Lead Your Organization to its Full Potential
Join the World Wide Web Consortium

Founded in 1994 by Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is the global center for Web standards. W3C is where the framework for today’s Web is developed, including HTML and XML. W3C is where the framework for tomorrow’s Web is now being designed, including technologies to enable widespread automation, meaning and trust; to support a broader range of devices and types of interaction; and to serve an expanding, more inclusive base of users.

If your organization is investing substantial resources into Web technologies—either by developing Web-based products, using the Web as an enabling vehicle, or conducting research on the Web—then your organization should be a W3C Member.

"W3C Members work together to design Web technologies that build upon its universality, giving the world the power to enhance communication and commerce for anyone, anywhere, anytime and using any device."

Tim Berners-Lee
Director, World Wide Web Consortium

Adoption of W3C standards and reliance of global commerce and information exchange upon these standards continue to grow. Those who participate in our work have a unique opportunity to shape W3C standards and to leverage them to create new markets, expand existing markets, and participate directly in the revolution that continues to change the way the world works.

To learn more about the W3C’s work or about joining in it, please visit: http://www.w3.org/ and click on “Join W3C.” Further questions? Write to membership@w3.org.

http://www.w3.org
World Wide Web Consortium
Technical Background

Tim Berners-Lee proposed the initial model for the World Wide Web in March of 1989, and demonstrated the first prototype using HTTP, HTML and URIs in December of 1990. The unprecedented growth of the Web attests to the elegance of this initial model. However, an elegant model was just the start.

Tim established the World Wide Web Consortium in 1994, with a mission to lead the Web to its full potential. W3C brings the broadest range of parties to the table to engineer the requirements, architecture, design, specifications and guidelines that provide the framework for the Web of today and tomorrow. Work is done within a consensus-based process that is fair, effective and used as a model by other organizations.

Unique Among Standards Bodies
The Consortium is composed of close to 400 Member organizations, investing the resources of nearly 700 technical experts to engineer technologies within 50 Working, Interest and Coordination Groups. W3C’s vendor-neutral technical Team guides these efforts, with staff based at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA), the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (France) and Keio University (Japan). Fourteen additional W3C Offices around the world support an expanding, global constituency.

Before a technology becomes a W3C Recommendation—commonly regarded as a Web standard—we demonstrate that it can be implemented and can interoperate with other technologies. The Consortium furthers its interoperability goals through Member and public reviews, and liaisons with over 30 standards bodies. W3C formulates and integrates into our standards the techniques needed to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, usability within international language and writing systems, and overall high quality.

This brings us to the most important and distinguishing characteristic of W3C: its history of achievement. HTML, CSS, XML, DOM, SOAP, RDF, OWL, VoiceXML, SVG, XSLT, P3P, XML Signature/Encryption, Web Accessibility Guidelines—there are now close to 80 W3C Recommendations, and many more are under development. This record of technical leadership, coupled with a record of leadership on the interface of technology and society, has earned the W3C the trust and respect of a global community.

http://www.w3.org/