

XML

4-13-2012

Opening Discussion

- Minute essay comments:
 - Why didn't we learn this earlier?
 - XML for GUIs?
 - Too many attributes?
 - XML is slower.
 - Empty elements.
 - When to not use attributes.
 - Benefits of XML.
 - Why XML instead of HTML?
 - Final review session?

More

- Is XML used more than flat text?
- Moving 1321?
- Courses that use coding for specific topic.
- Streaming? More safety or insecurity?

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.

Using \ and \\

- 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.

Writing XML

- We saw you can put XML directly into Scala code.
- If you put in curly braces, you can next Scala code in the XML.
 - `<student name={name}>`
 - `{grades.map(g => <grade value={g.toString}/>)}`
 - `</student>`
 - Properties much be strings.
- `XML.save(filename:String, node:Node)`

Code

- Let's keep working with the code for storing student data in XML.

Minute Essay

- When would you not want to use XML?