

XHTML Terms

Absolute URL

A URL that specifies the entire path to a resource, including the scheme, server name, path, and the file name itself. For example `http://www.google.com` is an absolute URL.

Anchor

Jump points within an XHTML page that can be used as destinations for links.

Attribute

Part of an element that defines a property of that element. For example, in the markup `Home`, `href` is an attribute of the `a` element.

Block-level

Markup elements that display their content on a new line; used mainly for structural parts of a Web page, such as headings. For example, `p`, `ul`, and `h1` are block-level elements.

Body

Section of XHTML markup that contains the content of the Web page.

Cascade

Method used in cascading style sheets that takes into account inheritance, specificity, and locality when more than one rule can be applied to format page elements.

Cascading Style Sheet (CSS)

Style sheet language used to describe the presentation of a document written in a markup language. Cascading style sheets are made up of one or more rules.

Cell Padding

Number of pixels between the table cell's content and the table cell's border. *See also:* cell spacing.

Cell Spacing

Number of pixels between the borders of each table cell. *See also:* cell padding.

Checkbox

Form widget – specifically a selection widget – that allows the user to make *multiple* selections from a number of items.

Child

Element that is nested within other elements. For example, in the markup `<h1><i>Introduction</i></h1>`, `i` is the child element.

Client-side Image Map

Image map defined within the XHTML markup and that is interpreted by the browser (i.e., the client).

Declaration

Component of a cascading style sheet rule that specifies the formatting to be applied. For example, in the rule `p { color: red; }`, “`color: red`” is the declaration.

Definition List

Special type of list used for glossaries or other word-phrase pairs. *See also:* ordered list and unordered list.

Destination

The part of a link that specifies the type of resource. Destinations can include images, sound files, movies, or other Web pages.

Division (div element)

Breaks text into blocks that can be formatted using cascading style sheets.

Element

Markup component that specifies document structure; can contain text, other elements, or nothing at all. For example, `p`, `table`, `i`, and `form` are elements for paragraphs, tables, italicized text, and input forms respectively.

Form

Mechanism that allows the user to provide input via selection widgets and text input widgets. *See also:* get method, post method, hidden field, submit button, and legend.

Frameset XHTML

Version of XHTML that allows frames; this version will be phased out eventually. *See also:* strict XHTML and transitional XHTML.

get Method

Form submission method that encodes the form data (i.e., name/value pairs) into the URL. Suppose a form has two input elements with the names `name1` and `name2` with respective values `value1` and `value2`. The `get` method would send a URL of the form `script.url?name1=value1&name2=value2`. If the form values contain non-ASCII characters or the form content of the URL exceeds 100 characters, the post method *must* be used.

Head

Section of XHTML markup that defines the title of the page and other information that isn't usually visible to the viewer of the page, but is useful to search engines.

Hidden Field

Form component that allows name/value pairs to be specified without any visual representation.

Image Map

An image divided into clickable regions; the two types of image maps are client-side image maps and server-side image maps.

Inheritance

Situation pertaining to cascading style sheets in which a child element takes on the properties of its parent element with respect to formatting.

Inline

Markup elements that display their content on the current line; used mainly for text. For example, `b`, `sup`, and `span` are inline elements.

Label

The part of a link that the user sees and clicks on to reach the destination.

Legend

Mechanism for visually grouping form widgets by placing a labeled border around them.

Link

References to resources on a file system. Links have three components: destination, label, and target.

Location

Situation pertaining to cascading style sheets in which ties between inheritance and specificity are resolved. For example, locally-defined rules specified within the element itself via the `style` attribute have higher precedence.

Markup

Information about the document content that is included in the document itself. Markup can include formatting instructions or details about relationships between parts of the document. Because the markup is text, the document is universally readable. XHTML has three main types of markup: elements, attributes, and values.

Menu

Form widget – specifically a selection widget – that allows the user to select one (or possibly multiple) of several predefined values. Menus are useful in situations where there is not enough screen “real estate” to display all the values or where the readability of the page would be impaired by displaying too many values.

Ordered List

A collection of items that are numbered. *See also:* definition list and unordered list.

Parent

An element that contains other elements. For example, in the markup `<h1><i>Introduction</i></h1>`, `h1` is the parent element.

Password Box

Form widget – specifically a text input widget – that can be used to visually mask confidential data, such as passwords, from casual observers.

post Method

Form submission method that does not include form data (i.e., name/value pairs) as part of the URL. The `post` method is considered more secure because the get method allows a hacker to bypass the form by calling the server-side script directly and passing arbitrarily-encoded URL string, which could contain invalid names and values. If the form values contain non-ASCII characters or the form content of the URL exceeds 100 characters, the `post` method *must* be used.

Properly nested

Characteristic of elements where children elements are terminated before parent elements. For example, the markup `<h1><i>Introduction</i></h1>` is properly nested because the child element (`i`) is terminated before the parent element (`h1`). However, the markup `Home` is improperly nested because the `b` element was terminated before the `a` element.

Radio Button

Form widget – specifically a selection widget – that allows the user to choose *only one* of a predefined set of items. When the user selects a radio button, any previously selected radio button in the same group is deselected.

Relative URL

A URL that specifies a path to a resource that is relative to the current directory on the file system. For example, in the markup `Home`, the destination is the file `index.html` in the parent directory.

Reset Button

Form widget that restores all form widgets to their default state. The reset button often accompanies the submit button.

Rule

Primary component of a cascading style sheet; a rule is comprised of a selector and one or more declarations. For example, the rule `p { color: red; }` specifies that text within `p` elements should be colored red.

Selection Widgets

Form widgets that allow a user to select one or more items from a constrained set of choices. The following form widgets are selection widgets: radio buttons, checkboxes, and menus.

Selector

Component of a cascading style sheet rule that identifies a markup keyword whose appearance should be affected by the declarations that follow the selector(s). For example, in the rule `p { color: red; }`, “`p`” is the selector.

Server-side Image Map

Image map where the mapping of regions to URLs is specified in a file on the server (i.e., not part of the XHTML page as with client-side image maps).

Span (span element)

Used to identify smaller blocks of text than headers or divisions, and is primarily used to format inline text with cascading style sheets.

Specificity

Situation pertaining to cascading style sheets in which higher priority is given to more specific selectors.

Submit Button

Form widget that initiates the action (e.g., sending the data to a server-side script) associated with that form. The submit button is often accompanied by the reset button.

Strict XHTML

Version of XHTML where only XHTML elements are allowed; useful for taking advantage of connecting to databases and working with cascading style sheets. *See also:* frameset XHTML and transitional XHTML.

Target

Part of a link, which is often omitted or implicit, that specifies where the destination will be displayed. For example, the target can be a named window or a new window. When omitted, the destination content is typically displayed in the current browser window, thus overwriting the previous content.

Text Area

Form widget – specifically a text input widget – that allows the user to provide more than one line of textual input.

Text Box

Form widget – specifically a text input widget – that contains one line of free-form text.

Text Input Widget

Form widgets that allow a user to input one or more strings of text. The following form widgets are text input widgets: text boxes, password boxes, and text areas.

Tooltip

A small string of explanatory text that appears when the mouse cursor is positioned over a particular XHTML element for a few seconds.

Transitional XHTML

Version of XHTML where some elements that will be deprecated are still allowed; useful when the markup includes deprecated elements. *See also:* frameset XHTML and strict XHTML.

Unicode

Industry standard for encoding characters that allows computers to consistently represent and manipulate text expressed in any of the world's writing systems.

Unordered List

A collection of items where the order of appearance is not important (e.g., a bulleted list). *See also:* definition list and ordered list.

UTF-8

8-bit Unicode transformation format; most accepted character encoding for XHTML markup.

Value

Specific content assigned to an attribute. For example, in the markup `Home`, "index.html" is the value for the `href` attribute.

XHTML

Extensible Hypertext Markup Language; a markup language that has the same depth of expression as HTML, but also conforms to XML syntax by requiring that all markup elements be properly nested and terminated.