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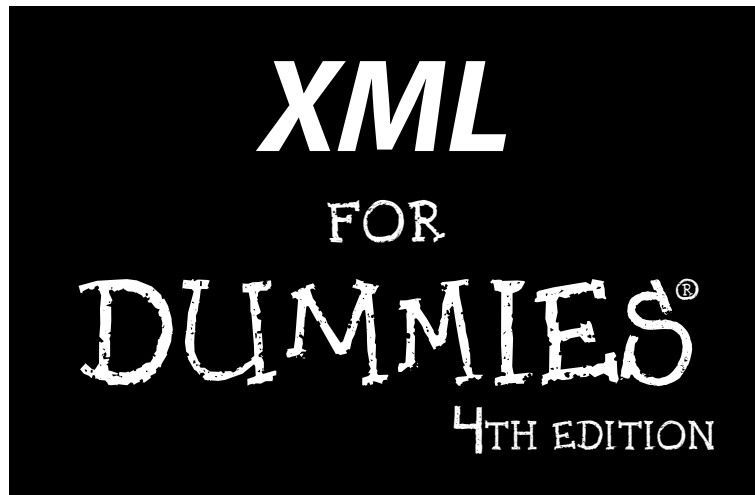
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**by Lucinda Dykes and Ed Tittel**



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## About the Author

**Lucinda Dykes** started her career in a high-tech area of medicine, but left medicine to pursue her interests in technology and the Web. She has been writing code and developing Web sites since 1994, and also teaches and develops online courses — including the JavaScript courses for the International Webmasters Association/HTML Writers' Guild at [www.eclasses.org](http://www.eclasses.org).

Lucinda has authored, co-authored, edited, and been a contributing author to numerous computer books; the most recent include *Dreamweaver MX 2004 Savvy* (Sybex), *XML for Dummies* (3rd Edition, Wiley), *Dreamweaver MX Fireworks MX Savvy* (Sybex), *XML Schemas* (Sybex), and *Mastering XHTML* (Sybex). When she can manage to move herself away from her keyboard, other interests include holographic technologies, science fiction, and Bollywood movies.

**Ed Tittel** is a 23-year veteran of the computing industry. After spending his first seven years in harness writing code, Ed switched to the softer side of the business as a trainer and talking head. A freelance writer since 1986, Ed has written hundreds of magazine and Web articles — and worked on over 100 computer books, including numerous *For Dummies* titles on topics that include several Windows versions, NetWare, HTML, XHTML, and XML.

Ed is also Technology Editor for *Certification Magazine*, writes for numerous TechTarget Web sites, and writes a twice-monthly newsletter, "Must Know News," for CramSession.com. In his spare time, Ed likes to shoot pool, cook, and spend time with his wife Dina and his son Gregory. He also likes to explore the world away from the keyboard with his trusty Labrador retriever, Blackie. Ed can be contacted at [etittel@yahoo.com](mailto:etittel@yahoo.com).





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## *Dedication*

To the heroes at the W3C and OASIS, sung and unsung, especially members of the many XML working groups who have made the world (or the Web, at least) a better place through their tireless efforts, and to all those Web pioneers who generously offered help and support to those of us trying to figure out how to make our contribution to the Web in the early '90s.

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# Contents at a Glance

---

<b><i>Introduction</i></b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b><i>Part I: XML Basics</i></b> .....	<b>9</b>
Chapter 1: Getting to Know XML .....	11
Chapter 2: Using XML for Many Purposes .....	23
Chapter 3: Slicing and Dicing Data Categories: The Art of Taxonomy .....	33
<b><i>Part II: XML and the Web</i></b> .....	<b>45</b>
Chapter 4: Adding XHTML for the Web .....	47
Chapter 5: Putting Together an XML File .....	65
Chapter 6: Adding Character(s) to XML .....	83
Chapter 7: Handling Formatting with CSS .....	95
<b><i>Part III: Building In Validation with DTDs and Schemas</i></b> .....	<b>109</b>
Chapter 8: Understanding and Using DTDs .....	111
Chapter 9: Understanding and Using XML Schema .....	135
Chapter 10: Building a Custom XML Schema .....	157
Chapter 11: Modifying an Existing Schema .....	173
<b><i>Part IV: Transforming and Processing XML</i></b> .....	<b>195</b>
Chapter 12: Handling Transformations with XSL .....	197
Chapter 13: The XML Path Language .....	215
Chapter 14: Processing XML .....	235
<b><i>Part V: XML Application Development</i></b> .....	<b>245</b>
Chapter 15: Using XML with Web Services .....	247
Chapter 16: XML and Forms .....	259
Chapter 17: Serving Up the Data: XML and Databases .....	271
Chapter 18: XML and RSS .....	285
<b><i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i></b> .....	<b>299</b>
Chapter 19: XML Tools and Technologies .....	301
Chapter 20: Ten Top XML Applications .....	313
Chapter 21: Ten Ultimate XML Resources .....	321
<b><i>Glossary</i></b> .....	<b>329</b>
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>347</b>



---

# Table of Contents

---

## ***Introduction* ..... 1**

About This Book .....	1
Conventions Used in This Book .....	2
Foolish Assumptions .....	3
How This Book Is Organized .....	4
Part I: XML Basics .....	4
Part II: XML and the Web .....	4
Part III: Building in Validation with DTDs and Schemas .....	5
Part IV: Transforming and Processing XML .....	6
Part V: XML Application Development .....	6
Part VI: The Part of Tens .....	7
Glossary .....	7
Icons Used in This Book .....	7
Where to Go from Here .....	8

## ***Part I: XML Basics* ..... 9**

### **Chapter 1: Getting to Know XML ..... 11**

XML (eXtreMely cool) .....	12
Mocking up your own markup .....	12
Separating data and context .....	12
Making information portable .....	13
XML means business .....	13
Figuring Out What XML Is Good For .....	14
Classifying information .....	14
Enforcing rules on your data .....	15
Outputting information in a variety of ways .....	16
Using the same data across platforms .....	17
Beyond the Hype: What XML Isn't .....	18
It's not just for Web pages anymore .....	19
It's not a database .....	20
It's not a programming language .....	20
Building XML Documents .....	21

### **Chapter 2: Using XML for Many Purposes ..... 23**

Moving Legacy Data to XML .....	23
The Many Faces of XML .....	24
Creating XML-enabled Web pages .....	24
Print publishing with XML .....	25

Using XML for business forms .....	28
Incorporating XML into business processes .....	29
Serving up XML from a database .....	31
Alphabet Soup: Even More XML .....	31

**Chapter 3: Slicing and Dicing Data Categories:**

<b>The Art of Taxonomy .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Taking Stock of Your Data .....	33
Looking at business practices and partners .....	34
Gathering some content .....	34
Checking whether a DTD or schema already exists .....	35
Searching for a schema repository .....	36
Breaking Down Data in Different Ways .....	37
Winnowing out the wheat from the chaff .....	38
Types of data that can be stored in XML .....	39
Developing Your Taxonomy .....	39
Testing Your Taxonomy .....	41
Using trial and error for the best fit .....	41
Testing your content analysis .....	42
Looking Ahead to Validation .....	43

**Part II: XML and the Web .....** **45****Chapter 4: Adding XHTML for the Web .....** **47**

HTML, XML, and XHTML .....	47
What HTML does best .....	48
The limits of HTML .....	49
Comparing XML and HTML .....	50
Using XML to describe data .....	51
The benefits of using HTML .....	53
The benefits of using XML .....	53
XHTML Makes the Move to XML Syntax .....	54
Making the switch .....	55
Every element must be closed .....	56
Empty elements must be formatted correctly .....	56
Tags must be properly nested .....	57
Case makes a difference .....	57
Attribute values are in quotation marks .....	58
Converting a document from HTML to XHTML .....	59
The Role of DOCTYPE Declarations .....	62

**Chapter 5: Putting Together an XML File .....** **65**

Anatomy of an XML File .....	65
The XML declaration .....	67
Marking up your content .....	68
Playing by the Rules: Well-Formed Documents .....	74

Adding Style for the Web .....	76
Seeking Validation with DTD and XML Schema .....	78
Why describe XML documents? .....	79
Choosing between DTD and XML Schema .....	80
<b>Chapter 6: Adding Character(s) to XML .....</b>	<b>.83</b>
About Character Encodings .....	84
Introducing Unicode .....	85
Character Sets, Fonts, Scripts, and Glyphs .....	87
For Each Character, a Code .....	88
Key Character Sets .....	89
Using Unicode Characters .....	91
Finding Character Entity Information .....	93
<b>Chapter 7: Handling Formatting with CSS .....</b>	<b>.95</b>
Viewing XML on the Web with CSS .....	96
Basic CSS Formatting: CSS1 .....	97
The Icing on the Cake: CSS2 .....	98
Building a CSS Stylesheet .....	98
Adding CSS to XML .....	99
A simple CSS stylesheet for XML .....	101
Dissecting a simple CSS stylesheet .....	102
Linking CSS and XML .....	106
Adding CSS to XSLT .....	107
 <b>Part III: Building In Validation with DTDs and Schemas .....</b>	 <b>109</b>
<b>Chapter 8: Understanding and Using DTDs .....</b>	<b>111</b>
What's a DTD? .....	112
When to use a DTD .....	113
When NOT to use a DTD .....	113
Inspecting the XML Prolog .....	114
Examining the XML declaration .....	115
Discovering the DOCTYPE .....	116
Understanding comments .....	116
Processing instructions .....	117
How about that white space? .....	117
Reading a DTD .....	118
Using Element Declarations .....	119
Using the EMPTY element type and the ANY element type .....	120
Adding mixed content .....	121
Using element content models .....	122
Declaring Attributes .....	123
Discovering Entities .....	125
General entities .....	126
Parameter entities .....	128



Understanding Notations .....	130
Calling a DTD .....	131
Internal DTDs .....	131
External DTDs .....	132
When to use an internal or external DTD .....	133
<b>Chapter 9: Understanding and Using XML Schema .....</b>	<b>135</b>
What's an XML Schema? .....	136
So Many Datatypes, So Little Time .....	138
XML Prolog .....	139
Document Structures .....	141
Element declarations .....	141
</confirmOrder> Attribute declarations .....	144
Attribute groups .....	144
What about that white space? .....	145
Datatype Declarations .....	148
Simple datatypes .....	148
Complex datatypes .....	149
Defining constraints and value checks .....	149
Dealing with Entities, Notations, and More .....	150
Annotations .....	151
Deciding When to Use a Schema .....	152
Referencing XML Schema Documents .....	153
The inside view: Referencing a schema in an XML document .....	153
Calling for outside support: Referencing external schemas in your schema .....	153
Double-Checking Your Schemas and Documents .....	155
<b>Chapter 10: Building a Custom XML Schema .....</b>	<b>157</b>
Doing the Validity Rag .....	157
Step 1: Understanding Your Data .....	159
Step 2: Being the Root of All Structure: Elements .....	159
Step 3: Building Content Models .....	161
Step 4: Using Attributes to Shed Light on Data Structure .....	163
Step 5: Using Datatype Declarations to Define What's What .....	164
Tricks of the Trade .....	167
Creating a Simple Schema .....	168
Using a Schema with an XML File in Word 2003 .....	170
<b>Chapter 11: Modifying an Existing Schema .....</b>	<b>173</b>
Trading Control for Flexibility .....	174
Eliciting Markup from an XML Schema .....	174
Modifying a Schema .....	176
Using Datatypes Effectively .....	177
Using datatypes with data-intensive content .....	177
Using datatypes with text-intensive content .....	179

Making Elements Work Wisely and Well .....	180
Creating crafty content models .....	180
A matter of selection .....	181
Mixing up the order .....	183
Using Complex Datatypes .....	183
When XML Schemas Collide: Namespaces .....	185
Including External Data .....	188
Including/Excluding Document Content .....	188
Converting DTDs to Schemas .....	190

## ***Part IV: Transforming and Processing XML* ..... 195**

### **Chapter 12: Handling Transformations with XSL ..... 197**

The Two Faces of XSL .....	198
XSLT .....	198
XSL-FO .....	200
XSL Stylesheets Are XML Documents .....	201
A Simple Transformation Using XSLT .....	202
An XSLT Stylesheet for Converting XML to HTML .....	202
The pieces of the stylesheet puzzle .....	205
Processing element content .....	207
Dealing with repeating elements .....	209
Creating an XSLT Stylesheet with XSLT Editors .....	210

### **Chapter 13: The XML Path Language ..... 215**

Why Do You Need Directions? .....	216
XPath document trees .....	217
Understanding XPath nodes .....	218
XPath Directions and Destinations .....	220
XPath Syntax .....	221
Some simple location paths .....	222
Adding expressions .....	223
Taking steps along the XPath .....	223
Looking at attributes .....	224
Going backward .....	224
Reversing direction .....	225
Null results .....	225
Getting back to your roots .....	226
XPath functions .....	226
Using XPath with XMLSpy .....	226
The Short Version .....	228
Child-axis abbreviations .....	229
Attribute-axis abbreviation .....	229
Predicate and expression abbreviations .....	229
Some more abbreviations .....	230
What's New in XPath 2.0? .....	231
Where to Now? .....	233

<b>Chapter 14: Processing XML</b> .....	<b>235</b>
Frankly, My Dear, I Don't Give a DOM .....	235
Keeping in touch with the family .....	238
Understanding DOM structure .....	238
What Goes In Must Come Out: Processing XML .....	240
So many processors, so little time .....	242
Which processor is right for you? .....	243

## ***Part V: XML Application Development*** .....

**245**

<b>Chapter 15: Using XML with Web Services</b> .....	<b>247</b>
What's Up with Web Services? .....	248
A Web Services Architecture .....	251
Transport: Moving XML messages .....	252
Packaging/Extensions: Managing information exchange .....	253
Description: Specifying services and related components .....	254
Discovery: Finding what's available .....	255
Where Will Web Services Lead? .....	256

<b>Chapter 16: XML and Forms</b> .....	<b>259</b>
Collecting Information with Forms: The Basics .....	260
HTML Forms .....	260
XML Forms .....	261
XForms .....	261
InfoPath .....	267

<b>Chapter 17: Serving Up the Data: XML and Databases</b> .....	<b>271</b>
Using Databases with XML .....	272
Text-intensive XML .....	272
Data-intensive XML .....	273
Creating XML from Database Files .....	273
Using Word 2003 .....	274
Using InfoPath .....	275
Using XMLSpy .....	278
Using XML with Access 2003 .....	281

<b>Chapter 18: XML and RSS</b> .....	<b>285</b>
Introducing RSS .....	286
Sorting Out the Versions .....	286
RSS 0.9x .....	287
RSS 2.0/2.01 .....	290
RSS 1.0 .....	291
Validating an RSS Feed .....	295
Creating RSS Feeds .....	296
Get Syndicated! .....	297
Using an RSS Reader .....	298

**Part VI: The Part of Tens ..... 299****Chapter 19: XML Tools and Technologies ..... 301**

Creating Documents with Authoring Tools .....	301
Epic Editor .....	302
Turbo XML v2.4.1 .....	303
XMetaL Author 4.5 .....	303
XML Pro v2.0.1 .....	303
XML Spy 2005 .....	304
Checking Documents with Parser Tools .....	304
Ælfred .....	305
expat .....	306
Lark .....	306
Viewing with XML Browsers .....	307
Amaya .....	307
Internet Explorer 6 .....	307
Mozilla .....	308
Firefox 1.0 .....	308
Opera .....	308
Using XML Parsers and Engines .....	309
XML C Library for Gnome .....	309
Java XML Pack .....	310
Xerces .....	310
Employing Conversion Tools .....	311
HTML Tidy .....	311
Extensible Programming Script (XPS) .....	311
The Ultimate XML Grab Bag and Goodie Box .....	312
Microsoft does XML, too! .....	312
webMethods automates XML excellence .....	312

**Chapter 20: Ten Top XML Applications ..... 313**

XHTML = XML + HTML .....	314
XML Style Is a Matter of Application .....	314
Wireless Markup Language (WML) .....	314
DocBook, Anyone? .....	315
Mathematical Markup Language (MathML) .....	315
Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) .....	316
Resource Description Framework (RDF) .....	316
Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL) .....	317
Servin' Up Web Services .....	317
XQuery .....	318
Create XML Applications with Zope .....	319

**Chapter 21: Ten Ultimate XML Resources ..... 321**

XML's Many and Marvelous Specs .....	321
An XML Nonpareil .....	322
Top XML Tutorial Sites .....	322

XML in the Mail .....	323
Excellent XML Examples at zvon.org .....	323
XML News and Information .....	323
XML Training Options .....	324
Building a Bodacious XML Bookshelf .....	325
Studying XML for Certification .....	326
Serious Searches Lead to Success .....	327
<b><i>Glossary</i></b> .....	<b>329</b>
<b><i>Index</i></b> .....	<b>347</b>

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# Introduction

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**W**elcome to the latest frontier of Web technology. In *XML For Dummies*, 4th Edition, we introduce you to the mysteries of eXtensible Markup Language (*XML*). XML is helping developers capture, manipulate, and exchange all kinds of documents and data, ranging from news feeds to financial transactions. In fact, many experts believe XML represents a kind of “lingua franca” that can represent information in just about any imaginable form, more accessibly than ever before — not only to human readers, but also to all kinds of computer applications and services.

We take a practical and straightforward approach to telling you about XML and what it can do for your data and document capture, management, and exchange efforts. We try to keep the amount of technobabble to a minimum and stick to plain English as much as possible. We also try to keep the focus on practical applications of XML technology, including desktop applications such as Office 2003. We have carefully chosen what we feel are the most relevant XML technologies for developers today. Besides plain talk about XML — and the many special-purpose applications that XML supports for document designers and authors, graphics developers, and many other communities of technical and business interests — we include lots of sample markup to help you put XML to work in your organization, business, or personal life. (No personal life is quite complete without a little XML.)



The Web page for this book is available at [www.dummies.com/go/xmlfd4e](http://www.dummies.com/go/xmlfd4e). This Web page includes all the XML example files from this book, as well as numerous XML authoring tools, parsers, development kits, and other goodies for you to download. We hope you'll find it helpful for your own projects!

## About This Book

Think of this book as your friendly, approachable guide to using XML for all kinds of interesting purposes. Using XML is a bit trickier than using HTML, so this book is organized to make it easier to grapple with XML's fundamentals, wrestle them to the ground, and use them well. We also document voluminous additional sources of information, both online and offline. Here are some of the topics we include:

- ✓ An overview of XML's capabilities, terminology, and technologies
- ✓ Tips for styling XML with CSS and XSLT

- ✓ Hands-on practice in developing DTDs and XML Schema for validating XML documents
- ✓ A beginner's guide to XPath
- ✓ An introduction to XForms and InfoPath
- ✓ A guide to XML application development, including Web services, databases, and news feeds



Because XML is essentially a markup language used to create other XML-based markup languages — or what we also call XML applications — it's not exactly accurate to call a document based on one particular XML application or another an "XML document." It really makes more sense to call it an "XML-based document" because the document itself contains markup defined using XML. But for brevity's sake, we call such documents *XML documents* in this book. After all, such documents must adhere to the rules of XML syntax and structure if they are to work properly. We could get all fussy and always refer to them (more correctly) as "XML-based documents" or "documents based on such-and-such an XML application." But that makes us squirm too.

Although you might think that using XML requires years of training and advanced technical wizardry, we don't think that's true. If you can tell someone how to drive across town, you can certainly use XML to build documents that do what you want them to. The purpose of this book isn't to turn you into a true-blue geek, complete with pocket protector. Rather, *XML For Dummies*, 4th Edition shows you which design and technical elements you need so you can get a practical handle on what XML is and how it works. We also provide numerous examples and case studies to illustrate how XML behaves, so you can gain the know-how and confidence to use XML to good effect!

## Conventions Used in This Book

Throughout this book, you see lots and lots of markup. All XML markup appears in monospace type, like this:

```
<Greeting>Hello, world!</Greeting> ..
```

When you type XML tags or other related information, be sure to copy the information exactly as you see it between the angle brackets (< and >), because that's part of the magic that makes XML work. Other than that, we tell you how to marshal and manage the content that makes your pages special, and we tell you exactly what you need to do to mix the elements of XML with your own work.



Because the margins in this book can't accommodate some long lines of XML markup and still stay legible, sometimes we have to break lines of code. That tends to happen in designations for Web sites (called *URLs*, for *Uniform Resource Locators*) or special XML identifiers for namespaces and other information objects (called *URIs*, or *Uniform Resource Identifiers*) and also in the odd monstrously long line of markup that wraps to the next line. On your computer, these wrapped lines would appear on-screen as a single line of XML or as a single URL or URI — so don't insert a hard return when you see any such lines wrap in the book. Here are some examples of wrapped lines:

```
www.infomagic.austin.com/nexus/plexus/lexus/praxis/  
this_is_deliberately_long.html
```

and

```
<Item>Scientists have developed a robot that "learns" to walk like a toddler,  
improving its step and balance with every stride.</Item>
```



XML is sensitive to how element text is entered. If you're following our examples from the comfort of your living room, keep in mind that you have to use uppercase, lowercase, or other characters exactly as they appear in the book (or, more important, as they're defined in the document description that governs any well-formed, valid XML document — be it an XML Schema or a Document Type Definition, or *DTD*). To make your work look like ours as much as possible, enter all element text exactly as it appears in this book. Better yet, download the file from the Web page for the book ([www.dummies.com/go/xmlfd4e](http://www.dummies.com/go/xmlfd4e))!

## Foolish Assumptions

Someone once said that making assumptions makes a fool out of the person who makes them and the person who is their subject. Even so, we're going to make a few assumptions about you, our gentle reader:

- ✔ You're already familiar with text files and know how to use a text editor.
- ✔ You have a working connection to the Internet.
- ✔ You're hip to the difference between a Web browser and a Web server.
- ✔ You want to build your own XML documents for fun, for profit, or because it's part of your job.

Also, we assume that you have a modern Web browser — one that can support XML directly. As we write this, that elite includes Internet Explorer 5.5 (and higher), Netscape Navigator 6 (and later), Opera, Firefox, Mozilla, and



- [After.pdf](#)
- [Ground Wars: Personalized Communication in Political Campaigns book](#)
- [read online 021 \(Tokugawa Ieyasu, Book 2\)](#)
- [Geography: A Very Short Introduction \(Very Short Introductions\) online](#)
- [read online Queer: A Novel](#)
- [download online Cuadernos de Lanzarote I](#)
  
- <http://cavalldecartro.highlandagency.es/library/Eat-Like-You-Care--An-Examination-of-the-Morality-of-Eating-Animals.pdf>
- <http://weddingcellist.com/lib/The-Science-of-Serendipity--How-to-Unlock-the-Promise-of-Innovation.pdf>
- <http://paulczajak.com/?library/Crystallizing-Public-Opinion.pdf>
- <http://chelseaprintandpublishing.com/?freebooks/The-Math-Book--From-Pythagoras-to-the-57th-Dimension--250-Milestones-in-the-History-of-Mathematics.pdf>
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- <http://junkrobots.com/ebooks/Life-in-the-Universe--A-Beginner---s-Guide.pdf>