Responsive example Complex headers (rowspan / colspan)

This example shows how Responsive can be used with *complex headers* (i.e. headers that contain colspan attributes for one or more cells). As Responsive will removed columns one at a time the cell with the colspan attribute can end up forcing the width of a column, disrupting the flow. Rather than removing all columns under the colspan cell, we want to reduce the amount of text that is visible in that cell. This example shows how that can be achieved thought a little bit of jQuery and CSS.

We use jQuery to find the header cells which have a colspan attribute and wrap their contents in a span tag. That span is then set to position: absolute; using text-overflow: ellipsis. The result is that the text of the colspan cell will reduce automatically to fit the available area based on the contents of the column cells below it.

This functionality is not currently built into Responsive. It likely will be for v1.1.

| Name | HR Information | | Contact | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Salary | Office | Extn. | E-mail |
| Name | Position | Salary | Office | Extn. | E-mail |
| Tiger Nixon | System Architect | $320,800 | Edinburgh | 5421 | t.nixon@datatables.net |
| Garrett Winters | Accountant | $170,750 | Tokyo | 8422 | g.winters@datatables.net |
| Ashton Cox | Junior Technical Author | $86,000 | San Francisco | 1562 | a.cox@datatables.net |
| Cedric Kelly | Senior Javascript Developer | $433,060 | Edinburgh | 6224 | c.kelly@datatables.net |
| Airi Satou | Accountant | $162,700 | Tokyo | 5407 | a.satou@datatables.net |
| Brielle Williamson | Integration Specialist | $372,000 | New York | 4804 | b.williamson@datatables.net |
| Herrod Chandler | Sales Assistant | $137,500 | San Francisco | 9608 | h.chandler@datatables.net |
| Rhona Davidson | Integration Specialist | $327,900 | Tokyo | 6200 | r.davidson@datatables.net |
| Colleen Hurst | Javascript Developer | $205,500 | San Francisco | 2360 | c.hurst@datatables.net |
| Sonya Frost | Software Engineer | $103,600 | Edinburgh | 1667 | s.frost@datatables.net |
| Jena Gaines | Office Manager | $90,560 | London | 3814 | j.gaines@datatables.net |
| Quinn Flynn | Support Lead | $342,000 | Edinburgh | 9497 | q.flynn@datatables.net |
| Charde Marshall | Regional Director | $470,600 | San Francisco | 6741 | c.marshall@datatables.net |
| Haley Kennedy | Senior Marketing Designer | $313,500 | London | 3597 | h.kennedy@datatables.net |
| Tatyana Fitzpatrick | Regional Director | $385,750 | London | 1965 | t.fitzpatrick@datatables.net |
| Michael Silva | Marketing Designer | $198,500 | London | 1581 | m.silva@datatables.net |
| Paul Byrd | Chief Financial Officer (CFO) | $725,000 | New York | 3059 | p.byrd@datatables.net |
| Gloria Little | Systems Administrator | $237,500 | New York | 1721 | g.little@datatables.net |
| Bradley Greer | Software Engineer | $132,000 | London | 2558 | b.greer@datatables.net |
| Dai Rios | Personnel Lead | $217,500 | Edinburgh | 2290 | d.rios@datatables.net |
| Jenette Caldwell | Development Lead | $345,000 | New York | 1937 | j.caldwell@datatables.net |
| Yuri Berry | Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) | $675,000 | New York | 6154 | y.berry@datatables.net |
| Caesar Vance | Pre-Sales Support | $106,450 | New York | 8330 | c.vance@datatables.net |
| Doris Wilder | Sales Assistant | $85,600 | Sidney | 3023 | d.wilder@datatables.net |
| Angelica Ramos | Chief Executive Officer (CEO) | $1,200,000 | London | 5797 | a.ramos@datatables.net |
| Gavin Joyce | Developer | $92,575 | Edinburgh | 8822 | g.joyce@datatables.net |
| Jennifer Chang | Regional Director | $357,650 | Singapore | 9239 | j.chang@datatables.net |
| Brenden Wagner | Software Engineer | $206,850 | San Francisco | 1314 | b.wagner@datatables.net |
| Fiona Green | Chief Operating Officer (COO) | $850,000 | San Francisco | 2947 | f.green@datatables.net |
| Shou Itou | Regional Marketing | $163,000 | Tokyo | 8899 | s.itou@datatables.net |
| Michelle House | Integration Specialist | $95,400 | Sidney | 2769 | m.house@datatables.net |
| Suki Burks | Developer | $114,500 | London | 6832 | s.burks@datatables.net |
| Prescott Bartlett | Technical Author | $145,000 | London | 3606 | p.bartlett@datatables.net |
| Gavin Cortez | Team Leader | $235,500 | San Francisco | 2860 | g.cortez@datatables.net |
| Martena Mccray | Post-Sales support | $324,050 | Edinburgh | 8240 | m.mccray@datatables.net |
| Unity Butler | Marketing Designer | $85,675 | San Francisco | 5384 | u.butler@datatables.net |
| Howard Hatfield | Office Manager | $164,500 | San Francisco | 7031 | h.hatfield@datatables.net |
| Hope Fuentes | Secretary | $109,850 | San Francisco | 6318 | h.fuentes@datatables.net |
| Vivian Harrell | Financial Controller | $452,500 | San Francisco | 9422 | v.harrell@datatables.net |
| Timothy Mooney | Office Manager | $136,200 | London | 7580 | t.mooney@datatables.net |
| Jackson Bradshaw | Director | $645,750 | New York | 1042 | j.bradshaw@datatables.net |
| Olivia Liang | Support Engineer | $234,500 | Singapore | 2120 | o.liang@datatables.net |
| Bruno Nash | Software Engineer | $163,500 | London | 6222 | b.nash@datatables.net |
| Sakura Yamamoto | Support Engineer | $139,575 | Tokyo | 9383 | s.yamamoto@datatables.net |
| Thor Walton | Developer | $98,540 | New York | 8327 | t.walton@datatables.net |
| Finn Camacho | Support Engineer | $87,500 | San Francisco | 2927 | f.camacho@datatables.net |
| Serge Baldwin | Data Coordinator | $138,575 | Singapore | 8352 | s.baldwin@datatables.net |
| Zenaida Frank | Software Engineer | $125,250 | New York | 7439 | z.frank@datatables.net |
| Zorita Serrano | Software Engineer | $115,000 | San Francisco | 4389 | z.serrano@datatables.net |
| Jennifer Acosta | Junior Javascript Developer | $75,650 | Edinburgh | 3431 | j.acosta@datatables.net |
| Cara Stevens | Sales Assistant | $145,600 | New York | 3990 | c.stevens@datatables.net |
| Hermione Butler | Regional Director | $356,250 | London | 1016 | h.butler@datatables.net |
| Lael Greer | Systems Administrator | $103,500 | London | 6733 | l.greer@datatables.net |
| Jonas Alexander | Developer | $86,500 | San Francisco | 8196 | j.alexander@datatables.net |
| Shad Decker | Regional Director | $183,000 | Edinburgh | 6373 | s.decker@datatables.net |
| Michael Bruce | Javascript Developer | $183,000 | Singapore | 5384 | m.bruce@datatables.net |
| Donna Snider | Customer Support | $112,000 | New York | 4226 | d.snider@datatables.net |

* Javascript
* HTML
* CSS
* Ajax
* Server-side script

The Javascript shown below is used to initialise the table shown in this example:

$(document).ready(function() { // jQuery update a column title from the demo table to contain a long description // You would not need to do this in your own code. $('#example thead tr:eq(0) th:eq(2)').html("This is a really long column title!"); // Wrap the colspan'ing header cells with a span so they can be positioned // absolutely - filling the available space, and no more. $('#example thead th[colspan]').wrapInner( '<span/>' ).append( ' ' ); // Standard initialisation $('#example').DataTable( { responsive: true, paging: false } ); } );

In addition to the above code, the following Javascript library files are loaded for use in this example:

* [../../../../media/js/jquery.js](http://docs.google.com/media/js/jquery.js)
* [../../../../media/js/jquery.dataTables.js](http://docs.google.com/media/js/jquery.dataTables.js)
* [../../js/dataTables.responsive.js](http://docs.google.com/js/dataTables.responsive.js)

The HTML shown below is the raw HTML table element, before it has been enhanced by DataTables:

This example uses a little bit of additional CSS beyond what is loaded from the library files (below), in order to correctly display the table. The additional CSS used is shown below:

th { position: relative; min-height: 41px; } span { display: block; position: absolute; left: 0; right: 0; white-space: nowrap; text-overflow: ellipsis; overflow: hidden; }

The following CSS library files are loaded for use in this example to provide the styling of the table:

* [../../../../media/css/jquery.dataTables.css](http://docs.google.com/media/css/jquery.dataTables.css)
* [../../css/dataTables.responsive.css](http://docs.google.com/css/dataTables.responsive.css)

This table loads data by Ajax. The latest data that has been loaded is shown below. This data will update automatically as any additional data is loaded.

The script used to perform the server-side processing for this table is shown below. Please note that this is just an example script using PHP. Server-side processing scripts can be written in any language, using [the protocol described in the DataTables documentation](http://datatables.net/manual/server-side).

Other examples

[**Basic initialisation**](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/index.html)

* [Class name](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/className.html)
* [Configuration option](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/option.html)
* [`new` constructor](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/new.html)
* [Ajax data](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/ajax.html)
* [Default initialisation](http://docs.google.com/initialisation/default.html)

[**Styling**](http://docs.google.com/styling/index.html)

* [Bootstrap styling](http://docs.google.com/styling/bootstrap.html)
* [Foundation styling](http://docs.google.com/styling/foundation.html)
* [Vertical scrolling](http://docs.google.com/styling/scrolling.html)
* [Compact styling](http://docs.google.com/styling/compact.html)

[**Display control**](http://docs.google.com/index.html)

* [Automatic column hiding](http://docs.google.com/auto.html)
* [Class control](http://docs.google.com/classes.html)
* [Assigned class control](http://docs.google.com/init-classes.html)
* [With FixedHeader](http://docs.google.com/fixedHeader.html)
* [Complex headers (rowspan / colspan)](http://docs.google.com/complexHeader.html)

[**Child rows**](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/index.html)

* [Disable child rows](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/disable-child-rows.html)
* [Column controlled child rows](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/column-control.html)
* [Column control - right](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/right-column.html)
* [Whole row child row control](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/whole-row-control.html)
* [Custom child row renderer](http://docs.google.com/child-rows/custom-renderer.html)

Please refer to the [DataTables documentation](http://www.datatables.net) for full information about its API properties and methods.

Additionally, there are a wide range of [extras](http://www.datatables.net/extras) and [plug-ins](http://www.datatables.net/plug-ins) which extend the capabilities of DataTables.

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