#### alwaysMergeEmptyNamespace (Do Not Mark Custom [XML](XML.docx) Elements With No Namespace As Invalid)

This element specifies whether custom [XML](XML.docx) markup specified via the [customXml](customXml.docx) element which has no associated namespace shall be treated as an error and moved into a special error namespace (for the purposes of validation) when the document is opened. If this element is turned on, when an application determines that the current [XML](XML.docx) markup is in the empty namespace, those elements shall not automatically be moved into an error namespace.

If this element is not present in a WordprocessingML document than custom [XML](XML.docx) markup which has no associated namespace shall be treated as an error and moved into a special error namespace when the document is opened.

[Example: Consider a WordprocessingML document which should not automatically flag empty namespace [XML](XML.docx) as invalid. This requirement would be specified using the following WordprocessingML:

<w:alwaysMergeEmptyNamespace w:val="true"/>

The alwaysMergeEmptyNamespace element's val attribute has a value of true specifying that custom [XML](XML.docx) markup in the empty namespace shall never be treated as an error. end example]

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| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| settings (§) |

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| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (On/Off Value) | Specifies a binary value for the property defined by the parent [XML](XML.docx) element.  A value of on, 1, or true specifies that the property shall be explicitly applied. This is the default value for this attribute, and is implied when the parent element is present, but this attribute is omitted.  A value of off, 0, or false specifies that the property shall be explicitly turned off.  [Example: For example, consider the following on/off property:  <w:… w:val="off"/>  The val attribute explicitly declares that the property is turned off. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_OnOff](ST_OnOff.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this element:

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_OnOff">

<attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_OnOff](ST_OnOff.docx)"/>

</complexType>