

Tru64 UNIX Best Practice

Using Annotations with Amaya: A Technology Demo

This Best Practice demonstrates the use of the Web page annotation features included in the W3C Amaya browser and authoring tool. We present this demonstration to show how emerging technology will allow you to annotate Web documents to fit your local needs.

See the Compaq Tru64™ UNIX Best Practices Web page for more information about Best Practices documentation.

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What Is Amaya?

Amaya is a browser and authoring environment of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

As described on the Amaya Web site, Amaya is a browser and authoring tool that allows you to publish documents on the Web. It is used to demonstrate and test many of the new developments in Web protocols and data formats. Amaya is a complete Web browsing and authoring environment and comes equipped with a WYSIWYG-style interface, similar to that of popular commercial browsers. With such an interface, users can easily generate HTML and XHTML pages, as well as CSS style sheets, MathML expressions, and SVG drawings.

This Best Practice describes the Amaya collaborative annotation application. Annotations are external comments, notes, and remarks that can be attached to any Web document or to a selected part of the document. The collaborative annotation application is based on Resource Description Framework (RDF), XLink, and XPointer recommendations.

W3C Copyright and Legal Notice

Sections of this Best Practice that reference Amaya documentation include hot links to the original W3C document.

See the Amaya Activity Statement for the current development plans for Amaya.

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Is This Best Practice Right for You?

Not all Best Practices apply to all configurations, so you must be sure that it is appropriate for your system and circumstances. To use this Best Practice, you must meet the requirements described in the following table:

Requirement	Description
Operating system	See the W3C binary distribution Web page for a description of the supported operating system platforms.
Disk space required	See the W3C binary distribution Web page for a description of the required disk space.
Impact on availability	This Best Practice does not impact system availability.
Skill level	This Best Practice is intended for experienced users or system administrators. At a minimum, you must be able to download and install the Amaya binary distribution on your test system.

Before You Begin

The Amaya annotation feature presents an emerging technology that can solve a common business problem: it is sometimes necessary to tailor technical documentation to meet a specific business need or environment. For example, your system administrator might have implemented site-specific backup procedures that are unique to your environment. Or you might want to make sure that your system users are aware of site-specific policies and procedures that cannot be reflected in the technical documentation.

Consider the example shown in *Example of Original Procedure*. The procedure describes how to shut down a cluster member that is the hosting member for an application with a restricted placement policy. The procedure uses the placeholder `resource-name` to indicate where you should enter the name of a resource.

Example of Original Procedure

5.5.4 Shutting Down a Hosting Member

The cluster application availability (CAA) profile for an application allows you to specify an ordered list of members, separated by white space, that can host the application resource. The hosting members list is used in conjunction with the application resource's failover policy (favored or restricted), as discussed in `caa(4)`.

If the cluster member that you are shutting down is the only hosting member for one or more applications with a restricted placement policy, you need to specify another hosting member or the application cannot run while the member is down. You can add an additional hosting member, or replace the existing hosting member with another.

To do this, perform these steps:

1. Verify the current hosting members and placement policy.

```
# caa_profile -print resource-name
```

You could add an annotation that tells the reader exactly which local resource name to check. If you do this, the user is alerted to the annotation by the pencil icon, as shown in *Example of How Annotated Text Is Labeled*.

Example of How Annotated Text Is Labeled


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```
 # caa_profile -print resource-name
```

If the user double-clicks on this annotation icon, the annotation window is displayed, as shown in *Example of an Annotation*.

Example of an Annotation

Author: SysAdmin Source document: Managing Cluster Members Annotation type: Comment Created: 2001-06-01T17:32:15 Last modified: 2001-06-01T18:10:03


The payroll resource has a restricted placement policy: it runs only on cluster members money1 and money2. Before you shut down money1, make sure that money2 is UP, and vice versa. To be safe, check the current placement policy and hosting members before you do anything else.

```
# clu_get_info
```

```
# caa_profile -print payroll
```

Creating annotations for a Web document does not modify the source document itself. That is, the source document is not changed in any way. This means that you can annotate source documents on read-only media, such as a CD-ROM, on a Web site, and so forth.

The Amaya annotation feature allows you to create external comments, procedures, notes, and remarks, and attach them to any Web document.

Amaya shows the presence of annotations in a document by means of a pencil annotation icon . If you single-click on an annotation icon, the annotated portion is highlighted; if you double-click on this icon, the annotation text and other metadata are displayed in a separate window.

Local and Remote Annotations

As described in the *Amaya User Manual*, annotations are stored either in the local file system (local annotations) or in annotation servers (remote annotations). When you browse an annotated document, Amaya queries each of these servers, requesting the annotations related to that document. Amaya uses XPointer to describe where an annotation should be attached to a document.

Remote annotations are stored in annotation servers and can be downloaded and stored by anyone having the correct access rights, similar to other HTML documents. Remote annotations can be shared or public annotations, and can be seen by other users.

Local annotations do not require an annotation server. They are stored under the user preferences directory, in a special directory called annotations. For example, on a Windows NT PC, the annotations might be stored in `WINNT\Profiles\sysadmin\amaya\annotations`. This directory includes three kinds of files:

- The `annot.index` file associates URLs with the files in which the metadata for the annotations is stored.
- The `indexrandom-suffix` file stores the metadata of the annotations related to a given URL. The metadata is specified with RDF.
- The `annotrandom-suffix.html` file contains the body of an annotation, stored as XHTML.

Note

This Best Practice describes the use of local annotations because they demonstrate the power of annotations without the additional tasks required to set up an annotation server. The Amaya online help describes how to use both local and remote annotations. Additional information is available at the Annotea Project Web site.

What Happens If the Document Is Updated?

As described in *Issues with Annotations and Modified Documents*, annotations are specific to a given Web document, and to actual identifiers within that document. If you annotate a Web document, and then load a newer version of the document, your annotations might not be reflected in the newer version. For example, if you were to annotate a manual on the Tru64 UNIX Documentation CD-ROM, and then upgrade to a newer version of the Documentation CD-ROM, it is possible that the file name or file specification of the manual on the CD-ROM has changed. In this case, the new document does not reflect your annotations. It is also possible that the file name has not changed, but the annotated text has been revised, deleted, or relocated. In this case, the annotations would still exist but would be associated with the wrong sections or text.

As a general rule, annotations work best for source documents that are not likely to change, or not change often.

An annotation is an **orphan** when it can no longer be attached to a document—that is, when the XPointer no longer resolves to any element in the document structure. This happens when a document's structure is modified. Amaya warns you if it detects any orphan annotations. All orphan annotations are visible from the Show links entry on the Views menu. Orphan links are associated with an icon that shows a question



mark superimposed on the annotation pencil .

An annotation is considered to be **misleading** when it points to the wrong piece of information. Due to the way that annotations are linked to the source document, if the source document has changed, it is possible for the XPointer to then point to the wrong place. For example, if a paragraph has been added to the source document, the XPointer might now point to the wrong paragraph. In the first release, Amaya does not warn you if an annotation is misleading. A future release may notify users of the potential for an annotation to be misleading.

Applying the Best Practice

Follow the instructions in this section to install Amaya and to configure and try out the annotation feature.

Download, Install, and Start Amaya

Follow these steps to install and run Amaya:

1. Download the current Amaya kit for your platform from the Amaya binary distribution Web page. This Best Practice is based on the Windows NT/2000 kit, but you can use any of the available kits.
2. Follow the Windows or UNIX installation instructions. You do not need to install the spell checker to try out the annotation feature.
3. Start Amaya from the Start menu on a PC. Follow the Starting Amaya instructions to start Amaya on a UNIX system.

The main Amaya browser window appears. *Amaya Main Window* shows this window displaying the default Amaya home page.

Take this opportunity to explore the browser interface.

Amaya Main Window



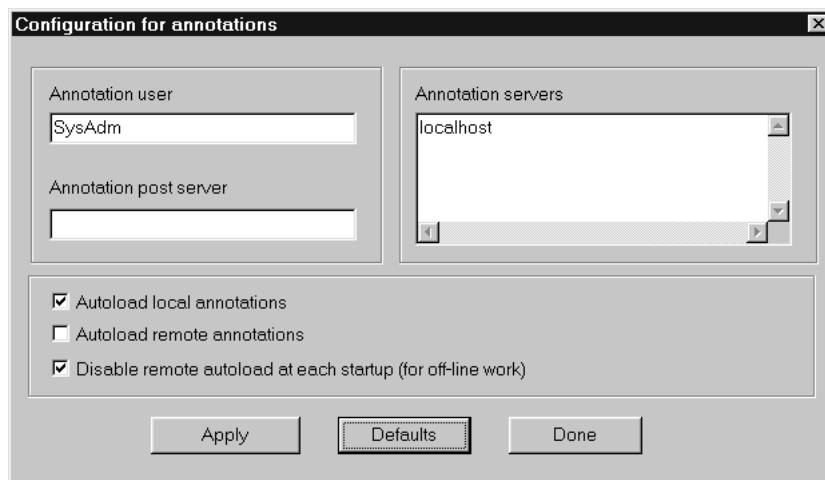
Configure Your Proxy Server

If you use a proxy server to access the Internet, configure Amaya to use it. This Best Practice assumes that Amaya can access Web sites such as <http://www.w3.org>. To configure the proxy server settings, choose Preferences from the Special menu, and then choose the Proxy entry. Enter your proxy server information.

Configure Annotations

As described in the *Amaya User Manual*, choose *Configure* from the *Annotations* menu. *Configure Annotations Window* shows the Windows version of this window; the UNIX version has a slightly different user interface but functions the same.

Configure Annotations Window



The settings of this window are as follows:

- `Annotation user` is a text string that identifies the author of each new annotation created on this system. By default, Amaya uses the login name of the user, but you can change this. For example, you might want to use Administrator, SysOp, SysAdmin, and so forth.
- `Annotation servers` identifies the servers that Amaya should contact when looking for annotations. This Best Practice demonstrates only the use of local annotations, identified by the keyword `localhost`.
- `Annotation post servers` identifies the remote servers to which Amaya should post annotations. Local annotations are always saved to the local repository, regardless of the value of this setting. This Best Practice demonstrates only the use of local annotations and you can ignore this setting.
- `Autoload local annotations/Autoload remote annotations` tells Amaya whether or not to request annotations automatically (that is, query the annotation servers) every time that a URL is browsed. If not checked, you must manually choose *Load annotations* from the *Annotations* menu. This Best Practice demonstrates only the use of

local annotations. Therefore, check the Autoload local annotations check box and leave the Autoload remote annotations check box blank.

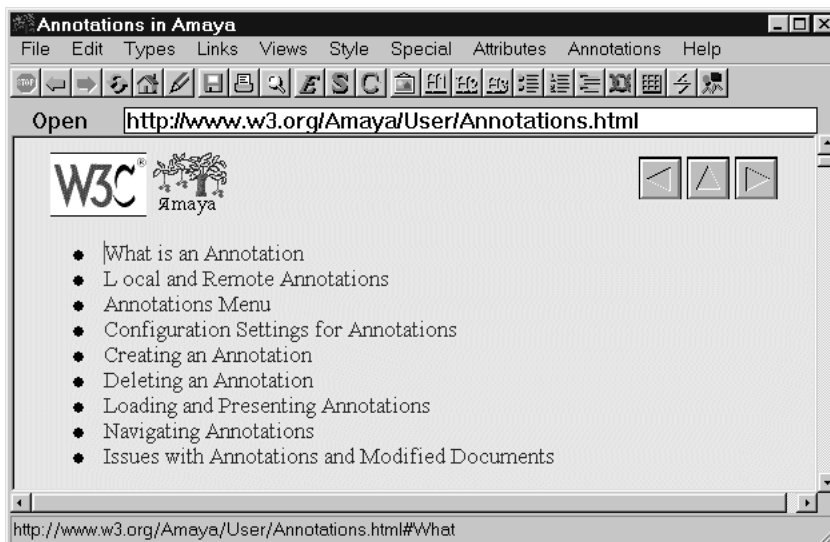
- Disable remote autoload at each startup (for off-line work) tells Amaya whether to reset the autoload remote annotations option each time Amaya is started. This option can be useful if you occasionally enable remote autoload during a particular session, but want the startup default to be disabled.

Open a Web Page to Annotate

Use Amaya to open a Web page. The easiest way to do this is to enter the URL in the Open text area. You must enter a complete URL, including the `http://` portion; Amaya does not default this portion of the URL.

We suggest the Annotations in Amaya Web page, a portion of which is shown in *Sample Web Page*.

Sample Web Page



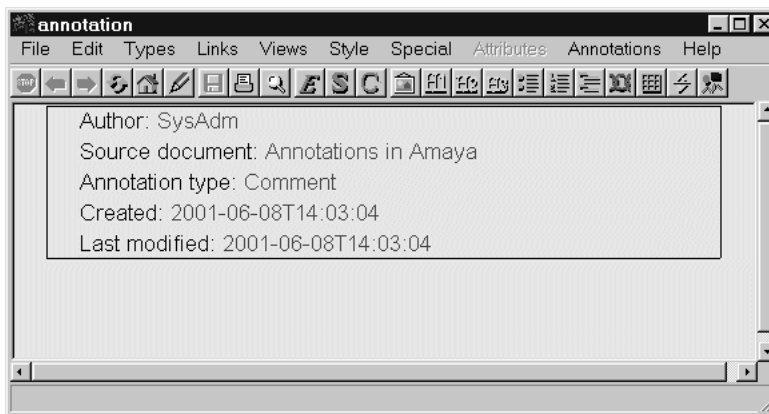
Create an Annotation

As described in the *Amaya User Manual*, this version of Amaya supports two kinds of annotations: annotations that apply to a whole document and annotations that apply to a specific point or selection in a document:

- To annotate an entire document, choose the Annotate document entry from the Annotations menu.
- To annotate a point or selection, place the cursor at any point in the document, or select any portion of the document, and choose Annotate selection from the Annotations menu.

In each of these cases, the annotation window shown in *Example of Creating an Annotation* appears.

Example of Creating an Annotation



The settings of this window are as follows:

- `Author` is the name you set in the Annotation user setting described in *Configure Annotations*.
- `Source Document` is the title of the annotated document. This field is also a link that points back to the annotated text; double-clicking it displays the annotated document and highlights the annotated text.
- `Annotation type` allows you to classify the annotation and change its type. The possible types are Advice, Change, Comment, Example, Explanation, Question, and SeeAlso. Double-click on the Annotation type field to see the list of available types. After you create the annotation, you can change the annotation type at any time.
- `Created` is the date that the annotation was created.
- `Last modified` is a dynamic time stamp that is updated automatically each time that an annotation is saved.

The annotation body is below the header area. Fill in whatever you want for an annotation.


The annotation is saved as an HTML file and you can use the Amaya authoring environment to enter your annotation just as you would any other HTML document. (Note that not all authoring features are implemented for annotations and Amaya does not currently support images within annotations.)

Save an Annotation

Saving an annotation is equivalent to saving any other document with Amaya: choose Save from the File menu or use the equivalent shortcut or icon.

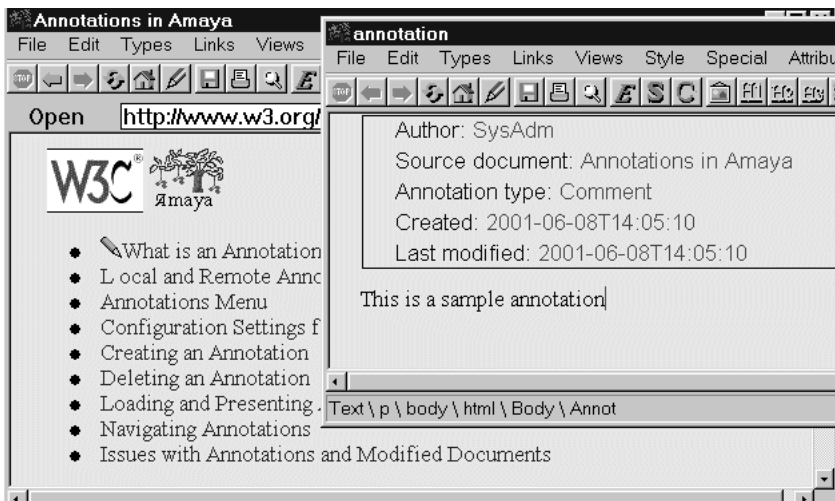
Amaya saves local annotations to the annotations directory. On a Windows NT PC, this could be WINNT\Profiles\sysadmin\amaya\annotations.

Navigate Annotations

After you have created and saved an annotation, the pencil icon  marks the annotation in the source document, as shown in *Displaying an Annotation*.

Double-click on the icon to display the annotation.

Displaying an Annotation



Delete an Annotation

The Delete annotations entry on the Annotations menu lets you delete an annotation. You can delete an annotation in two ways:

- While the annotation window is displayed, choose Delete annotation from the Annotations menu.
- You can delete an annotation while viewing the annotated document. Click on the annotation icon and then choose Delete annotations from the Annotations menu.

Filter Annotations

The Local filter entry on the Annotations menu allows you to show or hide annotations based on a filter. This might make it easier to read a heavily annotated document. You can show or hide annotations based on three mutually exclusive filter criteria:

- The name of the annotation's author, as set in *Create an Annotation*. Only those author names you have actually used are available for the filter.
- The type of annotation, as set in *Create an Annotation*. Only those annotation types you have actually used (from the possible choices of Advice, Change, Comment, Example, Explanation, Question, and SeeAlso) are available for the filter.
- The annotation server name. This Best Practice demonstrates only the use of local annotations, identified by the keyword `localhost`.

To apply any of these filters, click on the filter type, choose from the choices presented in the text box, and then click on the corresponding show or hide action button.

Verifying Success

After you apply this Best Practice, you can verify whether it was successful by annotating one or more HTML documents or web pages, such as the Compaq Home Page.

Choose pages with standard HTML coding to eliminate possible problems caused by nonstandard coding.

Comments and Questions

We value your comments and questions on the information in this document. Please mail your comments to us at this address:

best_practices@zk3.dec.com

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