

Richard Antill

Systems Architect
Ringtail Asia Pacific Pty Ltd



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XSLT

Examples of simple code



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What is XSLT ?

- ❑ eXtensible Stylesheet Language: Transformations
- ❑ A language for transforming the structure of an XML document
 - xml to xml
 - xml to html
 - xml to rtf



What is XSLT ?

- ❑ Uses XML syntax
- ❑ Help File
 - <C:\Program Files\Microsoft XML Parser SDK\Docs\xmlsdk30.chm>
- ❑ Has some of the typical features of any software language
 - `<xsl:if>`
 - `<xsl:for-each>`



XML to HTML

- ❑ XML File
- ❑ XSL File XSL File v2
- ❑ Apply the XSL to the XML
- ❑ Code that applies the XSL



XML to XML

- ❑ Original XML
 - Code that generated it
 - Desired XML
- ❑ XSL File
- ❑ Apply the XSL to the XML
- ❑ Code that applies the XSL



Analogy with Relational Databases and SQL

- ❑ On its own, XML is merely a storage and transmission format for data – like the tables in a relational database
- ❑ XSL is the equivalent of SQL



Similarities between XSLT and SQL

- ❑ Query syntax (select v. XPath)
- ❑ Closure Property – the output has the same data structure as the input
 - SQL – tables in, tables out
 - XSLT – trees in, trees out



Trap to be aware of

- ❑ Early versions of Microsoft Parser – Microsoft jumped the gun
- ❑ Recommend MSXML 3.0
- ❑ Backward compatible with old xsl files
 - `xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/TR/WD-xsl"`
 - `xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"`



Default Stylesheet in IE

□ <res://msxml.dll/defaultss.xsl>



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