

# GLOSSARY

**Absolute URL.** A URL that specifies a fully qualified path identifying the exact location of a resource on the Internet.

**Argument.** A piece of data passed to a function or script as input.

**Array.** A collection of data that is indexed and can be programmatically manipulated.

**Boolean.** A value that is either a true or false value.

**Browser.** A software application that displays web pages.

**Camino.** A Mac OS X browser ([caminobrowser.org](http://caminobrowser.org)).

**Cascade.** A CSS prioritization scheme in which CSS rules flow downward to document elements in a predictable manner.

**Comments.** Statements added to markup, style rules, and scripts that are ignored by the browser but which provide valuable information to anyone editing these resources.

**Compiling.** The process of converting a program to machine code before it can be executed.

**Concatenation.** The process of combining two or more strings into a single string.

**Conditional Logic.** A programming construct that enables scripts and programs to make decisions and to alter the logical execution flow of code statements based on the result of comparison operations.

**Container.** An entity to which CSS style rules can be applied.

**Content.** A term that loosely refers to everything that people see and hear when they load web pages into their web browser. Content includes text, graphics, audio, and video.

**CSS (Cascading Style Sheet).** A stylesheet language that web developers use to specify the presentation of web page content.

**Deepnet Explorer.** A Windows browser ([www.deepnetexplorer.com](http://www.deepnetexplorer.com)).

**Divitis.** A term that describes the excessive use of `div` elements within web documents.

**Doctype (Document Type Declaration).** Instructs web browsers as to what version of (X)HTML is being used so that the browsers know what set of rules to follow when rendering and displaying the document content.

**DOM (Document Object Model).** A browser object model that provides CSS and JavaScript with access to all the elements on a web document.

**Domain Name.** The primary address (or URL) of a particular Web site where a web page or resource resides.

**Element.** The building block of markup, made up of special tags that outline the structure of content stored in web documents.

**Embedded Style Sheets.** Style rules embedded within the `head` section of your (X)HTML pages.

**External Style Sheets.** Style rules stored in external files and linked back to your (X)HTML pages.

**Event.** An action initiated as a result of user interaction with your web page in the browser.

**Event handler.** A JavaScript construct that automatically executes when a given event occurs such as when the `click` event initiates the execution of the `onclick` event handler.

**Expression.** A statement that evaluates the value of variables and constants.

**Form.** A location on a web page where visitors can provide input. Forms are made up of controls like text, checkbox, radio, drop-down, and button controls.

**Form handler.** A program or script, usually executed on a web server, that processes the data entered into the form.

**Firefox.** A Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux browser ([www.firefox.com](http://www.firefox.com)).

**Frameset.** A mechanism for laying out a web page into separate frames or panes, each of which displays its own web page. Frames are a deprecated feature in both Strict and Transitional (X)HTML.

**FTP (File Transfer Protocol).** A communication protocol that facilitates the movement of files between computers over a network.

**Function.** A collection of JavaScript statements that can be called by name to execute and perform a specific task.

**GIF (Graphics Interchange Format).** A graphic file format best used for images with less than 256 colors but which require great detail.

**Global Variable.** Accessible by any script located within a web document.

**Google Chrome.** A Windows browser ([www.google.com/chrome](http://www.google.com/chrome)).

**HTML (Hypertext Markup Language).** A markup language that was created based on SGML or Standard Generalized Markup Language.

**HTML 4.01 Frameset.** A version of HTML identical to HTML 4.01 Transitional but with additional support for dealing with frames.

**HTML 4.01 Strict.** A version of HTML that excludes support for older presentation-based HTML elements, deferring to CSS to provide for web page presentation.

**HTML 4.01 Transitional.** A version of HTML designed to help web developers make the transition from earlier versions of HTML to HTML 4.01.

**HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol).** A protocol that governs the transmission of hypertext-encoded data between computers on a network.

**Inline Styles.** Styles embedded within (X)HTML element tags.

**Internet Explorer.** A Windows browser ([www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer/](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/Internet-explorer/)).

**Interpreted language.** A programming language used to develop programs or scripts that are not compiled in advance of their execution.

**JavaScript.** A programming language that supports the development of client-side scripts that execute inside web browsers.

**JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group).** A graphic file format best used for photos and other types of graphics that contain a larger range of colors.

**Konqueror.** A Linux browser ([www.konqueror.org](http://www.konqueror.org)).

**Links.** Also known as hyperlinks, are used to connect things together on the Internet.

**Local variable.** A variable whose scope is limited to the function in which it is declared.

**Loop.** A collection of statements that are executed repeatedly. Programmers use loops to process large amounts of data and to execute repetitive tasks.

**Lynx.** A text-based, non-graphical Internet browser noted for its speed and exceptional performance.

**Margin.** The space that encloses a container.

**Metadata.** A term used to describe data about data. The use of metadata is an important component in the marketing of web pages.

**Method.** A function associated with an object, containing a collection of statements that can be called upon to perform specified actions and tasks.

**Object.** A programming construct that contains its own properties and methods.

**Opera.** A Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux browser ([www.opera.com](http://www.opera.com)).

**Parameter.** An argument passed to a script or function at run time as input.

**Path.** A hierarchical list of folders in which a web page or file resides.

**PNG (Portable Network Graphics).** A graphic file format best used for photos and other graphics files that contain a large range of colors.

**Program.** A collection of stored programming statements that constitute a script or application.

**Property.** A variable associated with an object that controls or describes a particular object feature.

**Protocol.** A set of rules that governs communication and the exchange of data between computers over a network.

**Quirks mode.** A browser mode to which browsers fall back to when rendering non-compliant (X)HTML markup.

**Relative URL.** A URL that specifies the location of a file relative to the location of the current web page.

**Reserved words.** A collection of language-specific words that cannot be used as variables and function names within a script.

**Rollover.** A graphical effect that swaps between two images or text colors as the pointer selects or passes over a graphic image.

**Safari.** A Mac OS X browser ([www.apple.com/safari/](http://www.apple.com/safari/)).

**Script.** A group of program statements that are interpreted and executed by a web browser.

**Selector.** The portion of a CSS style rule that identifies the (X)HTML elements to which the style rule is applied.

**Specificity.** A CSS process that assigns different weights to selectors based on how specific they are. More specific selectors override less specific selectors.

**Statement.** A line of code in a JavaScript.

**String.** A group of text characters enclosed within quotation marks.

**Style rule.** Collections of CSS properties that together modify the presentation of (X)HTML elements.

**Table.** An HTML construct that allows page content to be organized and presented within predefined tables, providing a convenient way of displaying collections of related data in tabular format.

**URL (Universal Resource Locator).** An address used to identify a site, page, or file on the World Wide Web.

**Validation.** The process of verifying that the data typed into a form conforms to required specifications.

**Variable.** A pointer or reference to a location in memory where data is stored.

**Variable scope.** Refers to the location within a script where a variable can be accessed.

**W3C (World Wide Web Consortium).** A non-profit organization dedicated to the development of open standards, ensuring that things on the Internet work smoothly by providing everyone with a consistent and agreed upon set of rules.

**Web document.** A term referring to a text file containing markup code.

**Web page.** A term referring to the result that is displayed and made visible when a web document is loaded and rendered by a web browser or similar device.

**Web server.** A specially configured server that is connected to the Internet and whose purpose is to accept requests from web browsers and return specified web pages and other types of content.

**Well formed.** (X)HTML markup that meets the syntactical requirements of the HTML and XHTML specifications.

**(X)HTML.** A term that generically refers to both HTML and XHTML.

**XHTML (Extensible Hypertext Markup Language).** A markup language that is very similar to HTML, except that it is based on XML rather than SGML.

**XHTML 1.0 Frameset.** A version of XHTML designed to support web pages that still rely on the use of framesets.

**XHTML 1.0 Strict.** A version of XHTML where presentation and other deprecated features are not allowed and syntax rules must be rigidly adhered to in order for an XHTML document to be regarded as being well formed.

**XHTML 1.0 Transitional.** A version of XHTML designed to support web developers who are in the process of converting from HTML to XHTML.

**XML (Extensible Markup Language).** A restrictive subset of SGML that results in tighter syntax that yields more consistent results.