

# ***Well-Formed XML Documents***

## **Basics:**

- Respect tags:
  - matching
  - case sensitive
- Space characters

## **Requirements:**

- Start and end tags must match
- Element tags must be properly nested
- (+ Other syntactical requirements)

## **How does an XML document look like?**

- Browser: IE, Netscape
- Editors XML Notepad
- Command Line: msxml.exe

## XML Structure:

- Declaration
- Content

## Declaration:

- To specify that your document is XML you would begin your document with:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes/no" ?>
```

- Components:
  - ✓ **Version:**
    - Describes the version that is used in the document
  - ✓ **Encoding:**
    - Specifies the character encoding used in the document.
  - ✓ **Standalone:**
    - **Must be the last attribute in the declaration.**
    - Specifies whether the document uses external markup declarations. The value for the standalone component is either “yes” or “no”.

## Content:

- Elements:

...<mytag attrOfmytag="val" ...>	...	</mytag>...
		a matching <b>element end</b> tag
		the <b>contents</b> of the element

| an attribute with name *attrOfmytag* and value *val*, values enclosed by ' or "  
an *element start* tag with name **mytag**

- **Empty element:**

Short-hand notation for empty elements:

...< **mytag** *attrOfmytag* = "val" .../>...

- **Note:**

Don't forget XML is *case sensitive!*

**ERROR:** <mytag> ..... <MyTag>

## **Root Element:**

- Each XML document must have only one root element
- Remaining elements are nested within the root element

## **□ Attributes:**

- Attributes provide additional information about a TAG. You use attributes all the time in HTML.
- An example, in HTML, to control the display of text you would use a TAG like: <FONT color="#FF0000">
- In XML, attributes allow you to specify additional data about a TAG, but it is never formatting-related. Instead