

ITB Lab 1 - HTML basic structure and elements

For this laboratory you will need a basic text editor (NOT Microsoft Word) and a browser. In the laboratories we recommend *notepad++* and *Firefox*. If you are using your own machine, you can download these for free (*notepad++* from <http://notepad-plus.sourceforge.net>).

Firefox is a free download, from <http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/firefox/>

Task 1 Creating a basic HTML document

Open a new blank text document in the editor of your choice and type in the following lines of HTML, spacing the elements on separate lines

```
<html>
<head>
<title>My first HTML document</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>HTML</h1>
<p>Hello! This demonstrates the <em>basic</em>
structure of an HTML document.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Save the file using the name **lab1task1.html**

Note that the *.html* extension is important (some Operating Systems use this to determine which application can be used to open which file).

Start *Firefox* and use *File - Open File* from the menu to select your HTML page. It should be displayed (rendered) in the window. If the content fails to appear, check your HTML and then reload.

Task 2 Creating a blank template

Take the file you created in task 1 and use the save as command to create a copy called **template.html**. It is useful to have a blank template with the basic elements in place, which can then be added to as required. Change the contents of the file to look like this:

```
<html>
<head>
<!--
Created by:
Date:
-->
<title>title</title>
</head>
<body>

</body>
</html>
```

Save your work.

Task 3 **Creating an About Me page**

Take the template file you created in task 2 and use the text editors *save as* command to create a copy called **aboutme.html**.

Many blogs have an About Me page, which provides a mini profile of the person writing the blog. This task requires you to write a similar page.

Lay the following out in the page, using headings, paragraphs and tables. Use `` and `` elements where appropriate to highlight parts of the text.

Name

Contact email

About me

In this section write a brief paragraph about where you are from, what your hobbies are and other interesting facts (if there are any!)

My course

Write down the name of your course

Modules I am studying in the first year

Show the modules you are taking in a table, with the name of the module leader in a separate column

Save your work. Use a browser to check that your mark-up displays correctly.

Next week you will publish this page in your public web space.

Task 4 **Looking at an existing pages HTML source**

The source markup of a published page can be seen by using Firefox's *View - Page Source* command (a similar command is available in Internet Explorer).

Use a browser to navigate to the HTML page of the W3C, the organisation which co-ordinates the development of the HTML standard:-

<http://www.w3.org/html/>

Use the *View - Page Source* command to see the markup that is used to create the page. There will be a lot of markup which we have not seen yet, but you should be able to make out a head and body section, with a title, headings and paragraphs present.

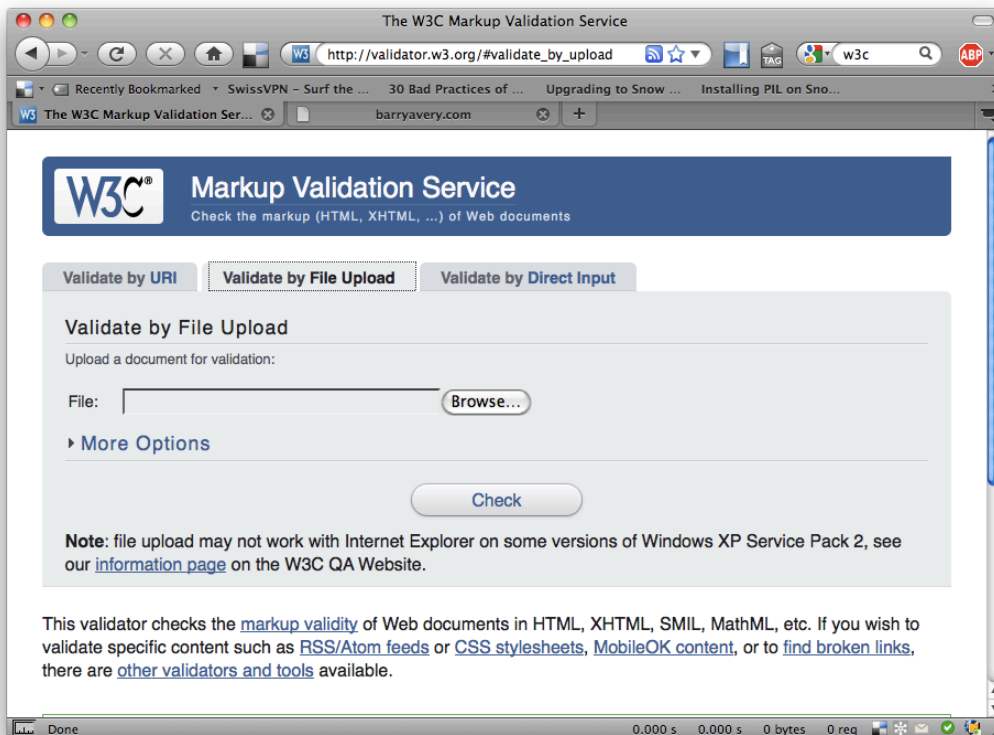
Task 5 Validating and correcting markup

The poorly formatted page *poormarkup.html* is available from

<http://www.barryavery.com>

Look for the ITB – Week One entry. Use a right mouse click and select *Save link as* to download the file.

The W3C site runs a free validator which checks the syntax of HTML documents, available at <http://validator.w3.org/>



Select *Validate by File Upload* and browse for the file *poormarkup.html* file. Then click on the Check button. The validator will list the errors.

Read the error messages and use a text editor to correct the HTML.

Keep saving and revalidating the page until you have removed as many errors as possible.

