**XML BASICS**

WHAT IS XML? AND, WHY DOES IT MATTER?
XML stands for Extensible Markup Language. XML is used for a variety of purposes and exists for a variety of reasons. First, unlike other markup languages, XML is easy to read by both humans and machines. Second, XML is used for creating a base for many office productivity and documentation programs. Third, XML is very easy to write.

XML typically begins with a prolog, which appears at the top of very XML document.
Example:
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

XML like HTML uses start tags and end tags.
Example:  (start tag)
<tag>

Example:  (end tag signified by the forward slash before the word/term)
</tag>

XML must contain one root element which is the parent of all "child" elements.
Example:

Note: XML tags are case sensitive and must be properly nested (using the TAB function, like the example above).