

## Definitions

### “Introduction to HTML”

13 April 1999

<b>attribute</b>	A parameter within an HTML tag that further defines the functionality of the tag. <i>E.g.</i> , <code>&lt;BODY BGCOLOR="#ffffff"&gt;</code> is an instance of the BODY tag and BGCOLOR is an attribute of that tag, specifying that the color white be used as the page body’s background.
<b>home directory</b>	A user’s personal folder on a Unix system, in which e-mail, Web pages, and other files (and folders) can be stored.
<b>HTML</b>	<i>HyperText Markup Language</i> . The “language” in which Web pages are written.
<b>HTTP</b>	<i>HyperText Transfer Protocol</i> . The language that Web browsers and Web servers use to communicate with each other.
<b>index.html</b>	The default file name for Web pages on most Web servers. That is, the URLs <code>http://www.cnn.com</code> and <code>http://www.cnn.com/index.html</code> reference the exact same Web page; the first URL, however, does not specify a file name, and so the CNN Web server will assume that visitors to <code>http://www.cnn.com</code> simply want to view the default <code>index.html</code> file.
<b>public_html</b>	The name of the folder in which Web pages are usually stored on a Web server.
<b>tag</b>	An HTML “code” that tells a Web browser to perform a specific action ( <i>e.g.</i> , <code>&lt;A HREF="http://www.cnn.com"&gt;</code> implies “place a link to CNN’s Web site here”) or to display information in a particular way ( <i>e.g.</i> , <code>&lt;CENTER&gt;</code> implies “center the following text”). A tag is always enclosed within left- and right-angled brackets ( <code>&lt;</code> and <code>&gt;</code> ). The “name” of a tag is generally defined as the first word or expression that appears between brackets. For example, <code>&lt;A HREF="http://www.cnn.com"&gt;</code> is an instance of the A (a.k.a. “anchor”) tag (HREF is simply an attribute of the A tag); <code>&lt;CENTER&gt;</code> is an instance of the CENTER tag. Tags which begin with a forward-slash ( <i>e.g.</i> , <code>&lt;/TITLE&gt;</code> ) are often referred to as “close tags,” while tags which do not begin with a forward-slash ( <i>e.g.</i> , <code>&lt;TITLE&gt;</code> ) are often referred to as “open tags.”
<b>Web server</b>	A server on which Web pages are stored. For example, <code>fas.harvard.edu</code> is a Web server.
<b>bit</b>	Put simply, a 0 or a 1.
<b>kilo-</b>	In the computer world, this prefix means 1,024. So, 1 kilobit actually equals 1,024 bits.
<b>mega-</b>	In the computer world, this prefix means 1,048,576. So, 1 megabit actually equals 1,048,576 bits, which is the same thing as 1,024 kilobits.
<b>giga-</b>	In the computer world, this prefix means 1,073,741,824. So, 1 gigabit actually equals 1,073,741,824 bits, which is

	the same thing as 1,024 megabits, which is the same thing as 1,048,576 kilobits.
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