

HTML Tags and References to other Files

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Reminders

- Filenames and folder names should not have spaces in them
- All the content of the webpage should go between the `<body>` and `</body>`
- Things that go between `<head>` and `</head>`
 - `<title>` - required for validation
 - `<style>` - if you have embedded stylesheet
 - `<link>` - to reference an external stylesheet
 - `<meta>` - if you have meta tags
 - `<script>` - for JavaScript; JS can also be in body in various ways)
 - Nothing else (in particular not links (`<a>` tags) or `<header>` or `<h1>...<h6>` tags)

References to Other Files

- HTML files often contain references to other files. Examples of such references are:
 - To other HTML Files (the `<a>` tag)
 - To Images (inline and background)
 - To External stylesheets
 - To Flash/Animate movies
 - To Video and audio using the new `<video>` and `<audio>` HTML5 tags
 - To External JavaScript files

Ways of Referencing Other Files

- Absolute using `http://` -- this is the only way to reference files on other websites
- Relative – the location of the file is specified relative to the location of the file in which the reference is contained
- Absolute using a beginning `/` – one specifies the path to the file beginning with the top level (root) of the site

Relative References

- If both files are in the same folder, just specify the filename
- If in different folders, do like in the following example – Suppose you have a folder named Washington Commanders and at the top level of this folder you have files called snyder.html and rivera.html, a folder named offense and a folder named defense
- in the offense folder there is a file called howell.html and in the defense folder there is a file called chaseyoung.html

Folder structure

[Some folder containing the following]

snyder.html

rivera.html

[offense folder which contains the following file]

howell.html

[defense folder which contains the following file]

chaseyoung.html

Relative references

- From the rivera.html file, references to the other files would be written as follows:

```
<a href="snyder.html">Owner</a>
```

```
<a href="offense/howell.html">QB</a>
```

From the howell.html file, references to the other files would be written as follows:

```
<a href=" ../rivera.html">Coach</a>
```

```
<a href=" ../defense/chaseyoung.html">Chase</a>
```

- The ../ takes you up one level, out of current folder; it can be repeated multiple times ../../ for up two levels, etc.

Relative References on Server

- On the server, you want to have the same relative folder structure you have on your computer; that way, the relative references that work on your computer will work on the server
- Be careful about references using ../, ../../, etc – for these references to work on the server, you have to be able to go up the specified number of levels – if you can't, for example, the reference will take you out of the website, the reference won't work

Use of leading / in reference

- If the reference begins with a / rather than a ../, the / means to start at the top level of the site.
- While this may seem like a simpler way to do the reference, the leading / has several disadvantages:
 - The reference can't be tested locally (i.e. File>Open)
 - What is the root of the site can depend on where the site is hosted, so the site becomes less portable than if the reference were relative

Accessing files on myDrive using /

- Index.html and page1.html are both located at faculty.nvcc.edu/nvwpegram. So what would be the way of referencing page1.html from index.html using a leading / ?
- Would it be
`/faculty.nvcc.edu/nvwpegram/page1.html`

Summary

- Using an absolute reference, i.e. beginning with http, to reference files within your website has both of the disadvantages of a leading /
- Therefore, learn the rules to reference files in other folders using relative references and use these in most cases