addition to HTML, other languages that employ tags are XML, meaning *Extensible Markup Language* and SGML, which stands for *Standard Generalized Markup Language*. There exist hundreds of different types of HTML tags that direct the browser concerning typeface, font size, color of text and backgrounds, images, creation of drop down menu boxes and blank text boxes. Tags are recognized by using the "<" and ">" characters on either side of the tag instruction. For every opening tag, known as a 'start tag,' there should be a corresponding closing tag, also called the 'end tag,' with the closing tag including a forward slash. It does not matter considerably if lower case or uppercase letters are used, but it is important to remain consistent with one or the other throughout the document.

An example of HTML tag formation:

<BODY>

The text that is placed in between the tags

</BODY>