

Assignment 9: “HTML, Part I”

due by section during the week of 20 April 1999

Short answers. (10 points each.)

Please answer each of the following two questions in one or more sentences.

1. Unfortunately, Joe User has yet to find a working pen, and so, again, he must leave an assignment entirely in your hands.

Suppose that, upon visiting the URL `http://www.ibm.com/welcome.html`, you are confronted with a page containing the error message below, rather than the “Welcome to IBM!” page that you had expected.

HTTP Error 403 - Forbidden

What exactly does this error message mean? That is, suppose that an HTML file called `welcome.html` does, in fact, exist in the root directory of IBM’s Web server. Why, then, can you not view the page?

2. Recall that a URL like `http://www.dell.com/store.html` implies that an HTML file called `store.html` exists in the root directory of Dell’s Web server. Consider the URL `http://www.yale.edu/~elihu/pages/biography.html`. Where on Yale’s Web server does `biography.html` reside? Be as specific as possible.

Hand-crafted HTML. (20 points.)

3. Suppose that you have been commissioned to design a Web page according to the following guidelines.
 - The title of the page should be “For Sale”.
 - The body of the page should have a khaki background.
 - The body of the page should contain “For Sale: '86 Jeep Wrangler” in big, black characters. Below those words should be “only \$99,999” in tiny, black characters.

On a sheet of paper, write or type the HTML that would produce such a page. (*N.B.* You do *not* have to create a Web page in your FAS account with these criteria; you simply need to submit the HTML that *would* produce this Web page, were a file containing that HTML to be placed on a Web server.)

“Debugging” HTML. (12 points each.)

Each of the following two questions requires that you correct zero or more HTML-related mistakes. Hence, tear this page out of this packet after correcting any mistakes and submit the page along with your written or typed answers to this assignment’s other questions.

Note that typographical errors (misspelled tags, misspelled attributes, etc.), syntax errors (missing left- or right-angled brackets, missing quotation marks, etc.), missing tags, superfluous tags, and unbalanced tags all constitute mistakes.

4. The following HTML contains zero or more mistakes. With a pen or pencil, point out and correct any and all errors.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>
My worst Web page
</TITLE>

<BODY BACKGROUNDCOLOR="#abcdef">

<CENTER>
Welcome to my worst Web page!
</CENTR>

</BODY>
</HTML>
```

5. The following HTML also contains zero or more mistakes. With a pen or pencil, point out and correct any and all errors.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>
A slightly better Web page
</TITLE>
</HEAD>

<BODY>
Here is an ordered list of my favorite movies:
<P>

<UL>
<LI> The Godfather
<LI> The Godfather, Part II
<LI> The Godfather, Part III
</UL>

<P>

<A HREF="mailto:john@harvard.edu">Click here to e-mail me!</A>

<\BODY>
<\HTML>
```

Weaving your own Web site. (36 points.)

6. As you know, the final project for this course is to design and publish your own Web site on the Internet, using your FAS account. Although you've just been introduced to HTML, it's time to start thinking about the design of your project.

Specifically, your job for this question is to visit three (3) Web pages anywhere on the Internet and comment on what you like and dislike about them.

Your comments on each of the three (3) pages must include answers to each of the following questions. (That is, answer the ten questions below for each of the three (3) pages.)

1. What is the URL of the page?
2. What aspect of the page first caught your eye?
3. What colors are used in the page? Has the page's author made good use of those colors?
4. How do the page's contents interact? That is, does the page have a sense of wholeness, a uniformity of design, or is the page a compilation of different themes?
5. How much "white" (*i.e.*, empty) space does the page contain? Does the page strike you as too "busy" or too sparse?
6. What HTML tags does the page's author seem to have used? For example, has the author included an ordered or unordered list in the page with the and or and tags? Has the author included a `mailto:` link? (Don't bother pointing out usage of obvious tags—*e.g.*, <HTML>, <HEAD>, <BODY>, *etc.*)
7. What do you like most about the page?
8. What do you like least about the page?
9. What aspects of the page would you like to incorporate into your own Web site?
10. What aspects of the page do you want to avoid incorporating into your own Web site?

Extra credit. (5 points.)

7. An important component of Web-page design is the "debugging" process—the correction of HTML-related mistakes. Yet even the most careful scrutiny sometimes fails to reveal to an author every little mistake in his HTML. As such, many Web pages are published on the Internet with one or more "bugs."

For extra credit, examine the source code (*i.e.*, HTML) of one or more Web pages on the Internet. Once you have discovered one or more "bugs," print out the source code containing the bug(s). Then, with a pen or pencil, point out and correct the mistake(s). Submit the marked-up printout(s) as your answer to this question. To receive credit for this question, you *must* include in your submission the URL(s) at which you discovered the mistake(s).

The more "bugs" you exterminate, the more points you can receive for this question.