What is XML All About?

- XML may be seen as an Internet-enabled version of EDI

- XML stands for "e**X**tensible **M**arkup **L**anguage"

- 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

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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)

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

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- 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