

CSC309 Tutorial 1

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HTTP Status Codes

- 200
- 301
- 302
- 304
- 401
- 403
- 404
- 5xx

HTTP Status Codes

- 200 OK
- 301 Moved Permanently
- 302 Found
- 304 Not Modified
- 401 Unauthorized
- 403 Forbidden
- 404 File Not Found
- 5xx Server Error

HTTP Tricks

- Make sure your server compresses all content it sends using gzip
- Split content onto multiple domains for faster page loading
- Make your application send status codes to communicate with the browser

HTTP Debugging and Testing Tools

- urllib and urllib2 in Python
- curl on the command line
- Web Developer add-on for Firefox

(X)HTML

- No one seems to be able to decide which standard should be currently used
- Most well-authored websites now use either XHTML 4 or HTML5
- XHTML is very similar to HTML only follows more strict rules on syntax
- Also, XHTML is XML, not HTML

Why (X)HTML?

- (X)HTML is for describing the structure of a document
- Good markup should attempt to describe the semantics of the content
- Every element should have a logical purpose
- (X)HTML should NOT be concerned at all with presentation

Good (X)HTML

- Make sure to use proper elements to specify the meaning of text
- Example: `` vs `` and `<i>` vs ``
- The first of each of these is purely presentational, the second implies meaning
- Try to keep the structure of the document separate from the presentation
- This is especially true when naming CSS classes

CSS

- Several versions of CSS exist, latest is CSS3
- Browsers support the important parts of CSS 2
- It's ok to use newer features, but make sure it degrades nicely in older browsers
- Browsershots is a great tool to see what your website may look like in other browsers

Why CSS?

- CSS applies presentation to (X)HTML
- It separates form from function
- Well-written CSS should apply to multiple documents, somewhat independent of structure
- Users like to look at something pretty

Why bother using standards?

- Not all browsers follow the same rules for rendering documents
- Standards are the only chance of getting something that may be consistent
- For your assignments in this course, all your code should always validate without errors

Ways to learn (X)HTML/CSS

- Check out the code of your favourite sites
- Review information at W3Schools
- Try it out! Play around!
- In the end, make sure all your code validates (use the W3C (X)HTML and CSS validators)