

IMG extension for Mosaic 1.1

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This is a pre-announcement that Mosaic 1.1 will include support for Tony Sanders' ISMAP attribute as part of IMG elements (see <http://www.bsdi.com/server/walk/walk.html> for details) as an HTML extension.

I realize that this is another unplanned change that I'm making without getting a consensus or having it added to the spec or whatever. I also realize that, as with the IMG tag, it may be used fairly widely in documents on the net even though it's not part of the HTML spec, possibly making those documents not as friendly to other browsers (although I hear the next Midas will support this, and really, it's not that complex to add to an existing image-capable browser).

There are three reasons I'm going ahead and adding support for it to Mosaic anyway: (a) as it happens, I need to support this capability internally for certain things in any case, (b) this adds a lot of power and flexibility to browser interaction without too much overhead or complexity on either client or server side, and (c) there is simply no other way to get the same effect, due to a lack of an appropriate CGM-style hypermedia graphics description language for use in the Web that would support things like overview diagrams of document sets and geographical maps with documents tied to different regions, and we need this functionality in general.

So I hope I don't make anyone too unhappy; if anyone has thoughts or comments, I'd like to hear 'em...

Marc

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