

# Special XML Characters (and how to avoid &amp;amp;)

Some characters cannot directly expressed in XML. They need to be expressed in a special way using XML's escape charter &. They are:

Character	XML Representation
<	&lt;
&	&amp;
>	&gt;

There are two more characters that may need "escaping". Details can be found on [Wikipedia](#).

One example for is mechanism is the DisplayArtistName for the collaboration George Benson & Al Jarreau. This needs expressing in XML as

```
<DisplayArtistName>George Benson &amp; Al Jarreau</DisplayArtistName>
```

Someone receiving such information *must* "un-escape" the &amp; to & – otherwise, if he ingests the name as is into his database and if he then creates a new XML message, he may end up sending:

```
<DisplayArtistName>George Benson &amp;amp; Al  
Jarreau</DisplayArtistName>
```

which is then displayed as "George Benson & Al Jarreau"...