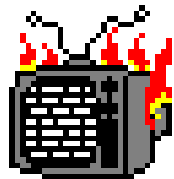


What is XML All About?

- XML may be seen as an Internet-enabled version of EDI
- XML stands for “eXtensible Markup Language”
- Purpose is to represent data via a tag-based scheme
 - Allows data representation via tags
 - Enables definition of the tags themselves
- What XML is NOT
 - XML is a standard; Java is a platform
 - XML is not a programming language
 - XML is not a Web presentation language



XML is a hot topic



Find out more about XML

What is XML All About?

XML holds the promise of being the cross-language, cross-platform common data format

- There are many XML products in today's marketplace.
- This leads to confusion on how and where to use XML.
- XML has been referred to as the "silver bullet" for e-commerce.

Committees and consortiums promote standardization and reduce vendor bias.

- XML standard maintained by the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium)
- Other organizations promoting XML:
 - XML.ORG
 - OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards)

What is XML All About?

Several larger vendors have added Web pages dedicated to XML:

- www.BizTalk.org (Microsoft's XML-based commerce server)
- www.ibm.com/developer/xml (IBM's XML Zone)
- www.Oracle.com/xml (Oracle's XML Web site)

XML products in the market today may be classified as:

- Authoring tools (editors) stand-alone products to create/edit XML documents
- Viewing tools (browsers) enable presentation of XML documents
- Conversion tools convert data from various formats to/from XML
- Parsers/processors make an XML document available to an application
- Tools/utilities enhance XML processing
- Database systems define data storage and retrieval mechanisms
- Business-to-business servers are what XML is all about: data formatting, exchange, etc
- Content management systems build information exchange and translation systems

What is XML All About?

- An XML tag will identify a customer name as a “name”
- Another tag will identify the customer’s address as an “address”
- Entire sets of XML tags are being defined for specialized situations and vertical industries
- XML provides a flexible way to create common data formats;
then share the data and the formats
- XML’s power is to separate the presentation of the data from the data itself
- Allows developer to identify a piece of data
and lift data out of a Web page for another application