### tcW (Preferred Table Cell Width)

This element specifies the preferred width for this [table](table.docx) cell. This preferred width is used as part of the [table](table.docx) layout algorithm specified by the [tblLayout](tblLayout.docx) element (§; §) - full [description](description.docx) of the algorithm in the ST\_TblLayout simple [type](type.docx) (§).

All widths in a [table](table.docx) are considered preferred because:

* The [table](table.docx) must satisfy the shared columns as specified by the [tblGrid](tblGrid.docx) element (§)
* Two or more widths may have conflicting values for the width of the same grid column
* The [table](table.docx) layout algorithm (§) may require a preference to be overridden

This value is specified in the units applied via its [type](type.docx) attribute. Any width value of [type](type.docx) pct for this element shall be calculated relative to the overall width of the table.

If this element is omitted, then the cell width shall be of [type](type.docx) auto.

[Example: Consider a WordprocessingML [table](table.docx) defined as follows:

<w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>  
 <w:[tr](tr.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 <w:tcW w:[type](type.docx)="pct" w:[w](w.docx)="1667"/>  
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 <w:tcW w:[type](type.docx)="pct" w:[w](w.docx)="1667"/>  
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 <w:tcW w:[type](type.docx)="pct" w:[w](w.docx)="1667"/>  
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>  
 …  
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>  
 </w:[tr](tr.docx)>  
</w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>

This [table](table.docx) specifies that it has no preferred [table](table.docx) width, but each cell shall be exactly 33.3 percent (1667 fiftieths of a percent) of the overall [table](table.docx) width. The resulting [table](table.docx) would therefore be sized such that all columns are of the width of the maximum column, as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hello world |  |

The text Hello world makes the middle cell larger, and the other two cells are increased in size to maintain the preferred widths of one-third of the overall [table](table.docx) width. However, when the middle [table](table.docx) cell requires a larger size to accommodate non-breaking text, that preference may be overridden as needed:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hello worlddddddddddddddddddddddddddddddddddd |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

In this case, the middle cell's long non breaking string caused the [table](table.docx) to reach the text margins on the page, and therefore to override the preferred widths on the empty cells. end example]

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| [type](type.docx) (Table Width Type) | Specifies the units of the width property being defined by the parent element’s [w](w.docx) attribute. This property is used to define various properties of a [table](table.docx), including: cell [spacing](spacing.docx), preferred width, and [table](table.docx) margins.  If this attribute is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be dxa (twentieths of a point).  [Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with a [table](table.docx) cell bottom cell [spacing](spacing.docx) with a [type](type.docx) of dxa, as follows:  <w:[bottom](bottom.docx) ... w:[type](type.docx)="dxa" />  This [type](type.docx) shall therefore be used to interpret the width specified in the [w](w.docx) attribute as a value in twentieths of a point. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_TblWidth](ST_TblWidth.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |
| [w](w.docx) (Table Width Value) | Specifies the value of the width property being defined by the parent element. This property is used to define various properties of a [table](table.docx), including: cell [spacing](spacing.docx), preferred widths, and [table](table.docx) margins.  If this attribute is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be 0.  [Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with a bottom margin with a width of 302, as follows:  <w:[bottom](bottom.docx) w:[w](w.docx)="302" w:[type](type.docx)="dxa" />  The value in the [w](w.docx) attribute shall therefore be used to determine the width being specified in the context of the units specified in the [type](type.docx) attribute. In this case, the [type](type.docx) is twentieths of a point (dxa), so the width is 302 twentieths of a point (.2097 inches). end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_DecimalNumber](ST_DecimalNumber.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

<attribute [name](name.docx)="[w](w.docx)" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_DecimalNumber](ST_DecimalNumber.docx)"/>

<attribute [name](name.docx)="[type](type.docx)" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_TblWidth](ST_TblWidth.docx)"/>

</complexType>