WELCOME TO THE TUTORIAL

HTML is by far the most popular language on the Web today. Without it, the Internet wouldn't be anything like it is now. HTML can be thought of as the building blocks of the Internet - like the bricks and mortar of a house. So it's a must for every Web developer to learn!

Getting Started

There are a few things you'll need in order to learn HTML:

- A text editor (e.g.: Notepad, but *not* WordPad or Word)
- A browser (e.g.: Internet Explorer, Netscape etc.)

You'll code your HTML in your text editor, and then view it as it takes shape in your Web browser. We'll be using Notepad as our text editor, and Internet Explorer for our browser throughout this Workshop, but you're welcome to use whatever you're comfortable with.

HTML is made up of a simple structure of 'tags' (enclosed in < and >) and text. The tags control the layout and appearance of the page, and are interpreted by the browser when the document is viewed. All tags are in the format "`<name>`" - and anything outside of the angular brackets is presumed to be text that you want the visitors to see. For every tag (with a couple of exceptions - but we'll come to those later), there must be a closing tag. This is exactly the same as the opening tag, except with a "/" before the name of the tag, for example "`</tag>`".

Every HTML page must conform to this basic layout:

```
<html>
 <head>
   <title>Title of Your Web Site</title>
 </head>
 <body>
   content that shows up on your site
 </body>
</html>
```

This may appear confusing at first - so let's go through it line by line:

`<html>` This is the opening tag of every HTML page - it tells the browser that the page uses HTML.

`<head>` This tells the browser that the header has started. The header contains information about the page that doesn't display in the main body of the browser window.

`<title>Title</title>` The <title> tag tells the browser that the text that follows is the title of the page. It will appear in the title bar of the browser and also in the task bar (next to the start menu on Windows computers).

`</head>` This signifies the end of the header - anything that appears after this, and is not a tag, will be displayed to the user.

`<body>` This is the start of the main body of the page.

`</body>` The end of the main body of the page.

`</html>` The end of the entire Web page.

See? It's not that hard after all! That is (or should be) the basic layout of every HTML page.