

Desarrollo de Aplicaciones en Red

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Working with XML

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Introduction

- In many of our lectures we have seen XML. So by now it will not be strange, but let me start to define it...
- XML stand for **Extensible Markup Language**. But in fact it is not a markup language.
- XML is a meta language, it means that you can define new markup languages.

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Characteristics

- *It's an open standard, it does not belong to a company nor married to any particular software*
- *XML offers semantic to data*
- *It's easy to parser by humans and programs*
- *XML can store and organize any kind of information*

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Component of XML

- **XML document.** It contains data and can be thought of as a data store or a mini-database.
- **XML Parser:** it's a program that understand XML producing a data structure that can be manipulated.
- **Document Type Definition (DTD):** It describe the tags allowed to exist and their relationship. (obsolete by XML schema).
- **XML schema:** It's an improved version of DTD.
- **Namespaces:** It defines unique names that let us avoid conflict between tag names.

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Some rules to remember

- *XML is case sensitive*
- *Every open tag must be closed*
- *All the tags must be nested correctly*
- *Attribute values must be in quotation marks*
- *Some characters must be represented by entity references.*
- *The document XML must have a prologue*
- *If a document follow this rule it's considered "well formed"*

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A quick example

SNL Diner
Lunch Hours: 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Lunch Items
=====

Cheeseburger* \$2.50
Chips \$1.25
Pepsi \$0.75

Special Combo (Cheeseburger,
Chips, & Pepsi) \$4.50

* Soy burger available on
request.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<restaurant>
  <name>SNL Diner</name>
  <menu type="Lunch" start-time="11:00AM"
end-time="2:00PM">
    <item>
      <item id="I1">
        <name>Cheeseburger</name>
        <price>$2.50</price>
        <note>Soy burger available on
request.</note>
      </item>
      <item id="I2">
        <name>Chips</name>
        <price>$1.25</price>
      </item>
      <item id="I3">
        <name>Pepsi</name>
        <price>$0.75</price>
      </item>
      <combo id="C1">
        <name>Special Combo</name>
        <item ref="I1"/>
        <item ref="I2"/>
        <item ref="I3"/>
      </combo>
    </item>
  </menu>
</restaurant>
```

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Starting a XML document (1)

- Generally, two files are needed by a XML compliant application
 - The XML document
 - The Document Type Definition (DTD)
 - Optionally a css file can be included
- Every single XML document must start with the declaration about it's a XML document, this is done by the tag:
 - <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
- Another valid declaration could be
 - <? xml version="1.0" ?>
 - <? xml version="1.0" encoding="US-ASCII" standalone="yes" ?>
 - <? xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" standalone="no" ?>

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Defining tags on XML

- Each tag is defined with and starting and ending definition tag
 - <tagname> </tagname>
 - <name>SNL Diner</name>
- Every tag must be closed, if there is not element inside it, can be used the empty declaration
 - <tagname />

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Attributes

- Each tag can contain attributes which describe information related to the element.
- Attributes must be unique on an single element.
- <menu type="Lunch" start-time="11:00AM" end-time="2:00PM">

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Anatomy

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<restaurant>
  <name>SNL Diner</name>
  <menu type="Lunch" start-time="11:00AM"
end-time="2:00PM">
    <item>
      <item id="I1">
        <name>Cheeseburger</name>
        <price>$2.50</price>
        <note>Soy burger available
request.</note>
      </item>
      <item id="I2">
        <name>Chips</name>
        <price>$1.25</price>
      </item>
      <item id="I3">
        <name>Pepsi</name>
        <price>$0.75</price>
      </item>
      <combo id="C1">
        <name>Special Combo</name>
        <item ref="I1"/>
        <item ref="I2"/>
        <item ref="I3"/>
      </combo>
    </item>
  </menu>
</restaurant>
```

Prologue
Root Element
Tag open,
Tag closed
Quoted attribute
Empty declaration
Good nested

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Namespace (1)

- We can find a problem if we try to use tag vocabularies that are identical, to fix this we can use namespaces.
- This mean that each attribute or tag should start with a string that identify it uniquely.
 - <abc:Nombre> and <xyz:Nombre>
- In order to make more readable an XML document and functional we can define a variable with the specific string:


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<alias restaurant xmlns:alias="www.comida.com/burgerking"
xmlns:dish="www.comida.com/burgerking/promotion">
  <name>SNL Diner</name>
  <menu type="Lunch" start-time="11:00AM"
end-time="2:00PM">
    <dish:items>
```

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DTD example

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE Edit_Mensaje SYSTEM
"Lista_datos_mensaje.dtd"
[
<!ELEMENT Edit_Mensaje (Mensaje)>
]
<Edit_Mensaje>
<Mensaje>
<Remitente>
<Nombre>Nombre del remitente</Nombre>
<Mail>Correo del remitente</Mail>
</Remitente>
<Destinatario>
<Nombre>Nombre del destinatario</Nombre>
<Mail>Correo del destinatario</Mail>
</Destinatario>
<Texto>
<Asunto>
Este es mi documento con una estructura muy sencilla
no contiene atributos ni entidades....
</Asunto>
<Parrfo>
Este es mi documento con una estructura muy sencilla
no contiene atributos ni entidades....
</Parrfo>
</Texto>
</Mensaje>
</Edit_Mensaje>
```

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XML schema (1)

- XML schema is the way to define what is a legal XML document.
- XMLs is a document defined in XML an works like a DTD.
- XMLs let us define not only elements and attributes, but also the range of values of data types

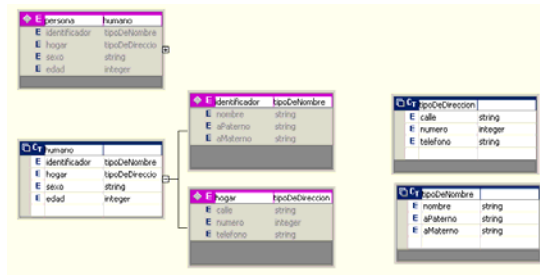
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XML schema (3)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<xsd:schema xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
xmlns:sujeto="http://148.226.81.254/~rocaj04/xml/"
targetNamespace="http://148.226.81.254/~rocaj04/xml/">
<xsd:annotation>
<xsd:documentation xml:lang="es">
Beto es un mecanismo de documentación
</xsd:documentation>
</xsd:annotation>
<xsd:complexType name="tipoDeNombre">
<xsd:sequence>
<xsd:element name="nombre" type="xsd:string" />
<xsd:element name="aPaterno" type="xsd:string" />
<xsd:element name="aMaterno" type="xsd:string" />
</xsd:sequence>
</xsd:complexType>
<xsd:complexType name="tipoDeDireccion">
<xsd:sequence>
<xsd:element name="calle" type="xsd:string" />
<xsd:element name="numero" type="xsd:integer" />
<xsd:element name="telefono" type="xsd:string" />
</xsd:sequence>
</xsd:complexType>
<xsd:complexType name="humano">
<xsd:sequence>
<xsd:element name="identificador" type="sujeto:tipoDeNombre" />
<xsd:element name="hogar" type="sujeto:tipoDeDireccion" />
<xsd:element name="edad" type="xsd:string" />
</xsd:sequence>
</xsd:complexType>
<xsd:element name="persona" type="sujeto:humano" />
</xsd:element>
</xsd:schema>
```

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XML schema (4)



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References

- Learning XML, Erik Ray, O'Reilly. 2001
- Strategic XML, Scott Means, Sams. 2002
- XML Pocket Reference 2nd Edition, Eckstein & Casabianca, O'Reilly. 2001
- XML Schema, Eric Van der Vlist, O'Reilly, 2002
- <http://www.w3.org/XML/Schema>
- <http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML>

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