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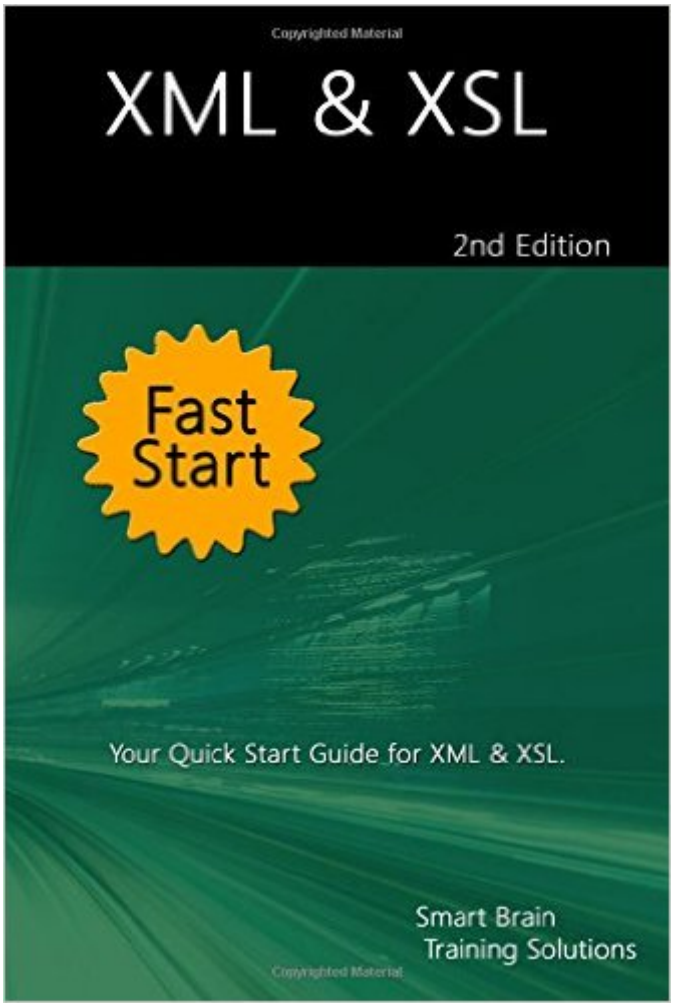
XML & XSL Fast Start 2nd Edition: Your Quick Start Guide For XML & XSL



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Synopsis

Need a precise, focused training guide for XML & XSL? Get this 130-page Fast Start guide to quickly learn XML & XSL fundamentals. Regardless of whether you are an IT manager, developer, administrator or an advanced user, this Fast Start guide will help you learn the essential concepts needed to successfully work with XML & XSL. Covers all versions of XML & XSL. What is XML? XML, or eXtensible Markup Language, is a metalanguage. That is, itâ ™s a language that can be used to describe other languages and a specification for storing information. Although XML and HTML may seem to have a lot in common, in reality the difference between them is like the difference between night and day. HTML is used to format information, but it isnâ ™t very useful when it comes to describing information. For example, you can use HTML to format a table, but you canâ ™t use HTML to describe the data elements within the table. The reason for this is that you canâ ™t really depict something as abstract as a distributor or a customer with HTML, which is where XML comes into the picture. XML can be, and is, used to define the structure of data rather than its format. This Fast Start guide begins by showing you the basics of the XML language and then builds on that knowledge to show you how to create, style and transform documents. 1. XML Basics 7 2. Using XML 11 Extensions to XML 12 XLink and XPointer 12 XSL 13 XML Namespaces 14 XML Schema 14 XPath 14 Creating XML-Based Solutions 15 Authoring Tools 15 Application Development Environments 15 Database and Data Integration Solutions 16 XML Document Structure 16 XML Naming Rules 17 3. Working with Root, Parent, and Child Elements 19 Understanding Root Elements 19 Understanding Parent and Child Elements 20 Nesting Parent and Child Elements 20 Adding Root Elements to Documents 21 4. Defining XML Elements and Tags 23 Using Elements Tag Pairs 23 Using Empty Elements 25 5. Using XML Attributes 29 Defining Attributes 29 When To Use Attributes 31 Adding Attributes to Elements 32 6. Additional Structures in Elements 35 Using Predefined Entity References 35 Using Character Data Sections 37 Using Comments 38 Using Processing Instructions 40 7. Specifying XML Declarations 43 Using the Version Attribute 43 Using the Encoding Attribute 44 Using the Standalone Attribute 45 8. Creating Well-Formed Documents 47 9. Understanding DTDs 49 Using Elements in DTDs 52 Using Attributes in DTDs 53 10. Introducing XSL 57 11. Matching Structures to Template Rules 63 Understanding the Element and Root Nodes Template 65 Understanding the Modes Template 66 Understanding the Text and Attribute Nodes Template 67 Understanding Other Built-In Templates 67 12. Structuring XSLT Stylesheets 69 13. Defining the Output Format 73 Setting Attributes for the output Element 73 Formatting Output as XML or XML-Based Markup 75 Formatting Output as HTML 81 Formatting Output as Text or Program Source Code 87 Setting the Output Format 89 14.

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