



# Supply Metadata

Meta information is simply data that describes other data. In the context of HTML, document metadata describes the document itself – rather than the document’s contents.

HTML metadata is defined in the head section of the HTML document using the `<meta>` tag. The `<meta>` tag is an “empty” tag that needs no matching closing tag to create an HTML element – it is only used to specify information with its tag attributes. Previous examples have used this tag to specify the document’s character-set. Further `<meta>` tags can be added to describe other aspects of the document.

Given the number of handheld devices that may view a web page, it is useful to optimize the page for smaller screens by including this `<meta>` tag in all your HTML documents’ head sections:

```
<meta name="viewport"
      content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
```

This will ensure your document will fill the device screen width and sets the initial zoom level so the content is not zoomed.

A `<meta>` tag can also assign a document HTTP header property to an `http-equiv` attribute and can specify that property’s value to a `content` attribute. You can assign the HTTP “refresh” property to an `http-equiv` attribute to reload the page after a number of seconds specified to its `content` attribute – for example, to reload the page after five seconds, like this:

```
<meta http-equiv="refresh" content= "5">
```

This technique is often used on websites to dynamically update news or status items, as it does not depend on JavaScript support.

Another popular use redirects the browser to a new web page after a specified number of seconds, like this:

```
<meta http-equiv="refresh" content= "5 ; url='new-page.html' ">
```

In this case, the `<meta>` tag’s `content` attribute specifies both the number of seconds to delay and the new URL to load.



Setting the `width` to the `device-width` typically sets the `initial-scale` to 1 automatically, but it doesn’t hurt to set it explicitly as meta data.

...cont'd

1 Create a barebones HTML document

```

<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html lang="en">
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<!-- More metadata to be inserted here. -->
<title>Meta Refresh</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Moving in 5 Seconds...</h1>
</body>
</html>

```



refresh.html

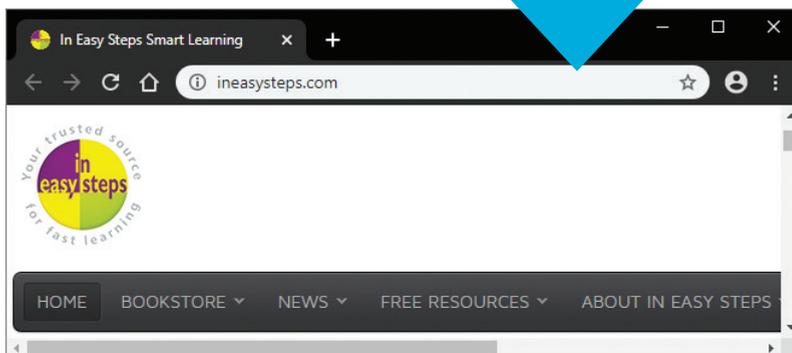
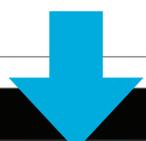
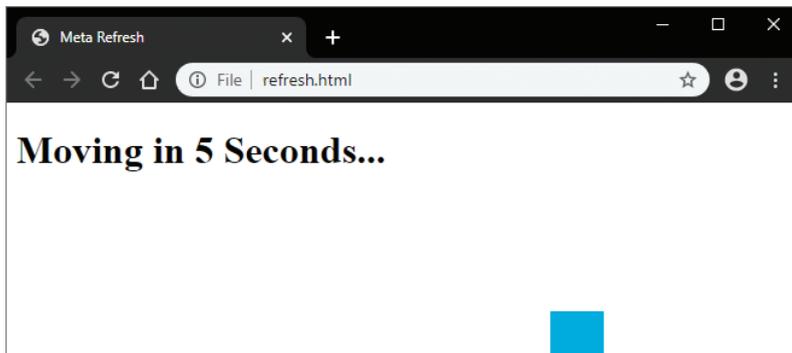
2 Insert two more elements of metadata

```

<meta name="viewport"
      content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
<meta http-equiv="refresh"
      content="5 ; url='https://ineasysteps.com' ">

```

3 Save the document then open it in your web browser and wait five seconds to see the browser redirect



When you only specify the domain to the **url** attribute, as in this case, the browser will automatically load the **index.html** page at that domain location.