#### softHyphen (Optional Hyphen Character)

This element specifies that an optional hyphen character shall be placed at the current location in the run content. An optional hyphen is a character which may be used as a valid line breaking character for the current line of text when displaying this WordprocessingML content, using the following logic:

* When this character is not the character which is used to break the line, then it shall not change the normal display of text (it shall have zero width)
* When this character is the character used to break the line, it shall display using the hyphen-minus character within the display of text

[Note: This character is typically used to mark locations where a word may optionally be hyphenated without causing the hyphen character to be displayed unnecessarily. end note]

[Example: Consider the following sentence in a WordprocessingML document:

This sentence needs to be long enough to cause some kind of line breaking.

Normally, just as shown above, this sentence not would be displayed on a single line as it is long enough to require line breaking (given the width of the current page). However, if an optional hyphen were inserted after the letter [r](r.docx) in breaking, as follows:

<w:[r](r.docx)>  
 <w:[t](t.docx)>This sentence needs to be long enough to cause some kind of line br</w:[t](t.docx)>  
 <w:softHyphen/>  
 <w:[t](t.docx)>eaking.</w:[t](t.docx)>  
</w:[r](r.docx)>

This would allow a break at that [position](position.docx), and when that location is the point of the line break, would insert a hyphen-minus in the word after that character:

This sentence needs to be long enough to cause some kind of line [br](br.docx)­eaking.

If this was not the point of the line break, then no character would be displayed at that location:

This sentence should not be long enough to cause line [br](br.docx)­eaking.

The sentence now does not break at that location, so no hyphen appears in the word breaking. end example]

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

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

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