

What the heck is HTML 5?

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What happened to HTML?

- 1997: HTML 4
- 1999: HTML 4.01
- 2000: XHTML 1.0
- 2002: XHTML 1.0, second edition
- XHTML 1.1 and XHTML 2.0 - which break backwards compatibility with existing sites and browsers!

XHTML adoption...

- ... has been slow
- The vast majority of XHTML sites are invalid
- They only work because browsers treat them as regular HTML instead
- XHTML 1.1 and 2.0 break backwards compatibility! Adoption is almost non-existent

XHTML is not going to replace HTML as the web's official markup language because it turns out that resilience is more useful than brittleness.

- Douglas Crockford

Meanwhile...

- The bubble bulged
- The bubble burst
- Internet Explorer stagnated
- Firefox happened
- Ajax happened
- <canvas> happened
- Dare I say it... Web 2.0?

The Web was evolving
despite the W3C, not
because of it

The WHATWG

Web Hypertext
Application Technology
Working Group



Håkon Wium Lie



Brendan Eich

David Baron

Johnny Stenback



Maciej Stachowiak

David Hyatt



Ian Hickson

Web Forms 2.0

An incremental improvement of HTML 4.01's forms.

Web Applications 1.0

Features for Application Development in HTML

HTML 5 is just a
nickname

Specifying real-world HTML

Error handling

- The hardest thing about implementing a browser is dealing with bad HTML...
- ... because you have to reverse engineer and copy the error routines from the other major browsers
- (and Internet Explorer is closed source)

Some things are clearer with hindsight of several years. It is necessary to evolve HTML incrementally. The attempt to get the world to switch to XML, including quotes around attribute values and slashes in empty tags and namespaces all at once didn't work.

- Tim Berners-Lee

The W3C restarted the
HTML Working Group

This group will maintain and produce incremental revisions to the HTML specification, which includes the series of specifications previously published as XHTML version 1. Both XML and 'classic HTML' syntaxes will be produced.

Chris Wilson on board
as a co-chair

WHATWG have offered
to donate their past
three years of work

HTML lives!

www.whatwg.org

www.w3.org/html/wg/

simonwillison.net/talks/