

Web Pages with Tables, cont'd.**Comments**

Web Page Design for Designers
<http://www.wpdfd.com/wpdhome.htm>

Teaching with Technology Workshop homepage
<http://www.cwru.edu/UL/NetEd/teachtech/workshops/index.html>

Teaching with Technology Schedule
<http://www.cwru.edu/UL/NetEd/teachtech/workshops/schedule.html>

Advanced Composition
<http://clem.mscd.edu/~english/351mm/>


ASIA 110 Main Menu
<http://kizuna.cwru.edu/asia110/index.html>

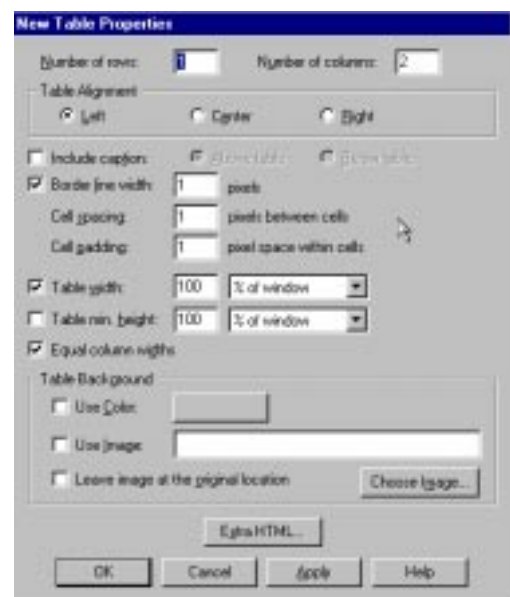
3. Creating Tables with Netscape Composer

A **Table** is a grid of rectangular areas on your web page. **Tables** consist of **Cells**, which appear in **Rows** and **Columns**. This is an example of a table.

	Column 1	Column 2	Column3
Row 1	Cell	Cell	Cell
Row 2	Cell	Cell	Cell
Row 3	Cell	Cell	Cell

To create a simple table in Netscape Composer:

1. Move the cursor to the spot you want to insert a table.
2. Click on the **Table** button on the toolbar, or from the **Insert** menu, choose **Table**, then **Table...** from the submenu. The **New Table Properties/Insert Table** window appears. 
3. Type in the number of rows and columns of your table in the first two boxes. You can add rows or columns later by choosing **Table** from the **Insert** menu and then select **Row** or **Column**.
4. Click **OK**. A table will be inserted into the appropriate place in your web page.



To create a nested table (also called a table within a table):

1. Move the cursor to the cell you want to insert a table.
2. From the **Insert** menu, choose **Table**, then **Table...** from the submenu. The **New Table Properties/Insert Table** window appears.
3. Type in the number of rows and columns of your table in the first two boxes.
4. Click **OK**. A table will be inserted into the cell. You now have a nested table.

The corresponding HTML code for Tables is:

<code><table></code>	<code></table></code>	designates the table
<code><tr></code>	<code></tr></code>	table row
<code><td></code>	<code></td></code>	table cell

4. Changing the Appearance of the Table

The other elements in the **New Table Properties** window have to do with the appearance of the table. To go back to the **New Table Properties** window if it is not already up, select **Table Properties** (win) or **Table Info** (mac) from the **Format** menu.

Note: If you write your own HTML, the first six items (also called attributes) listed below are placed in the `<table>` tag. The attributes for use with rows are include alignment and color; those for cells include alignment, spanning, color and images.

Table alignment

Align the table to the left, center, or right of the web page.

Border line width

Change the width (or thickness) of the table border. Type 0 to make the border invisible.

Cell spacing (called Pixel Spacing Between Cells on a mac)

Specify the space between the cells of the table. You can use this feature to create margins between the text in two adjacent table cells.

Cell padding (called Pixel Padding Within Cells on a mac)

Specify the space within the cells of the table. You can use this feature to create margins between the text in two adjacent table cells.

Table Width/Table min. height (Min. Table height on a mac)

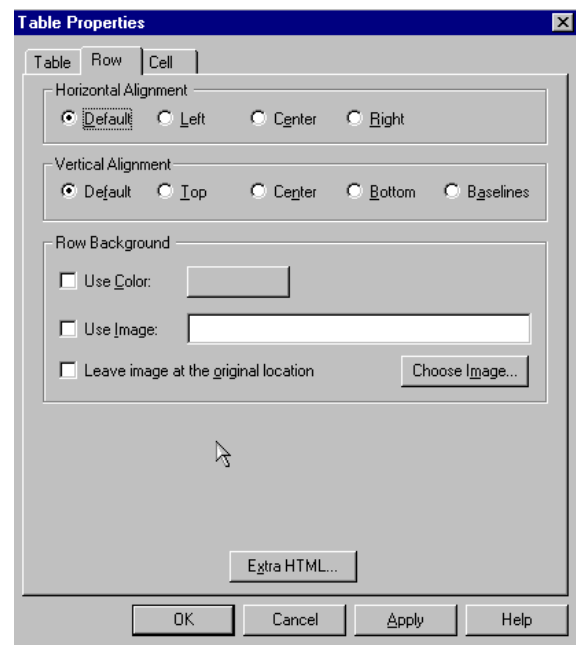
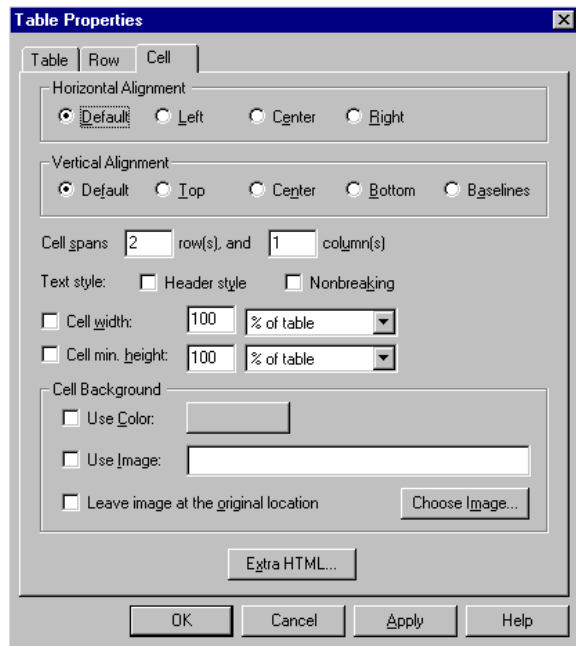
Specify how wide or high the table is in pixels or as a percentage of the browser window width. If you specify the width as a percentage, the table width/height changes whenever the browser window width/height changes. If you specify the width as fixed pixels, the table width stays the same regardless of the browser window size. Min. height is the smallest height the table can have. If you type more text in the table, the table is automatically resized to fit the text you enter.

Table background

You can choose a background color or image for the table. To choose a color, select the box to the left of **Use Color**, and then click on the bar to the right. The color panel appears for you to choose a color. You can use this feature to highlight portions of your text. To use an image as the background image of the table, click the **Use Image** box, and type in the image file name.

Row Properties

The second tab in the Table Properties window is used to specify the attributes of a table row. Place the cursor to a row you want to modify, and select the Row tab. **Horizontal Alignment** aligns the text to the left, center, and right of the selected row. **Vertical Alignment** aligns the text to the top, center, and bottom of the selected row. Click **Use Color** to use a color as the row's background, and then select the color you want.



Cell Properties

The third tab in the Table Properties window is used to specify the attributes of a cell. Place the cursor to a cell you want to modify, and select the Cell tab.

Horizontal Alignment aligns the text to the left, center, and right of the selected cell.

Vertical Alignment aligns the text to the top, center, and bottom of the selected cell.

Cell span specifies whether the selected cell spans more than one column or row. Type a number in the rows box to span additional rows. Type a number in the columns box to span additional columns.

Select **Header style** to center the text in the selected cell and set its style to bold.

Select **Nonbreaking** to keep the text from wrapping to the next line. Ordinarily, text will wordwrap to the next line only if you insert a paragraph break.

Select **Cell width** to specify the width of the selected cell. You can specify cell width as a percent of the table width or as a number of pixels. If you specify the width as a percent of the table, the cell width changes whenever the table width changes. Type number in the box and select pixels or % of table.

Select **Cell min. height** to set the minimum height of the selected cell. This is the smallest height the cell can have. If you type more text in the cell, the cell automatically resizes to fit the text you enter.

Select **Use Color** to use a color as the cell's background, and then select the color you want.

Select **Use Image** to use an image as the cell's background.

5. Ideas for Using Tables in Design

1. Leave off the table border

Table borders should be used sparingly to hide the “magic” of the Table itself. There are times when a table border is necessary (for displaying dates and activities in a class calendar for instance), but frequently we simply use tables to get around the limitations of HTML. When you use tables to layout pages (to put text in columns, for instance), set border to “0” pixel so the tables are invisible.

Teaching with Technology Workshops	
<p><u>Schedule:</u></p> <p><u>Related Courses:</u></p> <p>General Computing</p> <p>Basic CWRU.net</p> <p>Using CWRU.net</p> <p>Dial-in Access</p> <p>HTML Classes</p> <p>MS Office</p> <p>The Virtual Library</p>	<p>Workshop Goals</p> <p>In support of CWRU's Electronic Learning Environment, the University Library, User Services, and Digital Media Services, in collaboration with University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education, will offer a series of workshops to help faculty members develop web-based instructional materials. The goals of these workshops are to motivate faculty to investigate and utilize new instructional strategies, and to help faculty use new instructional technologies to enrich traditional print materials and to enhance communication with students .</p>

2. Create margins between columns of text

There are three ways to create margins between the text in table cells. You can use the cell spacing and cell padding features mentioned above. Additionally, you can create another cell between two table cells for margins. Cell spacing and cell padding create space *around* the text, while an additional cell creates space only *between* cells.

Additionally, you can create another cell between two table cells for margins.		Additionally, you can create another cell between two table cells for margins.
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3. Highlight portions of text with table background color

Create a table with a different background color to highlight important messages. ENGR131 - Elementary Computer Programming (<http://binky.ces.cwru.edu/engr131/>) uses color to separate portions of the page effectively.

4. Give visual relief with proper table width

You can put an entire web page in a large table. Set table width as 90% to create white space on the left and the right of the web page. Long lines are hard to read. Use a width of 80% to shorten the line (ideally 10-12 words on a line).

5. Make your web pages fit in any screen resolutions

You can use the above feature to control, to an extent, how your page looks on machines of different resolutions. Set table width as 600 pixels. This way, your page displays perfectly on a machine with 640 x 480 resolution. When it is displayed on a machine with higher resolution, the page will simply have a blank area to the right. Netscape's search page uses this feature for its design (<http://home.netscape.com/escapes/search/netsearchv0.html>).

“Tips, Tricks, How-to, and Beyond,” a site for web designers, has other suggestions for making your web pages fit in any screen resolutions. The URL is <http://tips-tricks.com/pages.html>.