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HTML 4.01 Specification

W3C Recommendation 24 December 1999

This version:

<http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/REC-html401-19991224>
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Previous version of HTML 4.01:

<http://www.w3.org/TR/1999/PR-html40-19990824>

Previous HTML 4 Recommendation:

<http://www.w3.org/TR/1998/REC-html40-19980424>

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Abstract

This specification defines the HyperText Markup Language (HTML), the publishing language of the World Wide Web. This specification defines HTML 4.01, which is a subversion of HTML 4. In addition to the text, multimedia, and hyperlink features of the previous versions of HTML (HTML 3.2 [[HTML32](#)] and HTML 2.0 [[RFC1866](#)]), HTML 4 supports more multimedia options, scripting languages, style sheets, better printing facilities, and documents that are more accessible to users with disabilities. HTML 4 also takes great strides towards the internationalization of documents, with the goal of making the Web truly World Wide.

HTML 4 is an SGML application conforming to International Standard ISO 8879 -- Standard Generalized Markup Language [[ISO8879](#)].

Status of this document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. The latest status of this document series is maintained at the W3C.

This document specifies HTML 4.01, which is part of the HTML 4 line of specifications. The first version of HTML 4 was HTML 4.0 [[HTML40](#)], published on 18 December 1997 and revised 24 April 1998. This specification is the first HTML 4.01 Recommendation. It includes non-editorial [changes since the 24 April version of HTML 4.0](#). There have been some changes to the DTDs, for example. This document obsoletes previous versions of HTML 4.0, although W3C will continue to make those specifications and their DTDs available at the W3C Web site.

This document has been reviewed by W3C Members and other interested parties and has been endorsed by the Director as a W3C Recommendation. It is a stable document and may be used as reference material or cited as a normative reference from another document. W3C's role in making the Recommendation is to draw attention to the specification and to promote its widespread deployment. This enhances the functionality and interoperability of the Web.

W3C recommends that user agents and authors (and in particular, authoring tools) produce HTML 4.01 documents rather than HTML 4.0 documents. W3C recommends that authors produce HTML 4 documents instead of HTML 3.2 documents. For reasons of backward compatibility, W3C also recommends that tools interpreting HTML 4 continue to support HTML 3.2 and HTML 2.0 as well.

For information about the next generation of HTML, "The Extensible HyperText Markup Language" [[XHTML](#)], please refer to the [W3C HTML Activity](#) and the list of [W3C Technical Reports](#).

This document has been produced as part of the [W3C HTML Activity](#). The goals of the [HTML Working Group](#) (*Members only*) are discussed in the [HTML Working Group charter](#) (*Members only*).

A list of current W3C Recommendations and other technical documents can be found at <http://www.w3.org/TR>.

Public discussion on HTML features takes place on www-html@w3.org ([archives of www-html@w3.org](#)).

Available languages

The English version of this specification is the only normative version.

However, for translations of this document, see <http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/html4-updates/translations>.

Errata

The list of known errors in this specification is available at: <http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/html4-updates/errata>

Please report errors in this document to www-html-editor@w3.org.

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