Opening Discussion

- Do you have any questions about the quiz?
- Minute essay comments:
  - A number of students do use Google chat to ask questions when they see me online.
  - Virtual office hours: what's in it for you?
  - Meaning of the blue screen of death.
  - What to do if you love technology but suck at coding?
- Writing binary search.
We have been using “flat” text files to store things.

Advantage: it is human readable and simple.

Disadvantages: everything else.

- Slow
- Large
- Lacks meaning
- Hard to edit
- Hard to debug
The eXtensible Markup Language (XML) is a standard for text encoding of data.

If you have ever done HTML, XML is similar. XHTML is HTML that follows the XML standard.

The advantage of XML is that it can encode pretty much anything and it is human readable text.

The downside is that it can be very verbose.

Composed of markup (between < and > or & and ;) or content (anything not markup).
Tags

- The primary markup used in XML is the tag.
- A tag begins with a < and ends with a >.
- There are three types of tags.
  - Start-tag: <student>
  - End-tag: </student>
  - Empty-element tag: <quiz/>
Elements

- The structure of XML documents comes primarily from elements.
- An element is one of the following:
  - Everything from a start-tag to the matching end-tag.
  - An empty-element tag.
- Elements have to be properly nested. The nesting can imply information.
Attributes

- An attribute is a name value pair.
- They can be put in start-tags or empty-element tags.

Examples:
- `<student name="Jason" id="0123456">`
- `<quiz grade="55"/>`
XML Declaration

- An XML file can begin with a declaration telling information about it.
  - `<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>`
- We won't worry about these in this class.
XML in Scala

- The Scala language supports XML at the language level.
- Go to the REPL and enter some XML.
- There is a scala.xml package that contains the libraries for XML.
  - The NodeSeq, Node, and Elem types are particularly useful. I'll typically just use the word Node to describe something from the XML.
  - So is the XML object.
The XML Object

- The loadFile method can be passed a file name and it will read in the file and return a NodeSeq that allows you to get to the contents.
- There is also a save method that takes a file name and an XML node and writes it to file.
Use the \ operation on a node to search for the occurrences of something at the top level.

The second argument is a string.

- Normal string searches for tags with that label.
- If the string starts with @ it searches for attributes.

Use \\ to search deeply.
Questions about XML?

Would you like to take CSCI 1321 next semester, but are prevented by a schedule conflict? If so, what times would fit your current schedule?