

Summary of HTML 3.0 Tables



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1. Quick reference

Values shown as *i* are integers; *f* are fixed-point numbers such as 2.7; *d* are dimensions; *c* are characters; and *a* are common alignment attributes.

This publication is available in Web form¹ and also as a PDF document². Please forward any comments to tcc-doc@nmt.edu.

The principal table elements must occur in this order:

1. The `<table>` tag starting the table.
2. The `<caption>...</caption>` element, if any.
3. One or more `<tr>` elements containing the table's rows. Each will contain a `<td>` element for each cell.
4. The `</table>` tag ending the table.

2. Dimensions (*d*)

<i>ipx</i>	Screen pixels; this is the default unit, if no units are given.
<i>fin</i>	Inches.
<i>fc</i>	Centimeters.

¹ <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/htmltabcrib/>

² <http://www.nmt.edu/tcc/help/pubs/htmltabcrib.pdf>

fmm	Millimeters.
fpi	Printer's pica, about 1/6".
fpt	Printer's point, about 1/72".
fem	Printer's em, equal to the default font size.
f%	Percentage of a width that depends on context. For example, in a <td> tag, a width="75%" attribute would mean 3/4 of the table's width.

3. Common alignment attributes (a)

align=align-attr

Controls horizontal alignment of cell contents. Values may be: **left**, **center**, or **right**; **justify** for justified paragraphs; or **char** for alignment to a character defined by the **char** attribute.

char="c"

Define **c** as the alignment character for **align=char**. The default is ".".

charoff="d"

Align all cells to a point that is **d** away from the left side of the cell (right side for Hebrew and Arabic).

valign=valign-attr

Controls vertical alignment of cell contents. Values may be: **top**; **middle**; **bottom**; or **baseline**, which horizontally aligns the first line of each paragraph on that row.

4. Attributes of the <table> tag

align="table-align"

Specifies the horizontal position of the table within the window. The value may be **left**, **center**, or **right**.

width="d"

Controls the width of the entire table.

border="d"

Place a frame around the table. The dimension is optional.

frame="frame-option"

Specifies which sides of the frame to display: **void** for none; **above**, **below**, or **both** for the top and bottom; **lhs**, **rhs**, or **vsides** for the sides; or **box** for all four sides.

rules="rules-option"

Specifies where to place rules within the table: **basic** for rules between row and column groups; **rows**, between rows; **cols**, between columns; **all** for both **rows** and **cols**.

cellspacing="d"

Add space between cells.

cellpadding="d"

Add space around cell contents.

5. The <caption> tag

Adds a caption (title) to the table. Attributes:

align="caption-align"

The value may be **top**, **bottom**, **left**, or **right**.

6. The <tr> tag

Starts a new table row. Attributes include **align**, **char**, **charoff**, and **valign**.

7. The <td> and <th> tags

Defines one cell. <th> should be used for row and column headings, <td> for normal cells. Attributes include **align**, **char**, **charoff**, and **valign**, plus:

nowrap

Don't wrap text into paragraphs. May increase the width of the table.

rowspan="i"

This item will use the next *i* cells in this column. A value of **0** (zero) means to span all remaining cells.

colspan="i"

This item will use the next *i* cells in this row. A value of **0** (zero) means to span all remaining cells.

8. A look ahead: HTML 4.0 tables

Warning

Most browsers don't support these features yet.

The principal table elements must occur in this order:

1. The <table> tag starting the table.
2. The <caption>...</caption> element, if any.
3. Any <colgroup> and <col> tags describing the column structure.
4. <thead> and the table header, if any.
5. <tfoot> and the table footer, if any.
6. The table body. This must be inside a <tbody> element if either <thead> or <tfoot> was used.
7. The </table> tag ending the table.

8.1. The <colgroup> tag

Sets attributes common to the following <col> tags. Attributes: **align**, **char**, **charoff**, and **valign**.

8.2. The <col> tag

Sets up the style of the cells in a column. Attributes: **align**, **char**, **charoff**, and **valign**, plus:

span="i"

Replicate this column *i* times.

width="d"

Set the width of the column(s).

8.3. The <thead>, <tfoot>, and <tbody> tags

Place your column heads in the <thead> element, and your column footings in the <tfoot> element if any. Then place the body of your table within the <tbody> element. Attributes include **align**, **char**, **charoff**, and **valign**.