Introduction

This books aims to provide a "one-stop shop" for developers who want to learn how to build Extensible Markup Language (XML) web applications. It explains XML and its role in the web development world. The book also introduces specific XML vocabularies and related XML recommendations.

I wrote the book for web developers at all levels. For those developers unfamiliar with XML applications, the book provides a great starting point and introduces some important client- and server-side techniques. More experienced developers can benefit from exposure to important coding techniques and understanding the workflow involved in creating XML applications.

The book starts with an explanation of XML and introduces the different components of an XML document. It then shows some related recommendations, including Document Type Definitions (DTDs), XML schema, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations (XSLT), XPath, XLink, and XPointer. I cover some common XML vocabularies, such as Extensible HyperText Markup Language (XHTML), Mathematical Markup Language (MathML), and Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG).

The middle section of the book deals with client-side XML applications and shows how to display and transform XML documents with CSS and XSLT. This section also explores how the current web browsers support XML, and it covers how to use JavaScript to work with XML documents. In this section, I also provide an introduction to the Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (Ajax) approach.

The book finishes by examining how to work with XML on the server. It covers two server-side languages: PHP 5 and .NET 2.0. The last chapters of the book deconstruct two XML applications: a News application and a Community Weather Portal application.

The book includes lots of practical examples that developers can incorporate in their daily work. You can download the code samples from the Source Code area of the Apress web site at `http://www.apress.com`. I hope you find this book an invaluable reference to XML and that, through it, you see the incredible power and flexibility that XML offers to web developers.