

Advanced XML Transformations (1 Day)

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Advanced XML Transformations (CTI 503)

This one-day seminar builds on students' knowledge of XSLT. It is intended for students who already know XML and basic XSLT. Everything in the course is based on W3C specifications, without any vendor-specific extensions. No knowledge of any particular programming language or other external technology is required to participate.

Prerequisites: Course CTI 502 (Introduction to XML Transformations) or similar. Ability to read and write well-formed XML. Ability to read a DTD not strictly required, but preferred. Ability to identify any desired node or node set in a document using an XPath expression. Ability to write and run basic XSLT transformations to produce XML, HTML, or text output.

Minimum software requirements: Microsoft Windows 2000 or Linux, command-line XML tools.

Minimum hardware requirements for instructor's machine: Pentium 200MHz or equivalent CPU, 64 meg RAM, 50 meg disk space.

Microsoft PowerPoint and Internet access on instructor's machine for presentation purposes.

Module 1: Variables and Template Management

- Variables
- Using Variables to Capture Context Information
- Result Tree Fragments
- Parameters
- Applying Templates with Parameters
- Calling Templates Explicitly

Module 2: Sorting and Grouping

- Sorting
- Data Type for Sorting
- Grouping
- Uses for Grouping
- Using the Preceding-Sibling Axis
- Using XSLT Keys
- Iterating Over Groups
- Iterating Within a Group

Module 3: Advanced Production Techniques

- Extrapolating Information from the Source Document
- Auto-Numbering
- Number Formatting
- String Parsing and Manipulation
- Computing Aggregate Values
- Using Tail Recursion

Module 4: Multiple Documents and Transforms

- Merging Multiple Source Documents
- The XSLT Document Function
- Reusing Transformation Logic Including Transforms
- Importing Transforms
- Multiple Template Modes

Appendices:

Learning Resources

Quick Reference: XPath and XSLT

Quick Reference: W3C Namespaces