Tutorial on Basic HTML

English 439/539 | Fall 2005

The following tutorial provides instructions on how to create a basic webpage using HTML code. For a complete list of HTML code, go to:
http://www.htmlcodetutorial.com/quicklist.html

Getting Started

- Create a folder on the desktop (for practice) or your H-drive (to keep) called "test."

- Open up WordPad or NotePad.
- Save the document to "test" folder and name it "index.html"

- Go to http://www.odu.edu
- Right click on the graphic that states "Old Dominion University Changing Lives"
- Select **Save Picture As** and save the graphic file (gfx-logo-odu.edu) in "test."

Checking Progress

To check your progress…
- Open up a browser (e.g., IE) and go to **File → Open**
- Click **Browse** and find your file in the "test" folder

Creating a Page

The following code basics of all web pages. As you will notice that all tags (e.g., <html>) is eventually followed by an end tag (e.g., </html>. This grammar designates where you want a certain feature or command to start and where you want it to end. Failure to provide an end tag will result in the browser correctly reading your pages, but completely misreading your intentions.

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Name's ODU webpage</title>
</head>
<body>
My ODU webpage
</body>
</html>
```

<html> = the page
<head> = where you place information about the web page that mostly does not appear on the browser window; the title of the web page is placed here which appears at the top of the window
<body> = this is the information you see in the window

Creating a Title

For the sake of this tutorial, we will make "My ODU webpage" the title that your audience sees in the window. You can change the size of the title by placing the following tags around the text you have already written:

```
<h1>My ODU webpage</h1>
```

To alter the size of the title, you can choose a value between 1 (i.e., <h1>) and 6 (i.e., <h6>), moving from largest to smallest respectively.

Creating a Paragraph

In the body text, under the title you just created, write two short paragraphs about why you chose to come to ODU. After you have written these paragraphs place the following tags around both paragraphs.

```
<p>your text</p>
```

This will create two block paragraphs.

```
<br>
```
 will break a line, but not create a new paragraph.

Setting Background Color

Even if you want a white background you should set the background color so that the background does not appear gray in browsers. To create a white background, modify the <body> tag using one of the two following tag lines.

```
<body bgcolor="white">
<body bgcolor="#FFFFFF">
```

When using "true" colors (e.g., red, orange, green, yellow), you can type in the color. However, if you want hues, you will want to type in the hex code. If you desire, use the hex codes on the last page of Williams and Tollett to change the background color.

You can also set the background as an image by using the following code.

```
<body background="gfx-logo-odu.gif">
```

Note that tiling the ODU logo like this makes your page look unprofessional. A tiled pattern often looks much better.

Setting Font Attributes

You can make several adjustments to your fonts, including setting the face (i.e., the type of font that you use; note that three similar options are provided in the example below), style (e.g., underline, bold), color, and size. Right after and right before the <p> and </p> in the two paragraph that you wrote include the following code:

```
<p>
<font>text</font>
</p>
```

Within those font tags, we will include other attributes. For example…

```
<font color="#336699" face="Arial, Helvetica, sans-
serif" size="3">
```

For the font color, you can choose from all of the colors on the last page of Williams and Tollett. For the font face, you can choose any font face, but it may not show up on the audience's browser. The best choices are Times New Roman (or similar serif fonts), Arial (or similar sans serif fonts), and courier. Size can range from 1 through 6, as well as –1 through –6 (to decrease the default font) and +1 through +6 to increase the default font.

To change the font style use the following tags around the text you want to emphasize.

```
<b>text</b> to bold
<i>text</i> to italicize
<u>underline</u> to underline
```

Note that all of these changes can be applied to different parts of the webpage. However, you need to pay attention to where you open a tag and where you close it.

Inserting an Image

Visuals are a significant feature of webpages and can be placed anywhere in the text. For the purposes of this tutorial, we will place the ODU logo at the top of the page. Right after the <body> tag, include the following new code (in bold):

```
<body bgcolor="#FFFFFF">
<img src="gfx-logo-odu.gif" alt="ODU logo">
<p>
```

The alt tag is a textual description of the image. While the "alt" is not necessary, it does provide useful information to certain audiences (e.g., users with slow connections, the deaf).

Creating a link

Some of the links that you can create can take your audience to other pages (including webpages within your site) or can help your audience email. You can use text or images for these links. We will create an email link with text and an external link with an image.

To create the email link…
- Type your email address after the second paragraph and place it between two paragraph tags.
- Add font attributes
- Between the font tags, add the following code (in bold):

```
<p><font><a href="mailto:youraddress@odu.edu">
youraddresss@odu.edu</a></font></p>
```

To create an external link with an image…
- Go to the image you inserted at the top
- Modify the code as follows (in bold):

```
<a href="http://www.odu.edu"><img src="gfx-logo-
odu.gif"></a>
```