NAME

weblint – pick fluff off web pages (HTML)

SYNOPSIS

weblint [**-d** *id*] [**-e** *id*] [**-f** *filename*] [**-i**] [**-l**] [**-s**] [**-stderr**] [**-t**] [**-todo**] [**-help**] [**-U**] [**-urlget** *command*] [**-v**] [**-version**] [**-warnings**] [**-x** *extension*] file1 .. fileN

DESCRIPTION

Weblint is a Perl script which picks fluff off HTML pages. Files to be checked are passed on the command-line:

```
% weblint foobar.html ./dodgy-files/ index.html
```

If any of the arguments are directories weblint will recurse in the directory, and check any HTML files found. If an argument is a URL, then weblint will get the file using a URL retrieval program, and then check the file:

```
% weblint http://www.foobar.com/
```

By default weblint will use lynx to retrieve URLs, but this can be over-ridden. A filename of '-' specifies that weblint should read from standard input:

```
% lynx -source http://www.foobar.com/ | weblint -
```

Warnings are generated a la lint:

```
home.html(9): unmatched </A> (no matching <A> seen).
```

Weblint includes the following features:

- 46 different checks and warnings
- Warnings can be enabled/disabled individually, as per your preference
- basic structure and syntax checks
- warnings for use of unknown elements and element attributes.
- context checks (where a tag must appear within a certain element).
- overlapped or illegally nested elements.
- do IMG elements have ALT text?
- flags obsolete elements.
- support for user and site configuration files
- stylistic checks
- checks for html which is not portable across all browsers
- flags markup embedded in comments, since this can confuse some browsers
- support for Netscape, Java, and Microsoft HTML extensions
- HTML 3 elements such as TABLE, MATH, and FIG are supported

OPTIONS

-d *warning-identifier*

Disable the warning associated with the identifier. Multiple identifiers can be specified, with a comma between identifiers.

-e *warning-identifier*

Enable the warning associated with the identifier. Multiple identifiers can be specified, with a

comma between identifiers.

-f *config-file*
Specify a weblint configuration file which should be used in place of the user's default config file, or the site configuration file.

-help Show a short usage summary.

-i Ignore case of element tags.

-l When recursing in directories, ignore any files which are symlinks (also known as soft links). This will also cause files on the command-line to be ignored if they are symlinks, unless only one file is given.

-pedantic
Turn on all warnings except the case-sensitive and bad-link warnings.

-s Generate 'short' warning messages, which do not include the filename.

-stderr Print warning messages to STDERR rather than STDOUT.

-t Enable terse warning mode, which is mainly useful for the weblint testsuite.

-U Same as -help.

-urlget *command*
The command which should be used to retrieve HTML pages specified by URL.

-v Display the version number.

-version
Display the version number.

-todo This prints out the URL for the online version of the weblint ToDo list. This includes known bugs, and requested/planned features.

-warnings
List all supported warnings, with warning identifier, and whether the warning is enabled.

-x *extension*
Include checks for the specified HTML extension; multiple extensions can be specified, separated with a comma. Currently the only extensions supported are *Netscape* and *Java*. This can also be set in your weblint configuration file, described below.

HTML EXTENSIONS

Weblint supports a number of extensions to html, which are not recognized by default. For example, weblint will complain that the BLINK element is not known, unless you enable the **Netscape** extension. The following extensions are currently supported:

Netscape
The HTML extensions supported by the Netscape browser, version 2.1.

Microsoft
The HTML extensions supported by Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 2.1.

Java The extensions supported by Java-enhanced browsers. This is the APPLET and PARAM elements.

To enable an extension, you can either use the **-x** command-line switch:

```
% weblint -x Netscape foobar.html
```

Or you can use the **extension** keyword in your *.weblintrc*:

```
# enable the Java extensions (APPLET and PARAM elements)
```

```
extension Java
```

Multiple extensions can be enabled at the same time - they are separated with a comma, when using either mechanism:

```
% weblint -x Netscape,Java foobar.html
```

```
extension Netscape,Java
```

CONFIGURATION FILE

Weblint can be configured using a file *.weblintrc* in your home directory (or a file referenced by the WEBLINTRC environment variable). This file can be used to enable or disable specific warnings, set weblint variables, and include HTML extensions, as described above. Each warning has a short identifier string, used to refer to the warning in config files, and from the command-line. For example, if you want to enable the check for tags in upper-case, but disable the check for obsolete elements, then you would include the following lines in your .weblintrc:

```
# specify the command used to retrieve URLs (-urlget switch)
set url-get = lynx -source

# the style of warning message to generate (lint, short, or terse)
set message-style = lint

# enable warning for tags not in upper-case
enable upper-case

# disable the warning for obsolete tags
disable obsolete

# enable the Netscape HTML extensions
extension Netscape

# or, to enable both Netscape and Java extensions
extension Netscape,Java

# when recursing in a directory,
# ignore files which are symlinks (also known as soft links)
ignore symlinks
```

The keywords can be followed by any number of arguments, separated by spaces or tabs. Anything following a '#' is treated as a comment.

A sample configuration file is included in the weblint distribution (as of version 1.004), which mirrors the configuration built-in to weblint.

Weblint also supports a site configuration file. If a user does not have a personal configuration file, then weblint will check for a local site configuration file. To provide such a file, create a directory such as /usr/local/weblint, and create a file global.weblintrc. You need to edit the weblint script and modify the $SITE_DIR variable, which you will find near the top of the file. For example:

```
$SITE_DIR = '/usr/local/weblint';
```

At some point in the future there will be configuration support for weblint, so you won't have to modify the script directly yourself.

If you have a site configuration file, then users can inherit the site defaults by adding the following line at the top of their .weblintrc file:

```
use global weblintrc
```

WARNINGS

All warnings generated by *weblint* are listed below, along with the associated identifier, and whether the warning is enabled or disabled by default.

TESTSUITE

A simple regression testsuite is included with weblint, in the Perl script `test.pl`. You can run the testsuite with either of the following commands:

```
% make test
% ./test.pl
```

The results are printed to STDERR, with a more complete report generated in test.log.

All tests should pass. If any tests fail, please email test.log to the address given in the AUTHOR section below.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

WEBLINTRC

If this variable is defined, and references a file, then *weblint* will read the referenced file for the user's configuration, rather than $HOME/.weblintrc.

TMPDIR

The directory where weblint will create temporary working files. Defaults to /usr/tmp.

FILES

$HOME/.weblintrc

The user's configuration file. See the section 'CONFIGURATION FILE'.

SEE ALSO

perl(1)

VERSION

This man page describes *weblint 1.017*.

AVAILABILITY

`ftp://ftp.cre.canon.co.uk/pub/weblint/weblint.tar.gz`
`http://www.cre.canon.co.uk/~neilb/weblint/`

KNOWN BUGS

The list of known bugs can be found on the weblint home page:

http://www.cre.canon.co.uk/~neilb/weblint/todo/

Certain versions of Perl have bugs which are triggered by weblint. You shouldn't experience problems if you have 4.036, or 5.002.

AUTHOR

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Lots of people have contributed to weblint, in the form of suggestions, bug reports, fixes, and contributed code. Please email me if your name should appear in the roll call below.

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