

Hypertext Documents and Browsers

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Workshop 2

Planning Utilization of the 2000

Round Census Results

A *hypertext* document is:

- A digital document containing *links* (references) to other documents, images, or other computer files
- When viewed with a *browser* enables readers to move instantaneously to the referenced document and back
- Widely implemented with *Hypertext Markup Language* (HTML)

An HTML document is:

- a *text file* that may be created, viewed, or edited with any text editor
- includes *markup* that instructs the browser how to display the document and specifies the location of linked documents
- an open, non-proprietary, and platform-independent format

About HTML *Browsers*

- A browser is computer program used to view HTML documents and to follow links from one document to another
- HTML Browsers are available for virtually every operating system
- HTML Browsers are generally available without cost
- Examples are **Netscape**, **Mosaic**, and *Internet Explorer*

Note

- HTML documents and browsers were popularized by the *World Wide Web*, but have more general application
- They may be used on a ‘stand-alone’ computer for accessing information
- They may be used on any computer network for the same purpose

The Importance of Hypertext

- Rests on computer networking and on having information resources in digital (as distinct from print) form
- The new idea is not referencing (obviously), but instant (more or less) accessibility or related knowledge
- Provides a very powerful tool for *organizing* information and data

The Importance of HTML

- The universal language of the world wide web
- Illustrates the power of *open* (non-proprietary) *standards* and *decentralization*
- Makes information access easy; school children can master the interface
- Exemplifies a more general tool, *Standard Generalized Markup Language* (SGML)

Questions?
Comments?
Discussion?

The End

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