

USING BASIC CNXML IN EDIT-IN-PLACE*

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Connexions

Based on *The Basic CNXML*[†] by
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Abstract

This document introduces simple CNXML tags that are easy to use in Edit-in-Place.

PLEASE NOTE: This module also contains information derived from The Advanced CNXML¹ by Ricardo Radaelli-Sanchez².

1 Starting with CNXML

To create the bare bones of content in Connexions, the author interface provides a variety of creation tools: the Document Importer, Edit-In-Place, and even a full-source editor. However, a basic knowledge of our markup language can help make small edits into tremendous enhancements to your material!

Connexions³ uses the **Connexions Markup Language (CNXML)** as its primary language for marking up and storing documents. CNXML is lightweight XML⁴ for marking up educational content. Unlike the well-known HTML, the goal of CNXML is to convey the **content** of the material and not a particular presentation. For example, say you have the following sentence: I like cupcakes very much. However, you feel that your enthusiasm for cupcakes has not been fully expressed. In HTML, you would use bold, underline, italic, etc.; in CNXML, you would use the emphasis (Section 2.1: Emphasis)**tag**.

2 Inline Tags

Inline tags, such as emphasis, are used to embed content and functionality inside the structural tags, such as paragraphs. Some of the more commonly used tags are discussed below.

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[†]<http://cnx.org/content/m9000/2.34/>

[‡]<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

¹"The Advanced CNXML" <<http://cnx.org/content/m9007/latest/>>

²http://cnx.org/member_profile/rars

³<http://cnx.org>

⁴<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML>

2.1 Emphasis

As mentioned previously (p. 1), the `emphasis` tag is used to accent certain text. Note that this refers to **semantic** emphasis and not a typeface. Different **stylesheets** can render emphasis with different typefaces.

Example 1

```
<para id='intro'>
  Gardenias are my absolute <emphasis>favorite</emphasis>
  flower. Their petals are soft, and their bloom has an
  absolutely <emphasis>heavenly</emphasis> scent.
</para>
```

The above markup will display as:

Gardenias are my absolute **favorite** flower. Their petals are soft, and their bloom has an absolutely **heavenly** scent.

2.2 Term

The `term` tag is used to mark words or phrases which are being defined. However, its use is confined to either a `para`⁵ or `definition`⁶ tag. The `term` tag has one optional **attribute**: `URL` - a URL specifying the source or definition of the term.

Example 2

```
<para id='gardenia'>
  <term url="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gardenia">Gardenias
  </term> can be tricky to maintain. The soil around the
  roots of a <term>gardenia</term> must remain moist always,
  but too much water can damage the plant. Also,
  <term>gardenias</term> enjoy the sun, but if the
  <emphasis>foliage</emphasis> gets wet to bring the gardenia
  into the shade.
</para>
```

The above markup will display as:

Gardenias can be tricky to maintain. The soil around the roots of a **gardenia** must remain moist always, but too much water can damage the plant. Also, **gardenias** enjoy the sun, but if the **foliage** gets wet to bring the gardenia into the shade.

2.3 Note

The `note` tag creates an "out of line" note to the reader. The **type** of note is specified by an optional **type** attribute. If a **type** is not specified, the default is `Note`. The **type** attribute can contain any of the following values:

⁵"Advanced CNXML using Edit-in-Place": Section Para <<http://cnx.org/content/m14395/latest/#para>>

⁶"The Intermediate CNXML": Section Definition <<http://cnx.org/content/m9006/latest/#definition>>

- note
- aside
- warning
- tip
- important

Example 3

```
<para id='pollen'>
  Receiving flowers is, on the whole, a wonderful thing.
  However, sometimes pollen from the flowers can cause
  problems. In particular, the clean up of a bit of
  pollen can be tricky. <note type="Important">Do not
  use water when cleaning up pollen! This can lead to
  counter-top and clothing stains!</note> Your best bet
  is to use a dry method of cleaning with a paper-towel.
</para>
```

The above markup will display as:

Receiving flowers is, on the whole, a wonderful thing. However, sometimes pollen from the flowers can cause problems. In particular, the clean up of a bit of pollen can be tricky.

IMPORTANT: Do not use water when cleaning up pollen! This can lead to counter-top and clothing stains!

Your best bet is to use a dry method of cleaning, with a paper-towel, for example.

2.4 Link

The `link` tag is the tag in CNXML used for linking to other Connexions modules or collections as well as external links.

strength: The Strength attribute can contain the value 1, 2, or 3 specifying the relevance of the link.

window: The Window attribute determines the manner in which the link location will be opened. It can contain the values "Replace" or "New". "Replace" will result in the link location opening in the current window replacing the page with the link. "New" will result in the link location opening in a new browser window.

url: The URL attribute can contain the web address of the link you wish to reference.

document: The Document attribute is used to reference the ids of other Connexions modules or Collections.

target-id: The Target-id attribute is used to reference the ids of specific elements within Connexions modules.

resource:

version: The Version attribute is used to reference a specific version of a Connexions module or collection.

The `target` and `document` attributes can be used together or alone. If both are used then you will link to a particular tag in another document. If only `document` is used, you will link to another document. If only `target` is used, you will link to a particular tag within the current document.

2.5 Cite

The `cite` tag is used to refer to non-electronic materials within a document, and primarily contains the title, the author, and/or a page number of a work.

Example 4: Cite Example

Finally, a good resource is the `<cite>Garden Lover's Cookbook -- William M. Rice; Paperback</cite>`.

The above markup will display as:

Finally, a good resource is the *Garden Lover's Cookbook – William M. Rice; Paperback*.

2.6 Quote

The `quote` tag is used to denote that some text directly quotes another source. The `quote` tag has a `display` attribute which denotes whether the quote is `inline` or `block`.

Example 5: Quote Example

```
<para id='plantquote'>
  Every plant needs a different amount of water in order to
  grow well. <quote display="inline">"If you water each plant the same, you
  will always water too much and too little."</quote> Also,
  remember the words of Lou Erickson:
  <quote id="quote_example" display='block'>"Gardening requires lots of water -
  most of it in the form of perspiration."</quote>
</para>
```

Every plant needs a different amount of water in order to grow well. "If you water each plant the same, you will always water too much and too little." Also, remember the words of Lou Erickson:

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."

2.7 Foreign

The `foreign` tag is used to denote that a word or phrase foreign to the language of the document is being used.

Example 6: Foreign Example

```
<para id='plantquote2'>
  All flowers have a scientific name, often derived from
  Latin. <foreign>Gardenia augusta</foreign> is the name
  of a type of gardenia found in Japan.
</para>
```

All flowers have a scientific name, often derived from latin. *Gardenia augusta* is the name of a type of gardenia found in Japan.

2.8 Code

The `code` tag is used to insert example computer output/input as either inline text within a paragraph or as a block of text. The `code` tag has a `display` attribute with two possible values:

- `inline` (default) - used to specify code that is inline.
- `block` - used to specify code that should be in a separate block of text.

Example 7: Inline Code Example

For now, take a look at what the inline code looks like:

```
<para id='copy'>
  In a unix terminal the command to copy a file is
  <code display='inline'>cp original copy</code>.
</para>
```

In a unix terminal the command to copy a file is `cp original copy`
You will see more about code blocks in Advanced CNXML using Edit-In-Place⁷.

⁷"Advanced CNXML using Edit-in-Place": Section Code <<http://cnx.org/content/m14395/latest/#code>>