

InDesign CS2 and XML:

• The Table Model • Importing Style Sheets

Information courtesy of Will Lin,
Adobe InDesign Engineering—XML
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InDesign CS2's Table Model and XML

InDesign's table model consists of a table element and collection of table cells as its child elements. The order of the child elements is the iterative order of the table cells. Table and table cell elements are marked using the InDesign namespace attributes described below. Element tags are user defined.

InDesign namespace should be declared as:

```
xmlns:aid="http://ns.adobe.com/AdobeInDesign/4.0/"
```

Table Attributes

The following attribute is required for table and table cell elements. The attribute value indicates whether the element is a table or a table cell.

attribute name: aid:table

attribute values: "table" or "cell" attribute is required

For table elements (aid:table='table'), these attributes also apply:

Table rows: Integer indicating number of rows in the table attribute is optional.

attribute name: aid:trows

attribute value: default is "1"

Table columns: Integer indicating number of columns in the table attribute is optional.

attribute name: aid:tcols

attribute value: default is "1"

Cell Attributes

For table cell elements (aid:table='cell'), the following attributes also apply.

Table header: The presence of this attribute indicates this is a table cell in a table header.

attribute name: aid:thead

attribute value: ignored

attribute is optional

Table footer: The presence of this attribute indicates this is a table cell in a table footer.

attribute name: aid:tfooter

attribute value: ignored

attribute is optional

[Continued on next page]



Another InDesign Resource from HerGeekness.

Anne-Marie "HerGeekness" Concepción, pres. of Seneca Design & Training, is a cross-media design studio owner and certified Adobe and Quark training provider. Visit her **InDesign Resources** page for more great info: <http://senecadesign.com/designgeek/indesign.html>

Note: This information was originally posted to a private forum. In the post, the author said that it's destined to be included in a publicly-accessible white paper (on XML and InDesign CS2) on Adobe's web site at some point. But even this small amount of information would be so useful to ID CS2 users right now that I asked (and received) Adobe's permission to make it publicly accessible. Thanks, Adobe (and Will)!

—Anne-Marie

InDesign/XML Resources:

- Adobe's Cross-Media resources page has some tutorials and white papers on XML and InDesign. As of this writing the XML stuff is centered on InDesign v2 (not CS2, which is v4, but *version 2*), yet it's still useful to beginners: <http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign/crossmedia.html>
- Uhhh . . . I got nothin'. I suppose you could go to <http://www.xml.com>, I found a couple of old articles there on ID and XML, nothing earth-shattering though. E-mail me at amarie@senecadesign.com if you find anything good!

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[Cell Attributes, continued]

Row span: Integer indicating the number of rows this cell spans:

attribute name: aid:crows

attribute value: default is "1"

attribute is optional

Column span: Integer indicating the number of columns this cell spans:

attribute name: aid:ccols

attribute value: default is "1"

attribute is optional

Column width: Real number indicating the column width of a single column span cell. Unit of measurement is points. This attribute and value are ignored if the cell spans more than one column:

attribute name: aid:ccolwidth

attribute value: default is "40" (points)

attribute is optional

Importing Style Sheets with XML (InDesign CS2 only)

First, declare the InDesign namespace using:

```
xmlns:aid="http://ns.adobe.com/AdobeInDesign/4.0/"
```

. . . and then you can use attributes "aid:pstyle" and "aid:cstyle" to style elements using paragraph and character styles, respectively. The attribute value is the name of the style. If a style with that name does not exist, a new style will be created.

Here's a simple example:

```
<Root xmlns:aid="http://ns.adobe.com/AdobeInDesign/4.0/">  
<para aid:pstyle="MyParaStyle">styled with MyParaStyle</para>  
<char aid:cstyle="MyCharStyle">styled with MyCharStyle</char>  
</Root>
```

At the end of XML Import, "styled with MyParaStyle" will be styled with paragraph style "MyParaStyle," and "styled with MyCharStyle" will be styled with character style "MyCharStyle." If these styles do not exist, then they will be created.

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