

Is XML just for Programmers?

No. XML is making its way into all kinds of Internet technologies, including HTML. Microsoft is leading the way in incorporating XML into its browser. Starting with Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0, you can create XML *data islands* within your HTML that can be used to dynamically update data within the document instead of having to retrieve it from the server. It also incorporated XML support inside of the Document Object Model (DOM), making it easy to request XML documents from the server without having to constantly refresh your HTML pages.

It is expected that both Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer are going to increase their support for XML as new versions of their respective browsers become available. Before long, XML will be as common to Web content providers and authors as HTML currently is. Since XML is truly extensible, do not be surprised to see XML versions of HTML documents supported in the future.

XML is becoming the standard for all kinds of data storage. New word processors and spreadsheets are outputting their data in XML, making it much easier to import and export data between platforms and applications.

XML is not just for programmers, even though most users will never directly interact with it. It is a world wide standard that makes data storage and transfer much easier and reliable than ever before.