# **Designing With Tables in NetObjects Fusion 7**

A gotFusion<sup>™</sup> Workbook



Karl Strieby, Team gotFusion ©2003 GotFusion, LLC

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# Introduction

### Caution



Before attempting the exercises in this document, back up your existing Fusion sites. Even if you "just did that last week," do it now.

- You can't have too many backups.
- I can personally attest that it's easy and devastating to have too few.

To learn how to back up Fusion site files, see <a href="http://www.gotfusion.com/tutsTD/template.cfm">http://www.gotfusion.com/tutsTD/template.cfm</a>.

## Why Read This Document?

You have a good basic understanding of NetObjects Fusion, and you have encountered some common page design problems. For example,

- Do you struggle to make NetObjects Fusion's "pixel perfect positioning" designs work well in various web browsers?
- Do you want to prevent users from wrecking your design by changing their browser font size?
- Do you want to learn a more reliable web page design method?
- Do you want your web pages to fill the browser window at various widths?
- Do you want some design ideas that you won't find in any other NetObjects Fusion documentation?

Table layouts in Fusion are as versatile as your creative imagination. Once you learn the required skills, you will use tables all the time.

To become familiar with Fusion's table formatting tools, work through the exercises in this document, then experiment on your own.

- If you have good backups, you can't break anything.
- You can always hit **Undo** (CTRL+Z).

# What Do You Need?

You need to do the minimum required reading shown below, or have equivalent Fusion experience.

- 1. c:\NetObjects Fusion 7 \Docs\GettingStarted.pdf.
- 2. Chapter 15, Adding Tables, from c:\NetObjects Fusion 7 \Docs\UserGuide.pdf.

To complete the exercises in this document, you need

- NetObjects Fusion version 7. If you don't own a copy, download the free "30-day demo" version from <u>http://www.netobjects.com/products/html/download.htm</u> <u>l</u>.
- The sample project files located in <u>http://gotfusion.com/tutsks/TableProjectFiles.zip</u> Extract the contents of the zip file to c:\TableProjects.
- A Windows personal computer configured as shown here: <u>http://www.netobjects.com/products/html/nf7sysreq.html</u>, and
- The mouse and keyboarding skills to run a standard Windows application.

## How Do You Get More Information?

- Copy USERGUIDE.PDF onto two-sided three-hole paper. Stick it in a binder, and read it all. It's one of the best software manuals I have ever seen.
- Participate in the public gotFusion newsgroups. To set up Outlook Express to access the newsgroups, see <u>http://www.gotfusion.com/tutsTD/oexgf.cfm</u>

# How Do You Provide Feedback?

Do you have questions or concerns about this manual? Do the steps in the exercises work for you?

- Tell me! <u>karls@gotfusion.com</u>.
- Don't worry, I rarely bite. 😊

# Making a Complex Table

To get some practice with a complex table, work through the steps in this section.

#### **Requirements for Complex Tables**

You need

- C:\TableProject\Graphics\Chart.gif., and
- Your copy of NetObjects Fusion up and running.

Tips

- Print this document.
- Make a check mark next to each step you complete.

#### Producing the complex table

- 1. Select File, New Site, Blank Site.
- 2. Name the site **Learning Tables**.
- 3. Click **OK**. Fusion takes you to **Site View**.
- 4. Select the **Home Page**.
- 5. Press **CTRL+N** to create a new page.
- 6. Name the new page **Sales**.
- 7. Double-click the **Sales** page icon to open **Page View**.

Congratulations, you're ready to start building our table!

 Click the **Table Tool** (Figure 1).

| Figure 1 | Table Tool |
|----------|------------|
| щ.       |            |

- Click and drag to draw a table in the Layout.
- 3. Set the table to **4 columns**, **7 rows**.
- 4. Set the table border to **0** (Figure 2).
- Click and drag the first column right border to
   80 px. from the left table edge.

| C Figed width         | Belative width |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Table <u>b</u> order: | 0              |
| Cell <u>p</u> adding: | 1              |
| Cell <u>s</u> pacing: | 3              |
|                       |                |

Figure 2 Table Border

- 6. **Merge** all first row cells.
- 7. In the merged cell, enter **Our Sales by Region**.
- 8. Use Cell Properties, Text tab to set Style H1.

How are we doing so far? Your table should look like Figure 3.

| arout  |        | 1 1    |       | 1 1 | 1 | <br>1 1 |     |   |
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|        |        |        |       |     |   | <br>    |     |   |

Figure 3 Table with H1 Row

#### Making room for a chart graphic.

- Select all cells in columns 2-4, rows
   2-5 (Figure 4).
- 2. Right-click a selected cell.

| <b>u</b> | Jai | <b>C</b> 3 L | Эут | ۱egi     |   |        |           |
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|          |     |              |     |          |   |        |           |
|          |     |              |     |          |   |        |           |

 Select Merge Cells.



- 4. Click the **Picture** tool.
- 5. Click in the big merged cell.
- 6. Browse to locate the chart graphic.
- 7. Click OK.

Did the chart show up? Good job!

Let's add some captions for the chart.

- 1. Double-click the cell at column 1, row 2.
- 2. Enter "North."
- 3. Use **Cell Properties**, **Cell Tab** to set cell background colour Purple (#9999FF) (Figure 5).
- 4. In column 1, row 3, enter "South".
- 5. Set cell background colour Yellow (#FFFF00).
- 6. In column 1, row 4, enter "East".
- 7. Set cell background colour Maroon (#990000).



Figure 5 Cell Properties, Background Colour

- 8. Select East.
- 9. Set text colour White (#000000) (Figure 6).
- 10. In column 1, row 5, enter West.
- 11. Set cell background colour Orange (#FF9933).

| Cell Properties |   | ?_ |
|-----------------|---|----|
| A 🔳 이           |   |    |
| Eont: Arial     |   | •  |
| Size: +0        | • |    |
|                 |   |    |

Figure 6 Text Colour

Your page should look like Figure 7.



Figure 7 Page with chart and coloured captions

#### Adding a secondary heading and some news items.

- 1. Merge all cells in row 6.
- 2. Enter Annual Meeting Excitement!
- 3. Set Annual Meeting Excitement! to H2.
- 4. In row 7, cell 2, enter **The CEO's Speech**.
- 5. Press **Enter** to start a new paragraph.
- 6. Enter Blah blah blah blather blah blah blah blah blah blah blather.
- 7. Set The CEO's Speech to H3.
- 8. In row 7, cell 3, enter **The President's Speech**.
- 9. Press **Enter** to start a new paragraph.
- 10. Enter Blah blah blah blather.
- 11. Set **The President's Speech** to **H3**.

- 12. In row 7, cell 4, enter **The Shareholder Revolt!**
- 13. Press Enter to start a new paragraph.
- 15. Set The Shareholder Revolt to H3.

#### Decorating the news stories

For a finishing touch, let's decorate those three "news stories" a bit.

- 1. Select the **CEO's Speech** cell.
- 2. On Cell Properties, Cell Tab, click Format.
- Use Object Format, Borders Tab to set a Border, Double, 3 px, Purple (#9999FF) with all Padding set to 3 px (Figure 8).
- 4. Select the **President's Speech** cell.
- 5. Set a **Border**, **Outset**, 5 px, **Maroon** (#990000), all **Padding 3 px**.

| Object Format  | 2   |
|--|---|
| Character Paragraph Borders Backgrou   | nd  |
| Border settings<br>Automatic None<br>Style: Double<br>Width: 3 px<br>Cales Color Matterner 1 | C Border<br>Active borders:<br>Top: T Left:   |
| Lolor: Color: #9899FF _  | Bottom: Eight   |
| Padding  |   |
| <u>Т</u> ор: 3 рх 💌  | Left 3 px 💌   |
| Bottom: 3 px 💌   | Bight: 3 px 💌   |
| Preview<br>The quick brown fox jumps ov  | er the lazy dog.  |
|  | ×   |
| This preview might not show the format you<br>influenced by an additional style. To learn al | Il see on your page because the text might be<br>bout the scope of styles, please see Help. |
|  |   |

6. Select the **Shareholder Revolt** cell.

Figure 8 Object Format

- 7. Set a **Border**, **Dashed**, **5 px**, **Dark Blue** (#003366), all **Padding 3 px**.
- 8. Click **Preview** to examine the page.

#### Comparing the finished complex table

If your page looks like Figure 9, congratulations, we're done! (Don't worry about minor variations in text wrap or colour.)

# Our Sales By Region



Figure 9 Finished Sales Table

Did you notice how you can change Borders and Padding for cells independently of the Table Properties? You can manipulate those settings (and more) on the Object Format dialog (Figure 8).



**Beware** – many of the settings on the Object Format dialog

- Require CSS to render in the browser, and
- Could be ignored or mangled by older browsers like Netscape 4.x.

# **Making Rounded Corners**

This exercise uses graphics to "fool the eye" into thinking that a table does not have square corners. Use tables designed like this for a whole page, or just to accent an area of a page.

This exercise requires

- The graphics in C:\TableProject\Graphics\RedRoundedRectangle\.
- Your copy of NetObjects Fusion up and running your **Learning Tables.NOD** file from the previous exercise.

#### **Producing the rounded table**

Create a new page in **Site View**. Name your new page **Rounded Table**.

## Setting up the rounded table page

- 1. Switch to **Page View**.
- Press F10 to open MasterBorder Properties.
- 3. Select **ZeroMargins** (Figure 10).
- 4. Press **F9** to open **Layout Properties**.
- 5. Click the **Text Tool**.
- MasterBorder Properties

Figure 10 Set ZeroMargins MasterBorder

- 6. Click and drag to draw a box about 500 px by 300 px on the layout.
- 7. Release the mouse button.

- 8. Click the **Table Tool**.
- 9. Draw a table inside the text box a bit narrower than the text box.
- 10. Set **3 columns, 3 rows**.
- 11. Click **OK**.
- 12. Set **Border**, **Padding** and **Spacing** to **0** (Figure 11).

If your table "disappears," click its icon in the **Object Tree (F4)**.

| Table Propertie       | s              |
|-----------------------|----------------|
|                       |                |
| 💽 Figed width         | C Belative wid |
| Table <u>b</u> order: | 0 .            |
| Cell <u>p</u> adding: | 0 +            |
| Cell <u>s</u> pacing: | 0 +            |

Figure 11 Border, padding, spacing = 0.

Now we are ready to add the "fool the

eye" graphics that will make this table look like it has rounded corners.

# Adding the graphics

**Note**: All graphics in this section are in **C:\TableProject\Graphics\RedRoundedRectangle**.

- 1. Click the **Picture** tool.
- 2. Click the first row, first cell.
- 3. Locate **RTopLeft.gif**, using the **Picture File Open** dialog and the path above.
- 4. Repeat steps 1-3 with the following differences:
  - a. Place **RTopRight.gif** in row 1, column 3.
  - b. Place **RBottomLeft.gif** in row 3, column 1, and
  - c. Place **RBottomRight.gif** in row 3, column 1.
- 5. Click the cell at row 2, column 1.
- 6. On **Cell Properties, Cell Tab, Background Image**, click **Browse** to select **RLeftBG.gif**.
- 7. Click OK.
- 8. Repeat steps 5-7 with the following differences:
  - a. Set row 1, cell 1 background to **RTopBG.gif**.
  - b. Set row 1, cell 2 background to **RTopBG.gif**.

- c. Set row 2, cell 3 background to **RRightBG.gif**.
- d. Set row 3, cell 1 background to **RBottomBG.gif**.
- e. Set row 3, cell 2 background to **RBottomBG.gif**.

That wasn't so bad, was it? Don't worry if the table looks a little strange - we'll tighten it up.

- 1. Select **column 1**.
- 2. Click Fit to Content on Cell Properties, Column Width.
- 3. Select **column 2**.
- 4. Set 200 in Cell Properties, Column Width.
- 5. Select column 3.
- 6. Click **Fit to Content**.

Our table is all set. Let's add some text in the cell at row 2, column 2.

- 1. Double-click the cell.
- 2. Type whatever content you want.

Notice that as you add more content, the table stretches vertically. Now try this:

- 1. Delete the text from the center cell.
- 2. Use the **Picture Tool** to put the chart graphic from the last exercise into the center cell.

Notice how the red rectangle becomes a frame around the chart?

# **Design Variations to Try**

Do you want two columns of text? How about a more complex layout with text and graphics?

#### Adding more cells to the table

- Delete the graphic.
- Split the center cell.
- Merge some of those new cells.
- Press **CTRL+Z** (undo) if you wreck something.

#### Experiment!

- Use your imagination!
- Have fun!

# Wrapping to the Browser

In this section, we'll build a page with content inside the red rounded rectangle we created in the last chapter. Our page will wrap to the browser window, and have standard Fusion NavBars and a banner.

This exercise requires

• Your copy of NetObjects Fusion up and running your **Learning Tables.NOD** project file from the previous exercise.

#### Setting up the wrapping page

- 1. Go to Site View.
- 2. Press **CTRL+N** to create a new page.
- 3. Name the copied page **Rounded Table Wrapper**.
- 4. Double-click its name (UntitledNN).
- 5. Enter **Rounded Table Wrapper**.
- 6. Press Enter.
- 7. Double-click the page icon to open it in **Page View**.
- 8. Place a **Text Box** on the **Layout**.
- 9. Double-click the **Text Box**.
- 10. Press **Enter** three times to place empty paragraphs in the text box.
- 11. Set **Size Layout to Text** and **Contents Wrap to Browser Width** in **Text Properties**.

Our new page has all the settings required to make it "wrap" to browser windows of different widths. We're ready to add the NavBar.

**Tip:** To access the **NavBar**, **Text NavBar** and **Banner** tools, click and hold the toolbar icon to reveal "fly-out" tools (Figure 12). For details of all the toolbars in Fusion, see <a href="http://gotfusion.com/tutsAS/tools.cfm">http://gotfusion.com/tutsAS/tools.cfm</a>.

I. [abc] @80

Figure 12 Fly-out NavBar Menu

#### Adding the NavBar

- 1. Place a 100-pixel wide, 1-column, 2-row table on the page.
- 2. Set the table properties **Fixed Width**, **Border**, **0 Cell Padding**, **0 Cell Spacing 0**.
- 3. Set the table's alignment **Left Wrap**.
- 4. Click the top table cell.
- 5. Set Row Height to Specified, 45.
- 6. Click the **NavBar Tool**.
- 7. Draw a narrow vertical box on the page.
- 8. Click and drag the **NavBar** from the page into the second table cell (Figure 13).



Figure 13 NavBar in second Cell

Our page is now ready for the red rounded rectangle table. To save time, use **copy-paste** instead of rebuilding the table from scratch.

#### Pasting the rounded table

- 1. If the Site Navigation panel is not visible, press F2.
- 2. Double-click the **Rounded Table** page icon in **Site Navigation**.
- 3. If the **Object Tree** is not visible, press **F4**.
- 4. In the **Object Tree**, select the Table icon.
- 5. Press CTRL+C.

- 6. In **Site Navigation**, double-click the **Round Table Wrapper** icon.
- 7. Double-click next to the **NavBar**.
- 8. Press CTRL+V.
- 9. Set the pasted table to **Left Wrap** alignment.

Now we're ready to modify the table and add some content.

## Modifying the wrapping page and table

In this section, we'll add the finishing touches to this page design. We need to

- Add a Banner and a Text NavBar to the table, and
- Set the page size to exactly fit the table.

Let's get started.

#### Adding the banner

- 1. Open the **Object Tree** if it's not visible.
- 2. Click all the + icons in the **Object Tree** to reveal all the objects.
- 3. In the **Object Tree**, select **Row 1** of the rounded table.
- 4. Right-click **Row 1** in the table.
- 5. Choose **Insert Row**.
- 6. Merge all the cells in the new row.
- 7. Click the **Banner** tool.
- 8. Click in the new row.

Now we're ready to add a **Text NavBar** to the bottom of the page and test our layout.

#### Adding the text NavBar

- 1. In the **Object Tree**, select **Row 3**.
- 2. Right-click **Row 3** in the table.
- 3. Choose Append Row.
- 4. **Merge** cells 2 and 3 in the new row.
- 5. Click the **Text NavBar** tool.
- 6. Draw a box in **Row 4**, Cell 2 to place the **Text NavBar**.
- 7. Double-click in Row 2, Cell 4.
- 8. Enter some sample page content.
- 9. Click Publish Site, Local Publish, Selected Page Only.

#### Comparing the finished wrapping page product

Compare your results with Figure 14. (Don't worry if your Banner and NavBar buttons look different.)



Figure 14 Our page in Internet Explorer.

# **Using a Master Layout**

If you like the wrapping layout style of the last page we created, you can use it as a Master Layout for new pages. You can do this with just a few clicks and keystrokes.

- 1. Switch to **Site View**.
- 2. Rename the **Rounded Table Wrapper** page to **Master Layout**.
- 3. On Page Properties' 2nd tab, set Don't publish.
- 4. Press CTRL+C.
- 5. Click your home page to select it.
- 6. Press CTRL+V.

A copy of the Master Layout page appears with the other pages in the site.

7. Rename the copied Master Layout to whatever new page name you need.

If you open the new page, you will see that it is identical to the original, but that a navigation bar button and banner contain the new page name. It's almost like a Fusion MasterBorder – thus the term Master Layout.

Now that you know how to use a Master Layout, you can build entire sites with pages that wrap to the browser width. Create several different Master Layouts for use in different sections of your site project. Try different table arrangements and cell combinations.

Have fun with this design method - experiment!

# Making CSS Coloured Table Borders

If you want your tables to have coloured borders in NOF, you can do that. As you will learn in this exercise, you can also do a lot more – it just takes a bit of extra fiddling around to do it.

### **Requirements for Coloured Borders**

Traditionally, NOF has always treated Tables as standard HTML objects. NOF's Table Properties palette lets you set and alter cell borders, but you may need to think a little harder than usual to get good results.

To get this to work, you must -

- Turn on CSS formatting
- Select the right cells to format
- Apply formatting with the Cell Properties Format button, Borders tab.

None of this is as complicated to do as it sounds.

## **Setting Up Coloured Borders**



CAUTION Don't try this on an existing table in a production site until you are sure you know what you're doing.

• Always make a template backup before you alter a production site.

The steps here may sound complex, but they will get easy with time (like riding a bicycle). Let's walk through this with a practice table.

## Making the Practice Table

To practice the skills we're looking at here, create a new page in a new site file. For our purposes, you don't care what to name the new site or what to name the new page.

On your practice page,

- 1. Select the table tool, and drag to draw a table
- 2. When the Create Table dialog opens, set 5 columns, 5 rows.
- 3. On the Table Properties dialog, set Table border, Cell Padding and Cell Spacing, to 0 (Zero)



Be sure not to disable the Generate non-breaking spaces option. If you do, the table will collapse, and be very difficult to work with, even using the Object Tree.

#### **Turning On CSS Formatting**

Fancy table borders require CSS Formatting. To turn on CSS formatting, do the following:

- 1. Select Tools, Options, Current Site
- 2. In the **Text formatting** section, select, **Cascading Style Sheets** (CSS).

#### Setting the Correct Borders on the Correct Cells

Let's assume you want a Navy Blue border, three pixels wide, around all the table cells. Try this and see what happens:

- 1. Select all the cells in the table
- 2. On the third tab of the **Cell Properties** dialog, click the Format button.
- 3. On the **Object Format** dialog, select the **Borders** tab.
- 4. Under Border Settings, set Border, Style Solid, Width 3 px, Color #0000CC.
- 5. Click OK.

Preview or Local Publish the page.

You might think that by following the above steps that the table would get borders 3 px wide everywhere. And you would be almost right.

Unfortunately, you get a weird-looking table, with 3px outside borders, and 6px inside borders.

### Identifying the problem

- The cells that intersect with other cells get inside borders of 3+3 px = 6 px.
- The outside borders of the table are OK at 3 px.

NOF produced exactly what you told it to do. Just like Word Perfect for DOS used to do in the old days...but I digress.

### Solving the problem

We don't want the table to get double-width inside borders. To achieve this, set the correct borders on the correct cells.

### Setting Properties. all cells

All cells have a top and left border.

- 1. Select all the cells in the table.
- 2. On **Cell Properties**, third tab, click **Format**.
- 3. Set our blue border, 3px width on with top and left borders only as in Figure 15.
- 4. Set 3px Padding on all sides.

| Border settings C Automatic C None C Border Style: Sold  Width: 3 px  Color: Color: #003366  Bottom: Bottom: Right: 1 |
|---|
| Padding<br>Iop: 3 px v Left: 3 px v<br>Bottog: 3 px v Bight: 3 px v   |
| The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.  |
| OK Cancel   |

Figure 15 – Setting top and left border only

- 5. Click **OK**.
- 6. Preview the page.

The table should look like Figure 16. Notice that most of the cells look fine, with a 3px border on all sides.



Now we need to fix the last column and the last row.

Figure 16 – Our table so far

#### Setting Properties, last column

To set the required properties for the last column,

- 1. Select the last column
- 2. On Cell Properties, second tab, click Format.
- 3. On **Object Format**, third tab, add the blue border, on the right , leaving the top and left borders alone, as in Figure 17.

| Activ  | <u>v</u> e bor | ders:  |  |
|--------|----------------|--------|--|
| Тор:   |                | Left   |  |
| ottom: |                | Right: |  |
|        |                |        |  |

Figure 17– Adding the right border

4. Click OK.

The table should now have 3px borders everywhere except at the bottom of the last row.

#### Setting Properties, last row

Here's how to set the last row.

- 1. Select the last row.
- 2. On **Cell Properties**, second tab, click **Format**.
- 3. On **Object Format**, third tab, enable the Bottom border, leaving the Top, Left and Right borders alone.
- 4. Click OK.

The table should now have 3px borders everywhere except for the right border of the right bottom corner cell.

#### Setting Properties, right bottom corner cell

We're almost done. Let's fix that right bottom corner.

- 1. Select the right bottom corner cell.
- 2. On **Cell Properties**, second tab, click **Format**.
- 3. On **Object Format**, third tab, enable the Right border, leaving the other borders alone.
- 4. Click OK.

Now the table has a 3px border all around.

# A final Caution

Be careful with CSS colours and graphics. If you use a CSS colour in one part of a table structure (border or background) and a graphic in another, the colours may not match.

This problem is especially noticeable on Macintosh systems. Due to technical differences between the way Macs and Windows systems render image gamma values, Windows-generated images often appear "washed out" when viewed on Macs.

Even on Windows systems, differences such as browsers and video drivers can make colour rendering highly unreliable.

For best results –

- Don't mix and match CSS Colours with Graphics in your designs, or
- If you must, limit your CSS colours to ones that contrast with your graphics.

Otherwise, feel free to experiment, and have fun! (That's the best way to learn...)

# Glossary

| Term                 | Definition  |
|----------------------|---|
| Cell                 | The intersection of a row and a column, or the smallest unit in a table.  |
| Column               | The vertical structure of a table. For<br>example, the Terms in this Glossary are in<br>one column, the Definitions in another. |
| CSS                  | Cascading Stylesheets - see<br><u>http://www.w3c.org</u> for more<br>information.   |
| fixed-width<br>table | A table with its width set to a fixed number of pixels.   |
| Fusion               | NetObjects Fusion, the web design package by WebSite Pros.  |
| gotFusion            | The NetObjects Fusion users' resource web site, managed by GotFusion, LLC at <u>http://www.gotfusion.com/</u> .                 |
| HTML                 | Hyper Text Markup Language: see<br><u>http://www.w3c.org</u> for more<br>information.   |
| layout               | The centre area in a Fusion page where you add content unique to each page.   |

| <b>MasterBorder</b><br>(one word, as<br>seen in the<br>application) | The area surrounding the layout on a<br>Fusion page, where you put content that is<br>the same for every page using that<br>MasterBorder.  |
|---|--|
| Master Layout   | A term I coined to describe a special page that you use to clone new pages.  |
| <b>NavBar</b> (one<br>word)   | Fusion's automatically managed site navigation buttons or text.  |
| Nft   | The file extension used by NetObjects<br>Fusion template files (NetObjects Fusion<br>Template).  |
| Nod   | The file extension used by NetObjects<br>Fusion project files (NetObjects Database).   |
| pixels (abbr. px)   | The 72 dots/inch that make up a typical computer display.  |
| relative-width<br>table   | A table with its width set to a percentage of the browser window.  |
| Row   | The horizontal structure in a table. In this table, each term and its definition are in a row.   |
| SGML  | Standard Generalized Markup Language.<br>SGML was/is a precursor of both HTML<br>(HyperText Markup Language) and XML<br>(eXtensible Markup Language). For some<br>reason, it never caught on in a big way. |
| Table   | Rows and columns of cells.   |
| W3C   | The World Wide Web Consortium standards organization. See <u>http://www.w3c.org/</u> .   |

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