ER Model, XML and the Web

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The ER Model and its variants have been used successfully in data modeling and database design in more than twenty years. In the past few years, the Web has become an increasingly popular user interface to files and databases. The XML, which is developed by the World Wide Web Consortium, is positioned to be the main stream markup language for the web of the future. Recently, several XML working groups are in the process of developing specifications related to data types, schemas, and data models. Whether the ER model (or its variants) can serve as the model of the web is a subject of a debate within the XML working groups. In this talk, we will look at some of the current modules of XML such as DTD, RDF, XLink, XPointer, and XL Schema. We will then show the similarities and differences between the main concepts in these modules and the main concepts in the ER model. Then, we will present the reasons why the ER model is a good candidate for the model of the web.