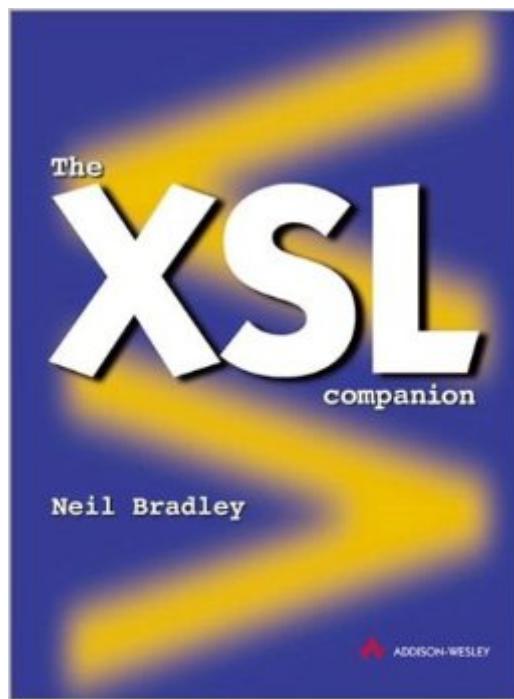


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# XSL Companion, The



## Synopsis

A concise, comprehensive and accessible guide to the scope, strengths and limitations of the XSL (eXtensible Stylesheet Language) family of stylesheet standards for XML, this book explains the practical ways in which XSL can be utilized for formatting and manipulating information held in the hugely popular XML data format. If you are a current or potential XML user looking for just one reference to get you up to speed on styling and manipulating your XML documents with clarity, comprehensive coverage and precision, then this book will be your essential and constant companion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Computing seems to have a propensity to generate an awesome acronym soup; two examples being XSL and XSLT. The difference between these is rather nuanced. Frankly, for most purposes, I would consider them interchangeable. But if you really want to know the difference, this book does a neat job explaining. Both have to do with manipulating XML documents. XSLT transforms an XML document into another document. The output can be XML, or any other format, with XHTML being a popular choice. XSLT does not necessarily have anything to do with presentation, per se. It is a declarative language, like SQL, and unlike C or Java, which are procedural languages. If the latter is your background, this may be your biggest impedance mismatch. Takes some getting used to. But the text is clearly written to help you along. Pure XSL, on the other hand, is an XML based formatting language. It is explicitly for displaying documents. In fact, it draws many of its property names and

actions from CSS (Cascading Style Sheets). This was done to let those familiar with the latter pick up XSL quickly. There is a long chapter on XSL that goes exhaustively through its many properties. TeX and troff gurus will see numerous layout concepts redone here in new flesh. Overall, a very useful and up to date book. The examples and accompanying text do succinctly convey the meanings intended. This book has clarity. You are not deluged in unnecessarily complicated explanations. I do have some caveats. Firstly, tree diagrams are drawn from left to right?! Those from a computer science background are used to trees always being drawn from top to bottom.

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