



Corso di Biblioteche Digitali



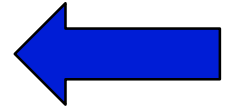
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- Ricevimento dopo la lezione o per appuntamento
- Valutazione finale
 - 70% esame orale
 - 30% progetto (una piccola biblioteca digitale)
- Materiale di riferimento:
 - Ian Witten, David Bainbridge, David Nichols, How to build a Digital Library, Morgan Kaufmann, 2010, ISBN 978-0-12-374857-7 (Second edition)
 - Materiale fornito dal Professore
- **<http://cloudone.isti.cnr.it/casarosa/BDG/>**



Modules



-
- Computer Fundamentals and Networking
 - A conceptual model for Digital Libraries
 - Bibliographic records and metadata
 - Information Retrieval and Search Engines
 - Knowledge representation
 - Digital Libraries and the Web
 - Hands-on laboratory: the Greenstone system



What is XML?



- The acronym means **eXtensible Markup Language**
- It is used to describe “data” in a way which is simple, structured and (usually) readable also by humans
- Developed at the end of the nineties by W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) as a simplification of the language SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language), from which also HTML was derived
 - SGML originated from IBM’s GML and is still today an ISO standard (ISO 8879:1986)
- Initial objective was to define a standard language for exchanging information on the Web

Simple example



- Define the structure of a (simple) telephone book:
 - *Name; Surname; Telephon.*
- Example of a text file (phonebook.txt):
Mario; Rossi; 031221222
Francesco; Neri; 123876453
Michele; Bianchi; 022121222
- Within the computer it is just one long string of characters
Mario;Rossi;031221222■Francesco;Neri;123876453■Michele;Bianchi;022121222■
- Use of “delimiters” to separate the elements of the data (e.g. “;” and “■”)
- In this example the data have three elements (name, surname, telephone number)

Simple example in XML



```
<phonebook>
  <entry>
    <firstname>Mario</firstname>
    <lastname>Rossi</lastname>
    <phone>031221222</phone>
  </entry>
  <entry>
    <firstname>Francesco</firstname>
    <lastname>Neri</lastname>
    <phone>123876453</phone>
  </entry>
  <entry>
    <firstname>Michele</firstname>
    <lastname>Bianchi</lastname>
    <phone>022121222</phone>
  </entry>
</phonebook >
```

- The delimiters have a name (elements or tags)
- Within the computer it is still a long string of characters, but now a hierarchical structure is becoming apparent, by means of “opening tags” and “closing tags” nested one within the other

XML is not HTML



- The main purpose of XML is to describe how the data is structured and what is the contents of the components of the structure
- XML tags can be freely defined by the user, but....
 - they do not give any “formal” indication about the meaning (the semantics) of the data delimited by the tags
 - they do not give any indication on how the data can be represented, processed, utilized
- XML is only a way to create “languages” (i.e. the names of the tags) with a standard syntax to describe the structure of data
- HTML is just one of those “languages” whose main purpose is to describe how to visualize on a screen some data
- HTML tags (the language) are defined by W3C

Structure of a XML document



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
```

Prolog

```
<personnel>  
  <employee>  
    <First>Fred</First>  
    <Last>Landis</Last>  
    <Title>Project Manager</Title>  
    <Phone>123-456-7890</Phone>  
    <Email>f.landis@nanonull.com</Email>  
  </employee>  
  <!--This is a comment-->  
</personnel>
```

Root

The XML elements



- There must be only one root element
- Tag elements must be closed
- Tag names can be any string of letters and numbers, not containing spaces (blank characters) and not starting with a number or special character
- XML distinguishes small letters and capital letters, e.g. `<title>` is different from `<Title>`
- Elements can contain “text” or other elements (can also be void)
- Contained elements must be closed before closing the “container” element

Special characters



Some special characters cannot appear in the value (the “text”) of an element

name	meaning
&amp;	&
&lt;	<
&gt;	>
&apos;	'
&quot;	”

Attributes of an element



- Attributes can be defined in the opening tag, to provide additional information about the element, e.g.
`<actor role="primary">Brad Pitt</actor>`
- Whether the “additional information” is provided as an attribute or in a nested element is decided by the designer of the XML definitions

```
<person>  
  <name>Andrea</name>  
  <surname>Rossi</surname>  
  <sex>male</sex>  
</person>
```

```
<person sex="male">  
  <name>Andrea</name>  
  <surname>Rossi</surname>  
</person>
```

```
<person surname="Rossi">  
  <name>Andrea</name>  
  <sex>male</sex>  
</person>
```

Conflicts in tag names



In XML, element names are defined by the developer. This often results in a conflict when trying to mix XML documents from different XML applications.

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <td>Room1</td>
    <td>Room2</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

HTML table

```
<table>
  <name>Coffee Table</name>
  <width>80</width>
  <length>120</length>
</table>
```

piece of furniture

Use of prefixes



```
<h:table>
  <h:tr>
    <h:td>Room1</h:td>
    <h:td>Room2</h:td>
  </h:tr>
</h:table>
```

This comes from the
“namespace” **h**

```
<f:table>
  <f:name>Coffee Table</f:name>
  <f:width>80</f:width>
  <f:length>120</f:length>
</f:table>
```

This comes from the
“namespace” **f**

Declaration of namespaces



```
<root  
  xmlns:h="http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/"  
  xmlns:f="http://www.w3schools.com/furniture">
```

Declaration of
“namespace” h

```
<h:table>  
  <h:tr>  
    <h:td>Room1</h:td>  
    <h:td>Room2</h:td>  
  </h:tr>  
</h:table>
```

Declaration of
“namespace” f

```
<f:table>  
  <f:name>Coffee Table</f:name>  
  <f:width>80</f:width>  
  <f:length>120</f:length>  
</f:table>  
  
</root>
```

Namespaces are
“resources” and are
identified by their URI
and (usually) are
specified as attributes
of the root

Definition of document types



- Need to define exactly the “abstract” structure of a given XML document, regardless of its actual content
 - Element (tag) names
 - Content of each element (simple or complex)
- DTD: Data Type Definition (deprecated)
 - Uses a syntax different from XML
- XML Schema
 - Uses the same syntax as any other XML document

An XML document



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<shiporder orderid="889923">
  <orderperson>John Smith</orderperson>
  <shipto>
    <name>Ola Nordmann</name>
    <address>Langgt 23</address>
    <city>4000 Stavanger</city>
    <country>Norway</country>
  </shipto>
  <item>
    <title>Empire Burlesque</title>
    <note>Special Edition</note>
    <quantity>1</quantity>
    <price>10.90</price>
  </item>
  <item>
    <title>Hide your heart</title>
    <quantity>1</quantity>
    <price>9.90</price>
  </item>
</shiporder>
```

An XML schema (shiporderschema.xsd)



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
<xs:element name="shiporder">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element name="orderperson" type="xs:string"></element>
      <xs:element name="shipto">
        <xs:complexType>
          <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="name" type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:element name="address" type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:element name="city" type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:element name="country" type="xs:string"/>
          </xs:sequence>
        </xs:complexType>
      </xs:element>
      <xs:element name="item" ... > ..... </element>
    </xs:sequence>
    .....
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```


An XML schema



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
<xs:element name="shiporder">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>
      .....
      <xs:element name="item" maxOccurs="unbounded">
        <xs:complexType>
          <xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="title" type="xs:string"/>
            <xs:element name="note" type="xs:string" minOccurs="0"/>
            <xs:element name="quantity" type="xs:positiveInteger"/>
            <xs:element name="price" type="xs:decimal"/>
          </xs:sequence>
        </xs:complexType>
      </xs:element>
    </xs:sequence>
    <xs:attribute name="orderid" type="xs:string" use="required"/>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

The XML schema



- defines elements that can appear in a document
- defines attributes that can appear in a document
- defines which elements are child elements
- defines the order of child elements
- defines the number of child elements
- defines whether an element is empty or can include text
- defines data types for elements and attributes
- defines default and fixed values for elements and attributes

Namespaces



- A schema is a collection (vocabulary) of element declarations and type definitions
- Each different schema can be assigned a unique name (i.e. a URI) which indicates the “namespace” defined in the schema
- The namespace(s) are useful to “validate” an “instance document”
- The namespaces used in an instance document are (usually) declared as attributes of the root

Target name space



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
            xs:targetNamespace="http://www.example.com/shiporderschema">
<xs:element name="shiporder">
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:sequence>
      .....
    </xs:sequence>
    <xs:attribute name="orderid" type="xs:string" use="required"/>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
</xs:schema>
```

Referencing a schema



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<shiporder orderid="889923"
  xmlns="http://www.example.com/shiporderschema"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.example.com/shiporderschema
    http://www.example.com/shiporderschema.xsd">

  <orderperson>John Smith</orderperson>
  <shipto>
    .....
  </shipto>
  <item>
    .....
  </item>
  <item>
    .....
  </item>
</shiporder>
```

JSON

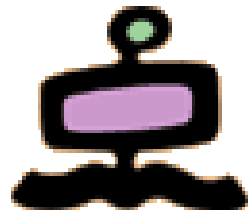


- JSON stands for **JavaScript Object Notation**
- JSON is a **text format** for storing and transporting data
- JSON is "self-describing" and easy to understand

- `{"name":"John", "age":30, "city":"New York"}`
- This is an “object” with three “properties” (name, age, city)
- Each property has a value
- Syntax is derived from JavaScript object notation syntax

Source: w3schools

JSON Syntax



- Unordered sets of name/value pairs
 - Begins with { (left brace)
 - Ends with } (right brace)
 - Each name is followed by : (colon)
 - Name/value pairs are separated by , (comma)

- Arrays in JSON
 - An ordered collection of values
 - Begins with [(left bracket)
 - Ends with] (right bracket)
 - Name/value pairs are separated by , (comma)

JSON and XML



```
<employees>
  <employee>
    <firstName>John</firstName> <lastName>Doe</lastName>
  </employee>
  <employee>
    <firstName>Anna</firstName> <lastName>Smith</lastName>
  </employee>
  <employee>
    <firstName>Peter</firstName> <lastName>Jones</lastName>
  </employee>
</employees>
```

```
{"employees":[
  { "firstName":"John", "lastName":"Doe" },
  { "firstName":"Anna", "lastName":"Smith" },
  { "firstName":"Peter", "lastName":"Jones" }
]}
```

Source: w3schools

JSON and XML



- JSON is Like XML Because
 - Both JSON and XML are "self describing" (human readable)
 - Both JSON and XML are hierarchical (values within values)
 - Both JSON and XML can be parsed and used by lots of programming languages

- JSON is Unlike XML Because
 - JSON doesn't use end tag
 - JSON is shorter
 - JSON is quicker to read and write
 - JSON can use arrays
 - **JSON is (almost) a JavaScript object**

Source: w3schools