

CGT 141/CPT 141 Lecture 7 Wk 4

Tables: Data and Assistance for Formatting

Tables as a Multi-purpose Layout Aid

- Types of table use:
 - Data tables
 - Text alignment*
 - Page templates*
 - Multi-part Image Containers*

*Note that the later three of these does not conform to accessibility guidelines. However, when only HTML is used, it is the most reliable way to “format” pages. Without them, there is very little control over layout (as you have no doubt seen in the exercises).

Primary Table Tags

- `<table>...</table>` – primary container for a table; surrounds all other tags
 - `<caption>...</caption>` – defines a caption for the table (above and not in borders)
 - `<tr>...</tr>` – defines a row
 - `<td>...</td>` – defines a data cell (these define “columns”)
 - `<th>...</th>` – defines a header for a row (functions like `<td>`)

Attributes:

- `<table>`
 - `width` – provide in pixels for fixed, or percentages for variable
 - `height` – provide in pixels for fixed, or percentages for variable
 - Not usually used in tables... table content defines the height
 - `border` – provides thickness for cell borders
 - `cellpadding` – spacing between cell border and contents
 - `cellspacing` – spacing between cells
 - `bgcolor` – color for background of table
- `<tr>` (row)
 - `width` and `height` – provide in pixels for fixed, or percentages for variable
 - Not usually used – use a transparent gif for spacing – more reliable
 - `bgcolor` – color for background of table
- `<td>` or `<th>`
 - `width` and `height` – provide in pixels for fixed, or percentages for variable
 - `bgcolor` – color for background of table
 - `align` – horizontal alignment of contents
 - `valign` – vertical alignment of contents
 - `rowspan` – number of rows to span
 - `colspan` – number of columns to span

Other Associated Table Items

- <col>, <colgroup>, <tbody>, <tfoot>, <thead> – Not widely used and IE specific (5.5 or higher)
- frame and rules attributes of prior tags – not widely used.

Using Tables

- Centering entire tables
 - Use <center> or <div>
- Nesting tables
 - Don't nest tables as it is not supported in all browsers.
- Tables conform to their contents
 - The table width and height will conform to whatever you place into it.
- Where there are repetitive attributes: cumulative settings in data cells(<td>) override the settings at higher levels.
 - <td> overrides <tr> and <tr> overrides <table>.
- Cells that have no data are often rendered as “non-existent” cells. Add an to render properly.

Example Table

```
<table width="600" border="1" cellspacing="3" cellpadding="2">
  <tr>
    <td>1</td>
    <td>2</td>
    <td>3</td>
    <td>4</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td colspan="2" align="center">5</td>
    <td>6</td>
    <td>7</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td rowspan="2" valign="top">8</td>
    <td>9</td>
    <td colspan="2" rowspan="2" align="center" valign="middle">10</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td>11</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

What the table actually looks like in the browser:

1	2	3	4
5		6	7
8	9	10	
	11		