

Summary

CIS260 Intro to XML

XML is one of those few programming languages that “just clicked” with me. I did the final project in about 8 hours, including the DTD’s and Schemas. I think I actually wasted more time on playing with the CSS than I did with the programming. That doesn’t mean that the class was easy, but there was just something about the structure of the language that made more sense to me than something like Javascript or PHP.

XML is a markup language that can be used in as an integration point between other languages, and I have seen it used to create both websites and databases. The goal behind creating XML was to simplify usability, and it allows users to define their own tags and elements as compared to other languages that have predefined ones. This course taught me how to create well-formed documents using XML, how to add style to it using CSS, how to transform it into other formats such as HTML using XSLT, and how to locate specific information within the data using XPATH. The language is easier to validate than most others I have been exposed to using DTD’s and Schemas that define the basic structure of the elements and how they relate to each other.

The final project for this class probably requires a bit of an explanation. One of my classmates, with whom I have had numerous classes, had a fondness for pink and Hello Kitty. So much so that she generally incorporated them into all of her projects, much to the chagrin of our teacher. The first page of my final project was a playful stab at both of them, although my successive pages were an attempt to further expand upon the humorous kitty concept with somewhat mixed results.