### mainDocumentType (Source Document Type)

This element specifies the [type](type.docx) of a given WordprocessingML source document.

If this element is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be formLetters.

[Note: This element is generally used in conjunction with the [behavior](behavior.docx) of an application to customize aspects of the mail merge user interface and experience independent of the WordprocessingML file format. For example, if a given WordprocessingML merged document contains a mainDocumentType element with its val attribute equal to envelopes, the hosting application may surface a piece of user interface specific to creating envelopes when the given document is opened.

In addition, what a hosting application does with the documents that [result](result.docx) from importing external data into specified fields can be determined based on the mainDocumentType element, but other than this, is independent of a given merged document's WordprocessingML. For example, if a given merged WordprocessingML document contains a mainDocumentType element with its val attribute equal to email, the hosting application may call a email service after importing external data into specified fields, in order to generate emails containing the resulting documents.

WordprocessingML simply provides the mainDocumentType that can serve as a trigger for an application to surface user interface specific to a [type](type.docx) of mail merge. end note]

[Example: Consider the WordprocessingML below:

<w:[mailMerge](mailMerge.docx)>  
 <w:mainDocumentType w:val="formLetters" />  
 …  
</w:[mailMerge](mailMerge.docx)>

In this example, the source document is of the formLetters [type](type.docx), as specified by the mainDocumentType element's val attribute being equal to formLetters. end example]

|  |
| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [mailMerge](mailMerge.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (Mail Merge Source Document Type) | Specifies the [type](type.docx) of source document which is specified by the given WordprocessingML document.  [Example: Consider the WordprocessingML below:  <w:mainDocumentType w:val="formLetters" />  This WordprocessingML specifies that a given source document is a formLetters document. This setting implies nothing about the file, but may be interpreted by an application as desired. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_MailMergeDocType](ST_MailMergeDocType.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

<attribute [name](name.docx)="val" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_MailMergeDocType](ST_MailMergeDocType.docx)" use="required"/>

</complexType>