

Reading XML files

The Visual Basic `System.Xml` object can be used to easily import data into an application from an XML document. A container for the data is first created as a `System.Xml.XmlDocument` object, then the data is loaded into it using its `Load()` method to copy data from the XML document file.

A `System.Xml.XmlNodeList` can then create an `Item()` array of all the elements in the XML document. Individual elements can be addressed by stating their name as the parameter to the `SelectSingleNode()` method of the `Item()` array, and the value contained within that element retrieved by its `InnerText` property.



Books.xml

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Open any plain text editor, such as **Notepad**, and create an XML document with elements like those below – name it **Books.xml** and save it in the **Documents** folder

```
Books.xml - Notepad
File Edit View
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" standalone="yes" ?>
<shelf>
  <book>
    <isbn>978-1-84078-8785</isbn>
    <title>HTML, CSS & JavaScript in easy steps</title>
    <author>Mike McGrath</author>
    <class>Web Development</class>
  </book>
  <book>
    <isbn>978-1-84078-9362</isbn>
    <title>InDesign in easy steps</title>
    <author>Robert Shufflebotham</author>
    <class>Design and Graphics</class>
  </book>
  <book>
    <isbn>978-1-84078-9713</isbn>
    <title>C++ Programming in easy steps</title>
    <author>Mike McGrath</author>
    <class>Programming</class>
  </book>
  <book>
    <isbn>978-1-84078-9348</isbn>
    <title>Microsoft Word in easy steps</title>
    <author>Scott Basham</author>
    <class>Microsoft Office</class>
  </book>
  <book>
    <isbn>978-1-84078-9027</isbn>
    <title>SQL in easy steps</title>
    <author>Mike McGrath</author>
    <class>Web and App Development</class>
  </book>
</shelf>
```



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