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Leave HTML that the next person can understand

By Gyata Tabiri · Revised November 2, 2026

The next person opening a file should not need to reconstruct every decision from scratch. But understandable source does not always mean short source—especially when unusual markup protects behavior in an email client.

Preserve a reason before removing a workaround

Repeated styles, nested tables, or an odd spacing element may look unnecessary in a browser. Before simplifying them, I would establish what they were intended to protect and compare the result in the required environments. Tidier markup is not enough evidence that the change is safe.

Comment on the uncertainty

A comment that repeats a declaration adds little. A comment explaining why a fallback exists, which environment needed it, or what remains unverified gives the next person a starting point. I would keep that information near the relevant code rather than rely on a separate conversation being remembered.

Leave the practical route through the files

The receiving person needs asset locations, entry points, and the steps that affect the final output. If the platform transforms the HTML during import, that dependency belongs in the handoff. The same applies to an upload step or a shared include that is easy to overlook.

Try the change that will happen next week

Replace some copy, add a list item, or update a destination in a safe copy. Does the structure make the ordinary edit understandable? If a routine change requires tracing unrelated styles across several files, there may be a boundary worth improving before the handoff.

I want a file to carry its useful context with it. That makes maintenance less dependent on whether its original author is available to answer a question.

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