### hMerge (Horizontally Merged Cell)

This element specifies that this cell is part of a horizontally merged set of cells in a table. The val attribute on this element determines how this cell is defined with respect to the previous cell in the [table](table.docx) (i.e. does this cell continue the horizontal merge or [start](start.docx) a new merged [group](group.docx) of cells).

[Note: This property is maintained for compatibility with [legacy](legacy.docx) word processing documents which defined tables in this manner. Whenever possible, this form or horizontal merges should not be produced, and should be translated to the appropriate [gridSpan](gridSpan.docx) (§) settings on the [table](table.docx) cells instead. end note]

If this element is omitted, then this cell shall not be part of any horizontally merged grouping of cells, and any horizontal merge [group](group.docx) in the preceding cells shall be closed.

[Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with one row and three columns with the last two columns horizontally merged:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

The second cell in the first row starts a merge that is completed in the right adjacent cell, resulting in the following WordprocessingML:

<w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>  
 …  
 <w:[tr](tr.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 <w:hmerge w:val="restart"/>  
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 <w:hmerge/>  
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 </w:[tr](tr.docx)>  
</w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>

The hmerge element defines the cells which are horizontally merged, and how each [group](group.docx) is merged together. end example]

|  |
| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [tcPr](tcPr.docx) (§); [tcPr](tcPr.docx) (§); [tcPr](tcPr.docx) (§); [tcPr](tcPr.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (Horizontal Merge Type) | Specifies how the [table](table.docx) cell is part of a horizontally merged region. This determine whether the cell should join onto an existing grouping of merged cells if any exist, or [start](start.docx) a new [group](group.docx) of merged cells. Refer to the simple [type](type.docx) definition for a full [description](description.docx) of each type.  If this attribute is omitted, its value shall be assumed to be continue.  [Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) cell where a horizontal cell merge begins represented as the following WordprocessingML:    <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  <w:hmerge w:val="restart"/>  </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  The attribute value of restart specifies that this element shall [start](start.docx) a new horizontally merged region in this table. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_Merge](ST_Merge.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

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

</complexType>