

HTML Tables

CSE 190 M (Web Programming) Spring 2007
University of Washington

Reading: Sebesta Ch. 2 section 2.8



Tables: <table>, <tr>, <td>

```
<table>
<tr><td>1,1</td><td>1,2</td></tr>
<tr><td>2,1</td><td>2,2</td></tr>
</table>
```

1,1 1,2

2,1 2,2

- `table` defines the overall table, `tr` each row, and `td` each cell's data

Headers, captions: <th>, <caption>

```
<table>
<caption>My important data</caption>
<tr><th>Column 1</th><th>Column 2</th></tr>
<tr><td>1,1</td><td>1,2</td></tr>
<tr><td>2,1</td><td>2,2</td></tr>
</table>
```

My important data

Column 1 Column 2

1,1 1,2

2,1 2,2

- `th` cells in a row are considered headers; by default, they appear bold
- a `caption` at the start of the table labels its meaning

Styling tables

```
table { border: 2px solid black; caption-side: bottom; }
tr { font-style: italic; }
td { background-color: yellow; text-align: center; width: 30%; }
```

My important data

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
1,1	1,2
2,1	2,2

- all standard CSS styles can be applied to a table, row, or cell
- table specific CSS properties:
 - border-collapse, border-spacing, caption-side, empty-cells, table-layout

The border-collapse property

```
table, td, th { border: 2px solid black; }
table { border-collapse: collapse; }
```

Without border-collapse

Column 1	Column 2
1,1	1,2
2,1	2,2

With border-collapse

Column 1	Column 2
1,1	1,2
2,1	2,2

- by default, the overall table has a separate border from each cell inside
- the `border-collapse` property merges these borders into one

The `rowspan` and `colspan` attributes

```
<table>
<tr><th>Column 1</th><th>Column 2</th><th>Column 3</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">1,1-1,2</td>
  <td rowspan="3">1,3-3,3</td></tr>
<tr><td>2,1</td><td>2,2</td></tr>
<tr><td>3,1</td><td>3,2</td></tr>
</table>
```

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
----------	----------	----------

1,1-1,2		1,3-3,3
2,1	2,2	
3,1	3,2	

- colspan makes a cell occupy multiple columns; rowspan multiple rows

Column styles: <col>, <colgroup>

```
<table>
<col style="background-color: pink" />
<colgroup style="background-color: yellow">
<col /><col /></colgroup>
<tr><th>Column 1</th><th>Column 2</th><th>Column 3</th></tr>
<tr><td>1,1</td><td>1,2</td><td>1,3</td></tr>
<tr><td>2,1</td><td>2,2</td><td>2,3</td></tr></table>
```

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
1,1	1,2	1,3
2,1	2,2	2,3

- col tag can be used to define styles that apply to an entire column
- colgroup tag group several columns to apply a style to all of them

Don't use tables for layout!

- (borderless) tables appear to be an easy way to achieve grid-like page layouts
 - many "newbie" web pages do this (including several of Marty's web pages)
- but, a table has semantics; it should be used only when you are actually representing a table of data
- instead of tables, use divs, widths/margins, floats, etc. to perform layout
- tables should not be used for layout!
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