XML for E-Commerce

Danko Nebesh and Robert Tarr
Department of Defense, USA

As object-oriented technology is being used in internet/e-commerce applications, the need for a standard way to pass data among disparate applications has grown. The extensible markup language (XML) has been developed to solve this problem, and to allow for the creation of advanced web-based applications. This tutorial will describe XML, and will compare and contrast XML to both Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML). The tutorial will cover the basics of creating Document Type Definitions DTD’s and stylesheets. We will then discuss what markup languages have been created using XML. Tools for parsing, validating and displaying XML documents will also be covered.

The tutorial will continue with a discussion of how XML can be used by programmers using a language like Java. We will discuss how data object’s can be stored and transported among distributed objects using XML. We will discuss advantages and disadvantages of using XML as a common data object format.

Danko Nebesh is a senior researcher, designer and developer specializing in agent-based systems at the Department of Defense. He is one of the main architects of Autopilot, an agent-based system for complex workflows. He holds a doctorate in Computer Science from The George Washington University. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County campus, and also teaches programming courses for /training/etc.

Bob Tarr is a senior software developer at the Department of Defense, specializing in software agents and distributed object technologies. He has taught courses in computer science for local universities for over twenty years and also teaches courses in Design Patterns, Java and web technologies for numerous commercial clients. He holds advanced degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.