

Python-docx Section Properties & Page Layout Cheatsheet

This guide provides a structured overview of configuring **sections and page layouts** in python-docx. Sections control orientation, margins, headers/footers, numbering, and other page setup options.

1. Page Size & Orientation

Set portrait or landscape orientation. Remember to swap page_width and page_height.

```
from docx.enum.section import WD_ORIENTATION
section = doc.sections[0]
section.orientation = WD_ORIENTATION.LANDSCAPE
section.page_width, section.page_height = section.page_height, section.page_width
```

2. Margins

Set custom margins using Inches or Cm.

```
from docx.shared import Inches, Cm
section.left_margin = Inches(1)
section.right_margin = Inches(1)
section.top_margin = Cm(2.5)
section.bottom_margin = Cm(2.5)
```

3. Gutter

Add extra space on the inner margin for binding.

```
section.gutter = Inches(0.5)
```

4. Page Numbering

Control page numbering per section (restart or continue).

```
section.start_type = 0 # Restart numbering
```

5. Headers & Footers

Unlink headers/footers between sections for different content.

```
section.header.is_linked_to_previous = False
section.footer.is_linked_to_previous = False
```

6. Columns

Create multi-column layouts (requires XML editing).

```
sectPr = section._sectPr
cols = sectPr.xpath('./w:cols')[0]
cols.set('num', '2') # Set 2 columns
```

7. Section Break Types

Add new sections with different break types.

```
from docx.enum.section import WD_SECTION
doc.add_section(WD_SECTION.NEW_PAGE)
doc.add_section(WD_SECTION.CONTINUOUS)
doc.add_section(WD_SECTION.EVEN_PAGE)
doc.add_section(WD_SECTION.ODD_PAGE)
```