

Item Authoring Tool PDF Tables

The PDF engine supports tables in all areas of a printed test (questions, responses, passages, answers, other tables, etc.). The supported functionality is as close to HTML tables as possible, but there are restrictions due to limitations in the PDF library that will be discussed below.

Tables may be created within the WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) editors in the application in “normal” mode, or as direct HTML (table, tr, and td tags) in the editors’ “html” mode.

(HTML tutorial: http://www.w3schools.com/html/html_tables.asp)

When creating a table for PDF presentation, it should be kept in mind that the container area in the PDF document will likely be much smaller than that available in the HTML editor or in online testing. For example, the width of a question in two column format is limited to about 220 pixels. If possible, tables should be constructed with an iterative process of setting properties/attributes and PDF previewing to see the results.

Adding/Editing a Table

To add a table, click the  icon on your WYSIWYG editor. To view the Table Properties, right click inside one of the cells of your table. This will produce the Table Menu. Click the Edit Table option from the menu.

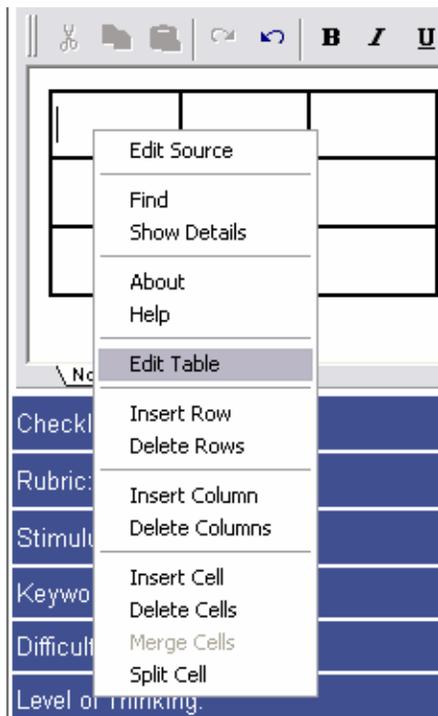
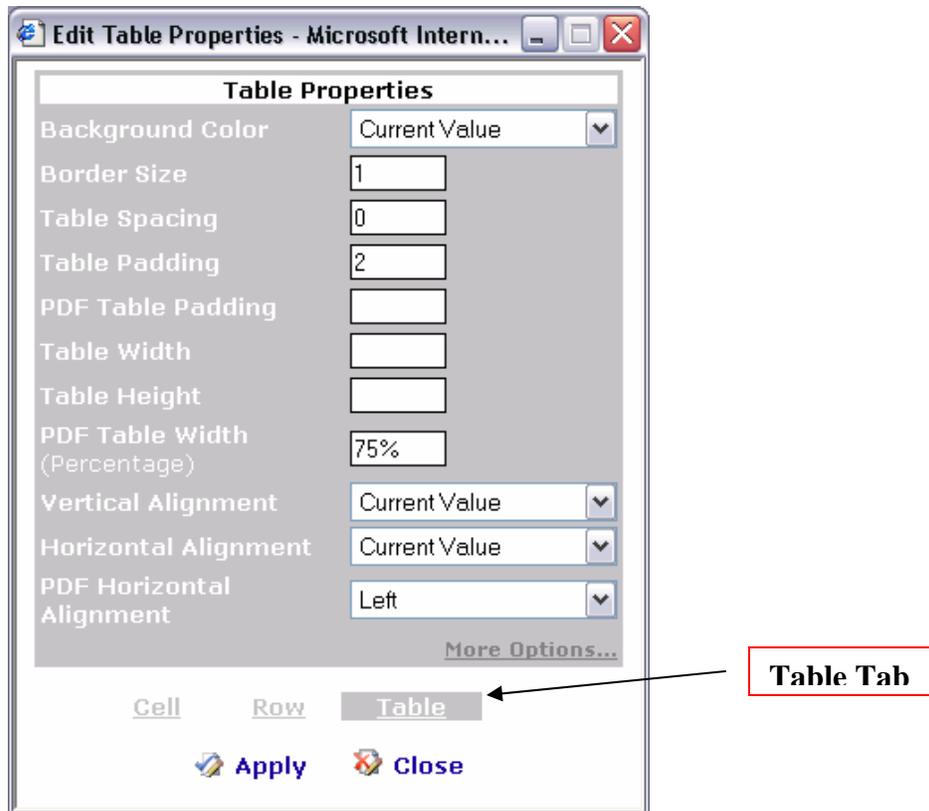


Table Properties

To view/edit the Table Properties, click the Table tab.

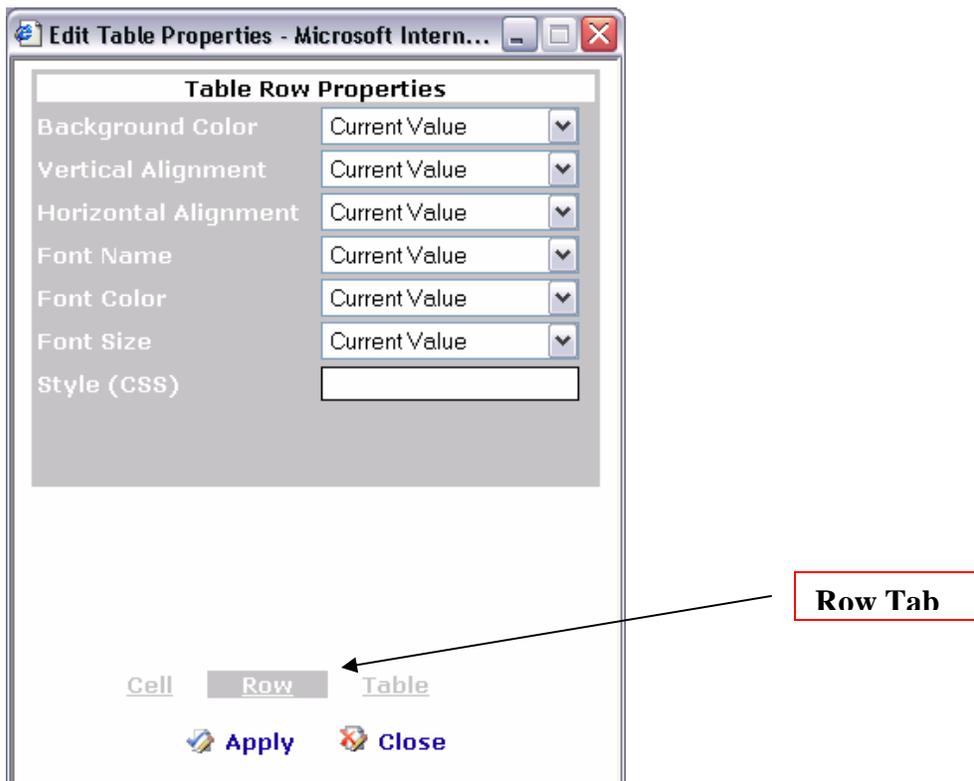


Supported Table Properties/Attributes (PDF specific attributes take precedence)			
Property Name	Attribute Name(s)	Values	Description
Table Width	width	percentage (ex. 50%) Default: 100%	Specifies the percentage of available space that the width of the table will occupy. For example, if we include a table in question content and specify a PDF Width of “50%”, that table will take up half of the width of the question area.
Border Size	border, borderwidth	pixels (ex. 120) Default: 1	Specifies the width of the table/cell border in pixels.
Horizontal Alignment	align	“left”, “center”, “right” Default: “center”	Specifies the horizontal alignment of the table. Has no effect unless the table has a width less than 100%

PDF Horizontal Alignment	pdfalign	“left”, “center”, “right” Default: “center”	Specifies the horizontal alignment of the table when printed to PDF. Has no effect unless the table has a width less than 100%
Table Padding	cellpadding	pixels (ex. 4) Default: 2	Specifies the padding in pixels (left, right, top, and bottom) to be used in the cells of the table. Padding is the space between the border of a cell and its contents. Note: PDF tables have a minimum top padding of 3 and a minimum bottom padding of 4 for proper presentation.
n/a	pdfspacingbefore	pixels (ex. 5) Default: 2	Specifies the space between the table and preceding elements (another table, text, etc).
n/a	pdfspacingafter	pixels (ex. 5) Default: 0	Specifies the space between the table and trailing elements (another table, text, etc).

Table Row Properties

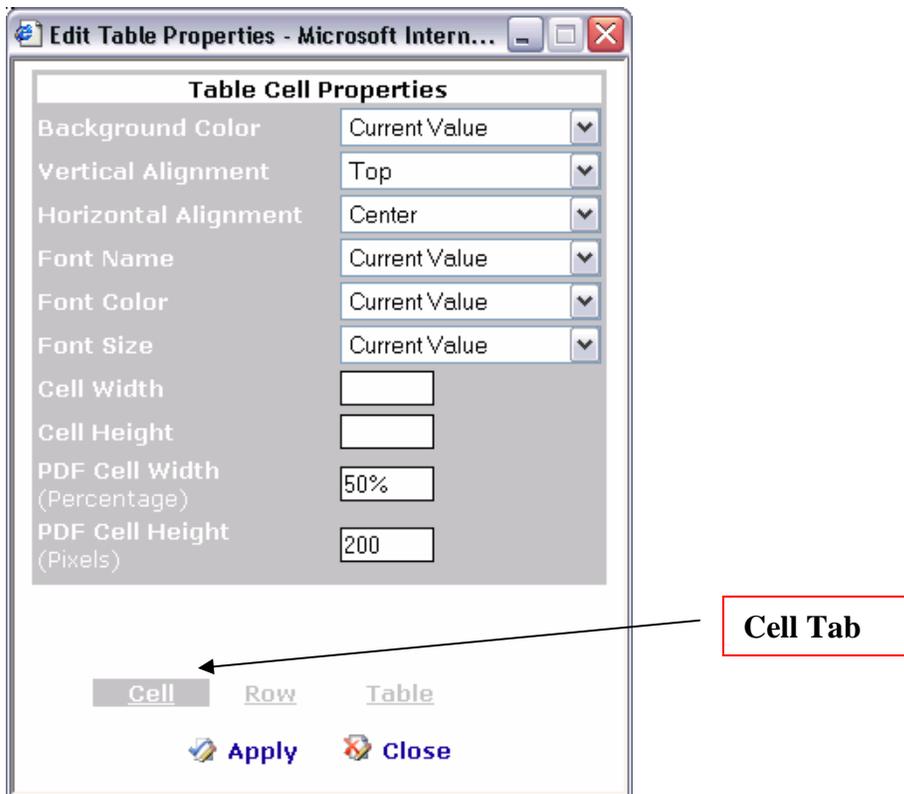
Clicking the Row tab of the Table Properties will allow you to view/edit the properties of the row.



Supported Row Properties/Attributes (PDF specific attributes take precedence)			
Property Name	Attribute Name(s)	Values	Description
Vertical Alignment	valign	“top”, “middle”, “bottom” Default: “middle”	Specifies the vertical alignment of content for cells within the row.
Horizontal Alignment	align, alignment, halign	“top”, “middle”, “bottom” Default: “left”	Specifies the horizontal alignment of content for cells within the row.

Table Cell Properties

Clicking the Cell tab of the Table Properties interface will allow you to view/edit the properties of the cell.



Supported Cell Properties/Attributes (PDF specific attributes take precedence)			
Property Name	Attribute Name(s)	Values	Description
	colspan	integer (ex. 2)	Specifies the column span of the cell. This is the number of columns that the cell will represent. For example, in a table with three columns, you might specify that the first cell of the first row spans all three columns (colspan=3). This will result in a “header” cell/row that will cover the entire width of the table.
Cell Width	width	percentage (ex. 50%)	<p>Specifies the desired width of the cell as a percentage of overall table width. For example, a cell with width = 50% will encompass half the available horizontal space in a table. If more than one cell in a column is given a width setting, the maximum value will be used as all cells in a column must be the same width. Cells without specified widths will share equally the remaining available horizontal space of the table. If combined cell widths total more than 100 percent, all cells will be downsized proportionally so that their total widths equal 100 percent.</p> <p>Note that unlike HTML tables, a PDF table cell’s width will not be sized by default to contain its contents. It’s up to the user to size cells/columns appropriately.</p>
PDF Cell Width	pdfcellwidth	percentage (ex. 50%)	See Cell Width.

Cell Height	height	pixels (ex. 120)	Specifies the desired minimum height of the cell in pixels. All cells in the row will share this height. If more than one height of a cell in a row is set, the maximum value will be used. If no heights are specified, the cell will be sized to fit its contents.
PDF Cell Height	pdfcellheight	pixels (ex. 120)	See Cell Height
n/a	cellpadding	pixels (ex. 2) Default: 2	Specifies the padding in pixels (left, right, top, and bottom) to be used in this cell. Padding is the space between the border of a cell and its contents. Note: PDF tables have a minimum top padding of 3 and a minimum bottom padding of 4 for proper presentation.
n/a	pdfcellpadding	pixels (ex. 2) Default: 2	See cellpadding.
n/a	border, borderwidth	pixels (ex. 1) Default: 1	Specifies the width of the cell border in pixels.
Vertical Alignment	valign	“top”, “middle”, “bottom” Default: “middle”	Specifies the vertical alignment of content within this cell.
Horizontal Alignment	align, alignment, halign	“top”, “middle”, “bottom” Default: “left”	Specifies the horizontal alignment of content within this cell.

Recent changes pertaining to tables:

1. In the previous engine, there was no support for table formatting at all. Cell widths were distributed evenly, tables were all 100% width, and there were no settings. In this version, all of the options discussed above have been added.

Known issues:

1. There is currently very limited support for absolute (pixel) widths for the overall table and the cells. This is generally because the pdf engine does not know the final width of the container of a table (especially in the case of nested tables) until the document is rendered.
2. Cells widths are not automatically sized according to the minimum width of their contents.
3. Images are not sized automatically to the constraints of a cell.
4. There is no support for cell spacing.