

Programming with Visual HTML Editor

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Introduction

Limnor Studio provides two web page editors: Web Form Editor and Visual HTML Editor. See <http://www.limnor.com/support/webEditors.pdf>. This document shows programming samples using the Visual HTML Editor.

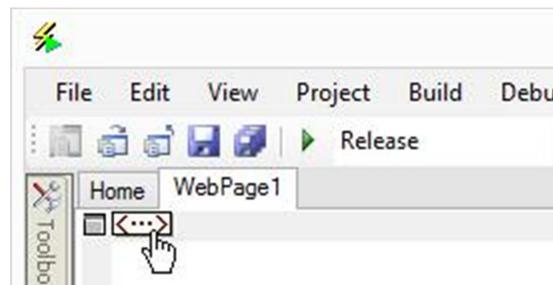
One sample is to develop a web page for sending emails. It uses text boxes for the visitor to enter email recipients, email subject and email body. It uses a button to send email. It uses a database to record the time used for sending the email.

One sample is to use data-binding to link databases to HTML elements. Data from database are automatically displayed on HTML elements. The visitor enters data into HTML elements and the data are saved back to the databases.

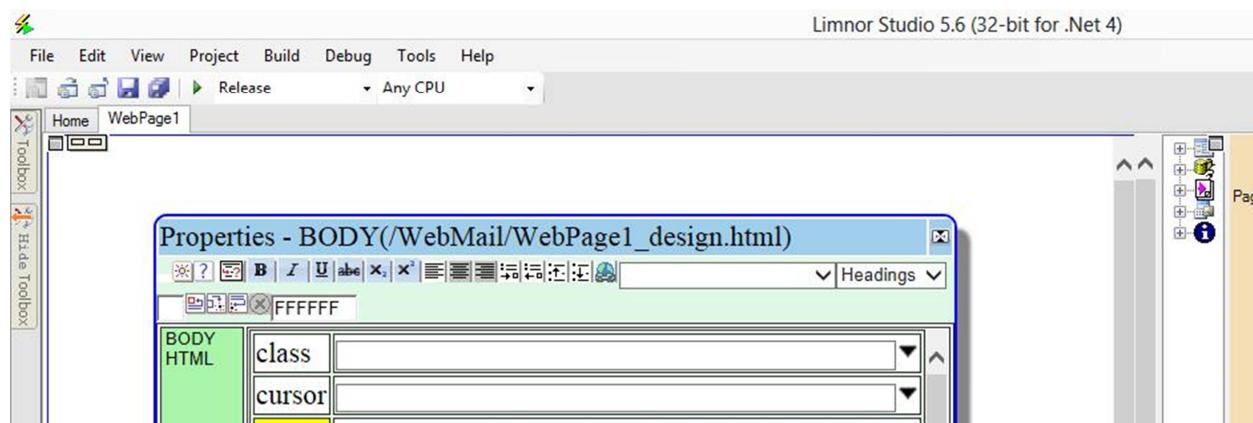
One sample is to use File Upload element to upload files to web server.

Use Visual HTML Editor

Click  to switch to the Visual HTML Editor to design web user interface.



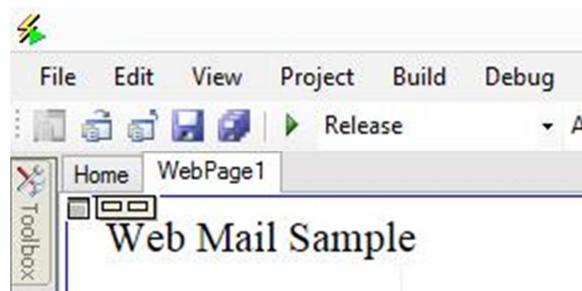
A Properties window appears on top of the web page, indicating that the Visual HTML Editor is started:



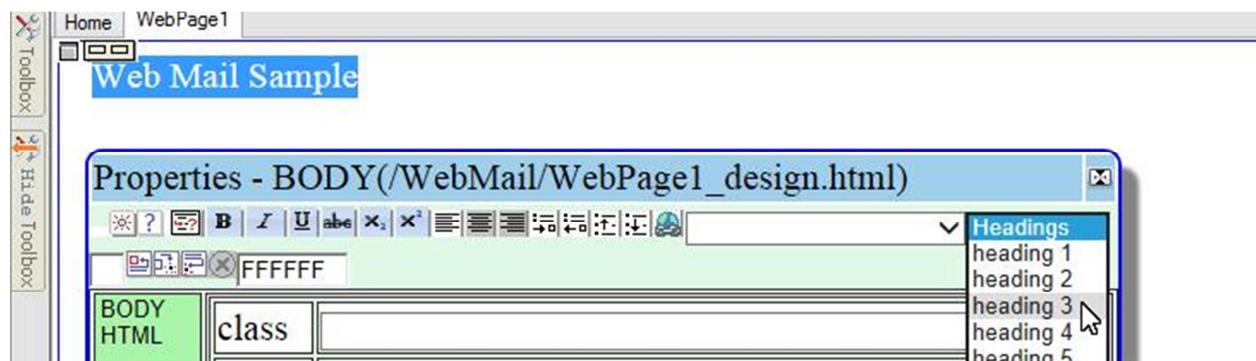
We are going to create sample web page contents using the Visual HTML Editor. For details of using the Visual HTML Editor, see <http://www.limnor.com/home1/AA/AA/htmlEditor.html>.

Use headings

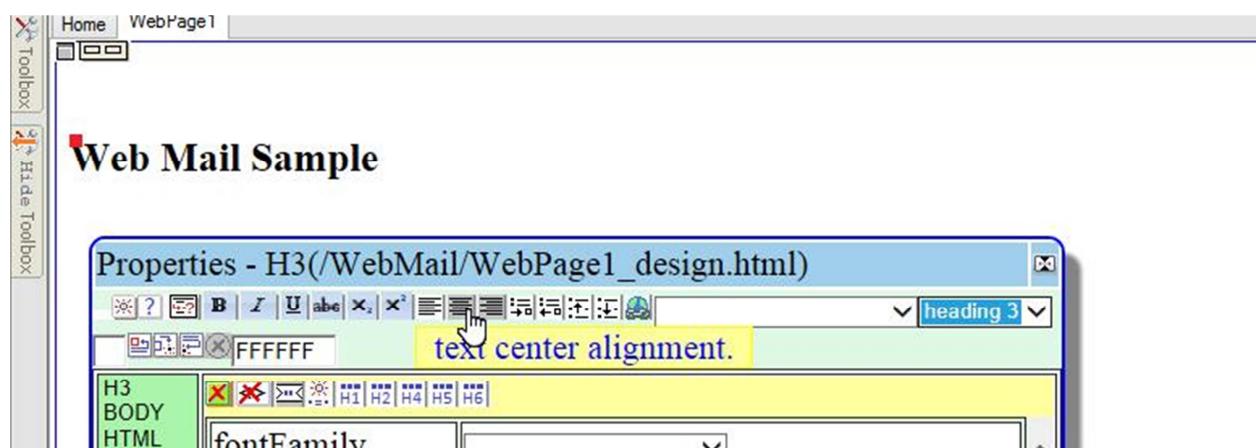
Type “Web Mail Sample”:



Select the words and select heading 3:

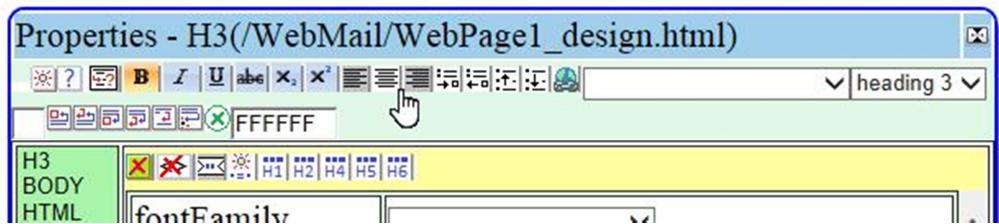


The words turn into heading 3. Click to use center-alignment:



The heading is centered:

Web Mail Sample



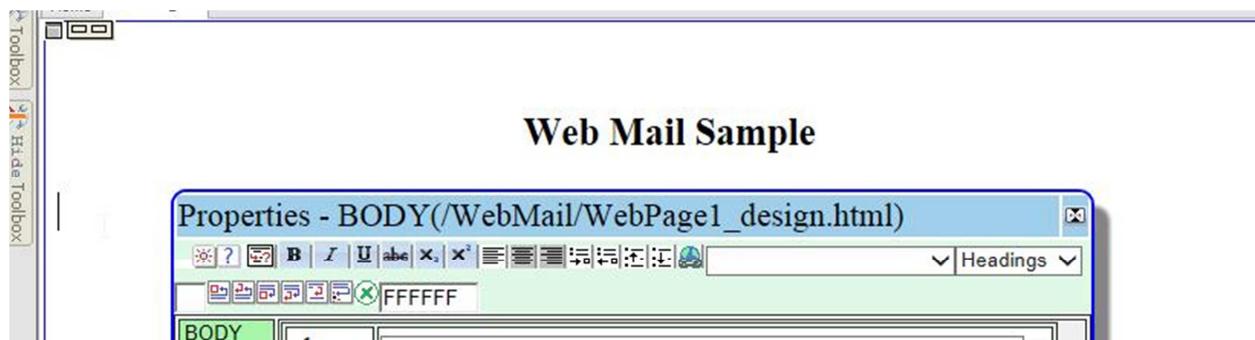
Note that there is a red dot on the web page. It indicates the current selected element. In the above figure, the red dot indicates that the current element is a heading element. You should pay attention to where the red dot is in the screenshots in this document.

Use spaces

The Visual HTML Editor provides several buttons for inserting spaces before or after elements, for convenience of contents editing.

- It inserts a space before the current element
- It inserts a line-break before the current element
- It inserts a space after the current element
- It inserts a line-break after the current element
- It inserts a line-break at the current caret position
- It inserts a paragraph at the end of the web page

Click , we get a line-break at the end:



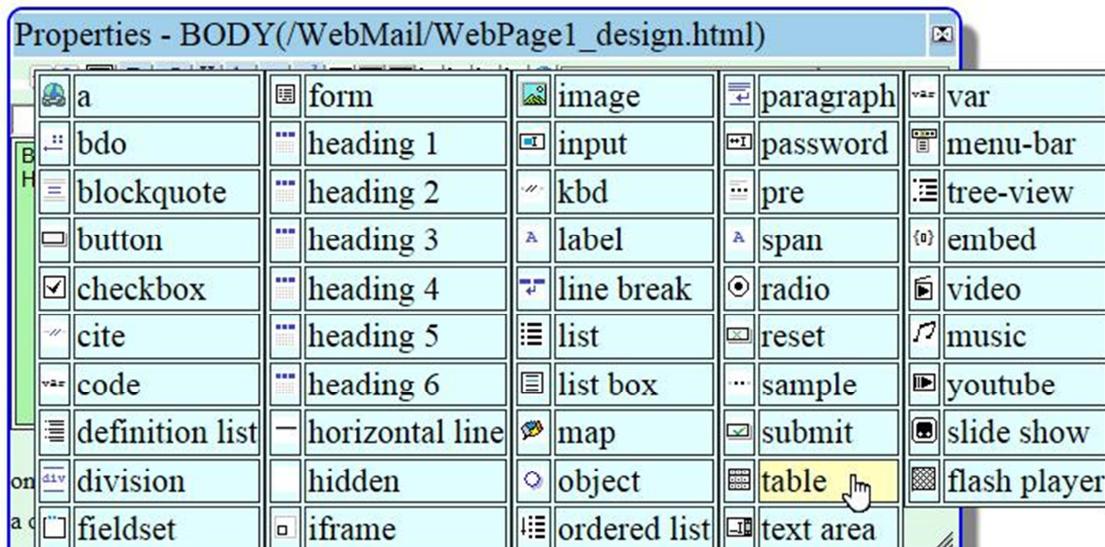
Use table for page layout

Suppose we want to arrangement data input elements in the center of the web page. Suppose we want to use 20% of web page for left and right side margins, the middle part of the web page is for arranging data input elements. We may use a table to make such arrangement.

Add a table

Click  to add an element. Click "table" to add a table.

Web Mail Sample



A table appears:

Web Mail Sample

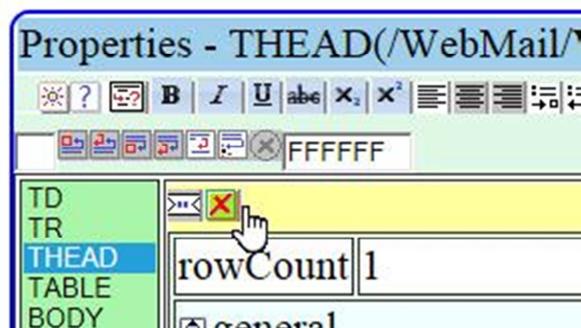
column 1	column 2
row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2
row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2



The screenshot shows the 'Properties - TABLE(/WebMail/WebPage1_de...' panel. The 'border' property is highlighted with a yellow background and the value '1' is displayed in the input field. The 'TABLE BODY HTML' tab is selected.

The new table has a table head. We do not need it in this sample. Click the first row of the table and select THEAD which represents the table head; click  to delete THEAD:

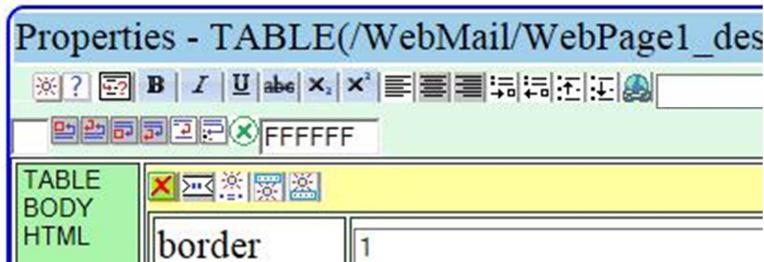
column 1	column 2
row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2
row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2



The head row is removed:

Web Mail Sample

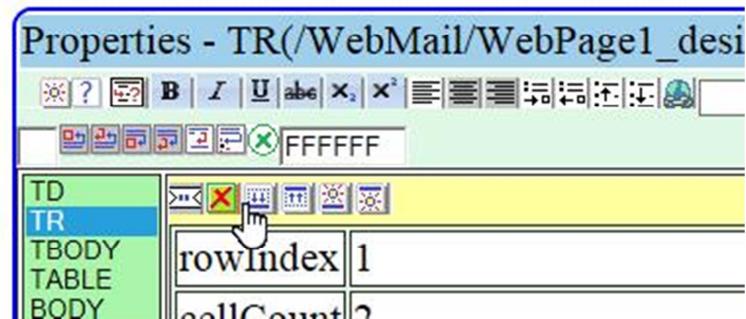
row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2
row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2



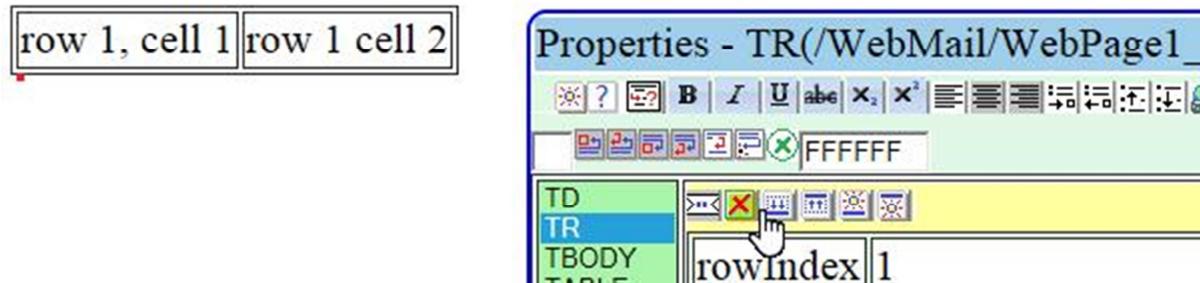
For this table we want one row and 3 columns. The first column and the third column is for margins, the second column is for contents. So, let's delete one row. Click a row. Select TR which represents a row.

Click to delete the row:

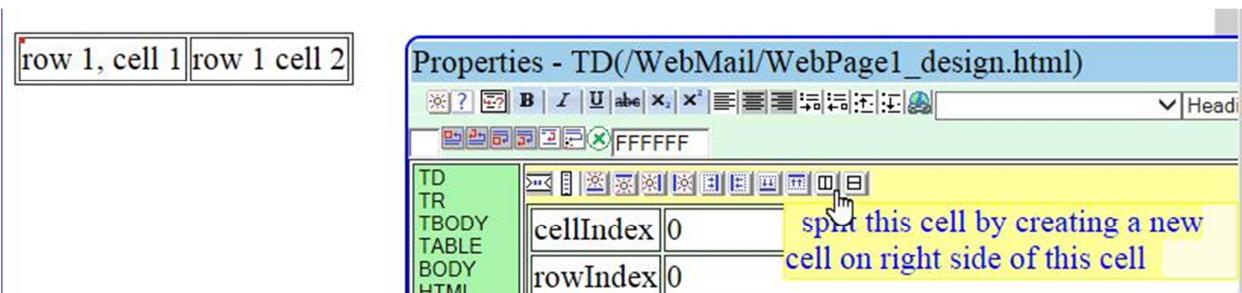
row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2
row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2



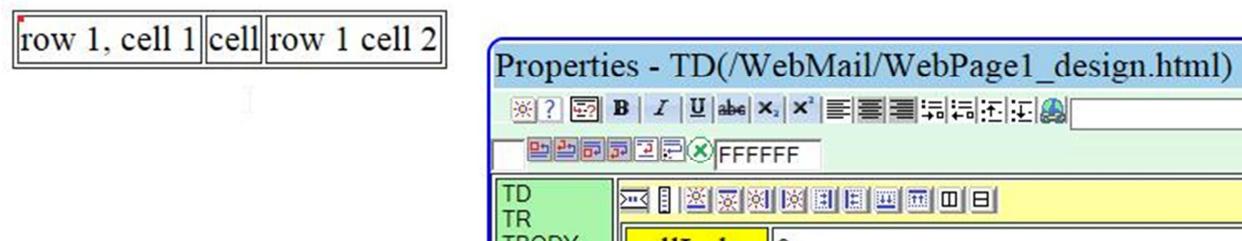
The row is removed:



Click the first cell. Click to split the cell horizontally, thus create a new column:



The cell splits into two cells. Now we have one row and 3 columns:



You can see that there are many buttons for modifying a table by adding row, adding column, merging cells, merging rows, merging columns, and splitting cell horizontally and vertically. These operations allow you to create various page layouts.

Arrange table attributes

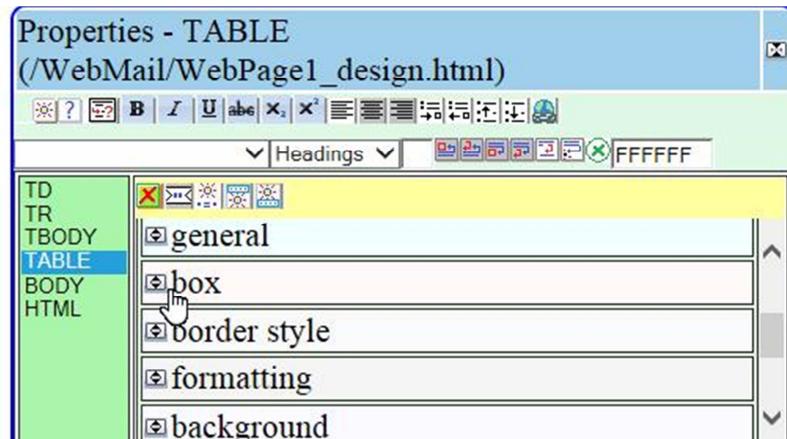
We want to adjust the table in the following way:

1. The table takes full width of the web page
2. The first column takes 20% of the table width
3. The third column takes 20% of the table width

Set table width

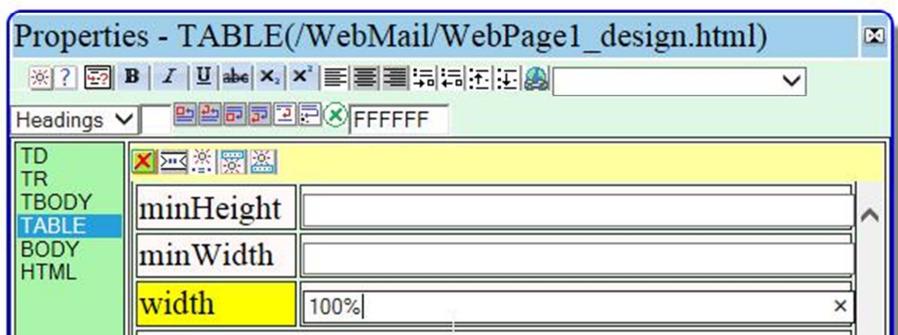
We want to set the table width to 100% so that it takes the full width of the web page. Select TABLE, "width" attribute is under "box". Click to show properties under "box":

row 1, cell 1	cell	row 1 cell 2
---------------	------	--------------



Set "width" to 100%:

row 1, cell 1	cell	row 1 cell 2
---------------	------	--------------



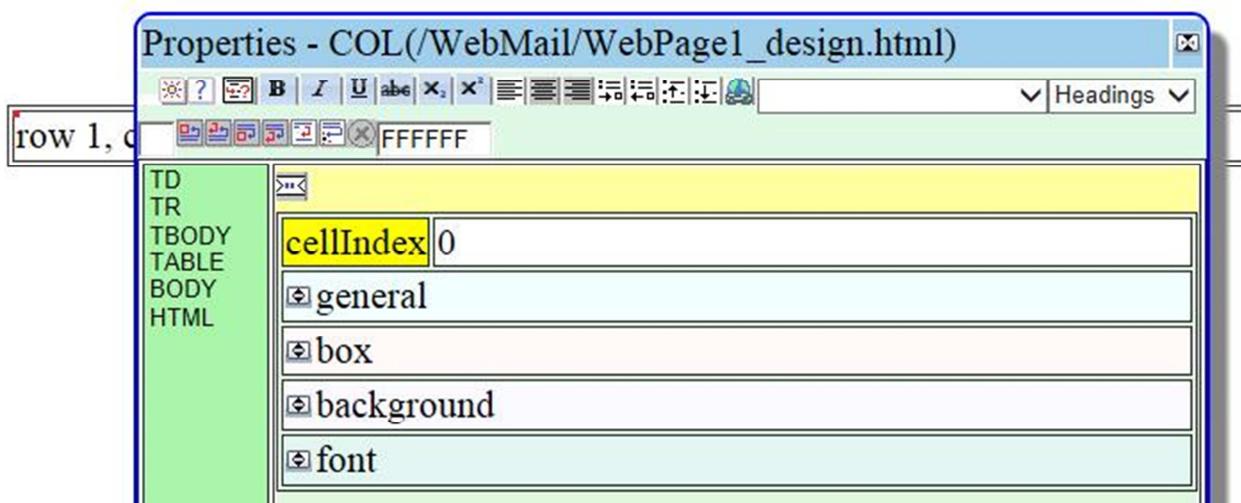
Note that the table now takes full page width.

Set column width

We want to make the first column and the third column each takes 20% of the table width. Click the first cell of the table to select the cell. To set the attribute of the column of the cell, click to show and edit the column attributes:



Note the tag name “**COL**” on the title, it indicates that the attributes are for the column of the cell, not just for the cell.



In our case, since the table only has one row, setting cell attributes and setting column attributes does not make visible differences.

We may set the “width” attribute of the column to 20%, in a similar way as we set the “width” attribute of the table to 100%. But, we need to pay attention to the issue of **style sharing**.

Except the attributes under “general” group, all attributes under other groups are shared with other elements. Setting an attribute of an element will affect all other elements of the same type. This behavior may or may not be what you want.

In our case, if we set the width of the first column to 20% then all 3 columns’ width will become 20%. That is not what we want. We do not want the second column to be 20%. How do we prevent the other elements to share the attributes? We give “styleName” of the first column a **none-empty value**, for example, “sidemargin”. The “styleName” attribute is under “general”:

Properties - COL(/WebMail/WebPage1_design.html)

row 1, cell 1

TD	
TR	
TBODY	
TABLE	
BODY	
HTML	

general

id	
accessKey	
cursor	
styleShare	Share
styleName	sideMargin

Setting **styleName** to a non-empty string will add it as a class name to the element; all your modifications of the element styles will be added to the class and thus applied to all elements using the class.

Now, we set the width to 20%:

row 1, cell 1	cell	row 1 cell 2
---------------	------	--------------

Properties - COL(/WebMail/WebPage1_design.html)

row 1, cell 1

TD	
TR	
TBODY	
TABLE	
BODY	
HTML	

width

width	20%
--------------	-----

background

Sets the minimum width of an element. It can be none, inherit, or a length value, i.e. 100px, or in percent of its container, i.e. 100%

We can see that the width of the first column is changed.

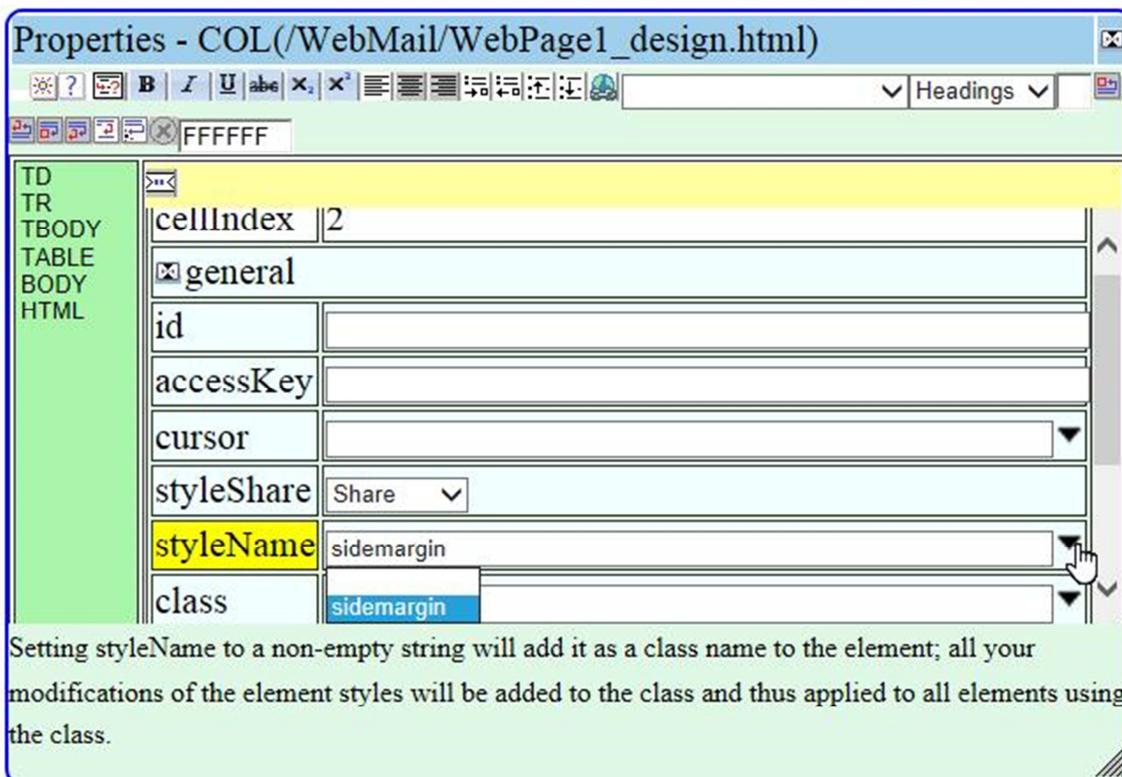
Now we want to also set the width of the third column to 20%. To do so, we may set the third column's **styleName** to match the **styleName** of the first column; doing so will make the first column and the third column to share their attributes.

Click the third cell; click  to show and edit the column attributes:

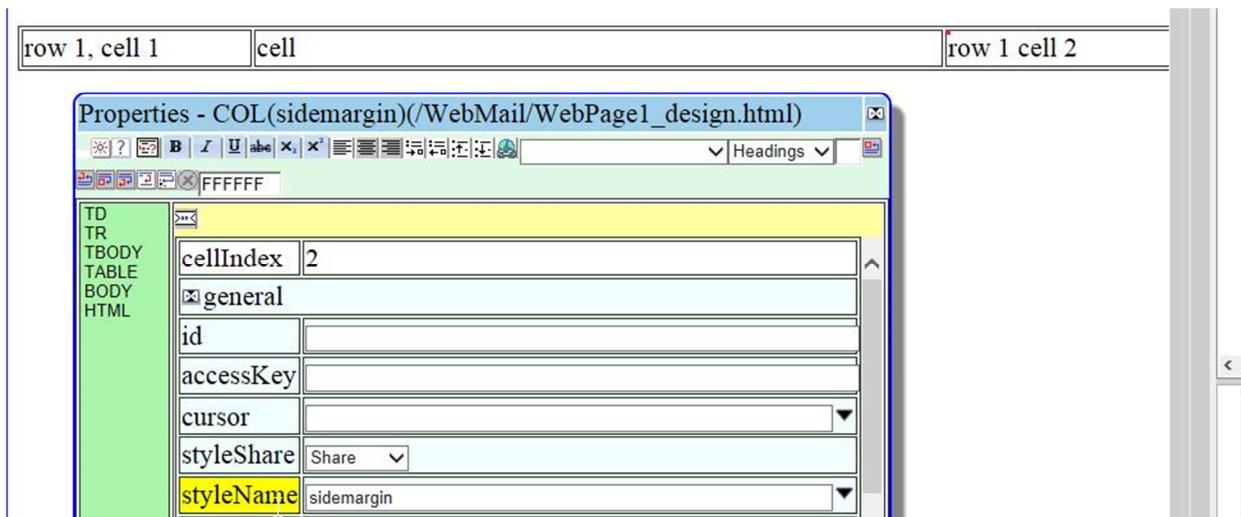
row 1, cell 1	cell	row 1 cell 2
---------------	------	--------------



Set the column's styleName to match the styleName of the first column. Note that you may select the styleName "sidemargin" from a drop down list:



Note that once you match the styleName, the width of the third column automatically adjusts to match the first column:



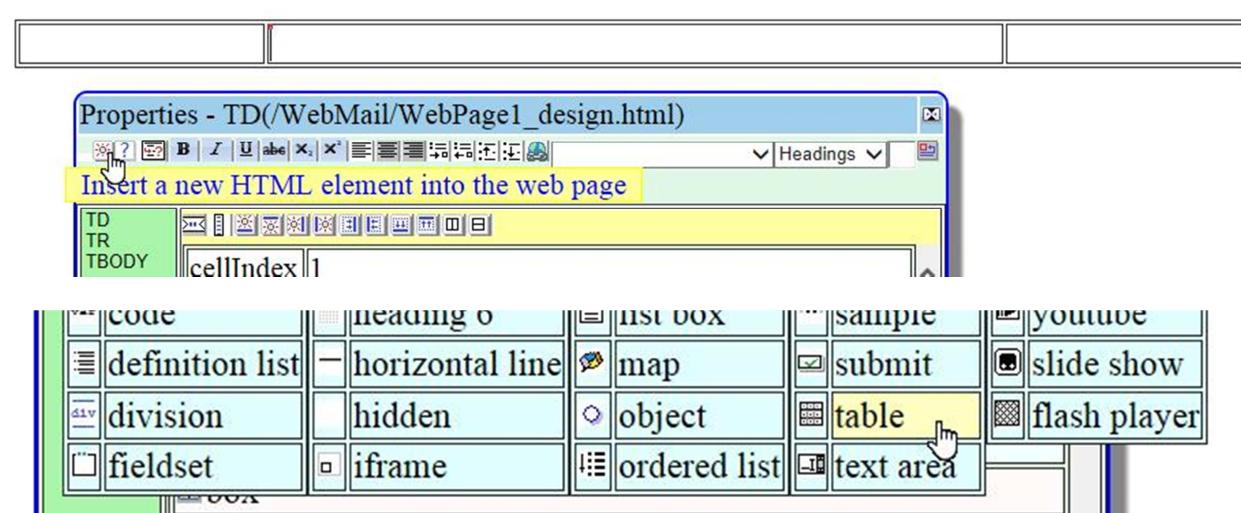
Note that since the first column and the third column have the same styleName, changing of attributes in one column will automatically change the other column. Many elements may have the same styleName to make them to share attributes. You may limit the sharing of attributes even for elements of the same styleName. For details of controlling attribute sharing, see “Style/Style Sharing” in <http://www.limnor.com/home1/AA/AA/htmlEditor.html>.

Add table for contents

We want to use a table to arrange data entry elements. The table has two columns, the first column is for data entry caption, the second column is for data entry text box. The table has many rows. Each row is for one piece of data entry.

Add table

We want to add the new table in the second cell. Click the second cell. Click and click “Table” to add a new table into the second cell.



A new table is added to the second cell:

Web Mail Sample

	column 1	column 2	
	row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2	
	row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2	

Note that the new table fills the second cell. This is not a default behavior. This is because we previously set width of the table for page layout to be 100%. When we did that we did not give a “styleName” for the table. Therefore, this width setting will be automatically applied to all tables. Thus the new table we just added also has a 100% width. That is why it fills the second cell. Actually, if you examine the width attribute of the new table, you can see that its width is 100%:

The screenshot shows a web mail sample interface with a table structure. The main table has four cells: the first cell is empty, the second cell contains a 2x2 table with data like 'row 1, cell 1', 'row 1 cell 2', 'row 2, cell 1', and 'row 2 cell 2'. The third cell is empty. Below this, a 'Properties - TABLE(/WebMail/WebPage1_design.html)' dialog box is open for the inner table. The element list on the left shows the hierarchy: TABLE, TD, TR, TBODY, TABLE, BODY, HTML. The properties panel shows 'minWidth' and 'width' both set to '100%', and a 'border style' section.

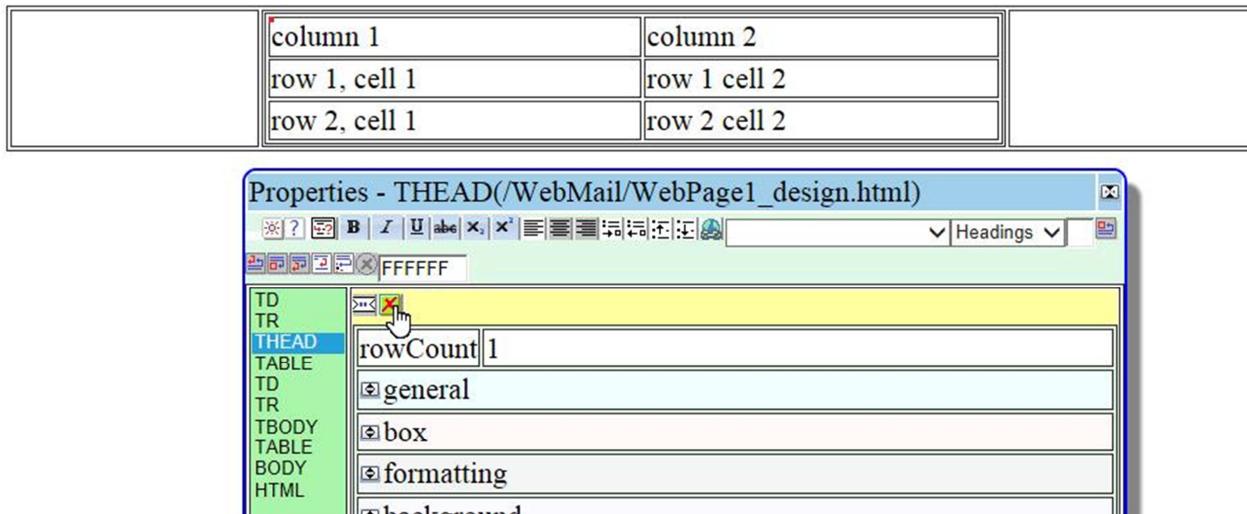
Also note that the element list in the above figure, from top to bottom, it shows the parent-child relationships of the elements: an upper element is contained inside lower elements.

1. The top element is the currently selected element, in the above figure it is “TABLE” representing the new table we just added.
2. The next element is “TD”; it represents the second cell of the page layout table; this cell contains the new table.
3. The next element is “TR”; it represents the row of the page layout table; it contains the cell.
4. The next element is “TBODY”; it is the table body containing the table row; it belongs to the page layout table.
5. The next element is “TABLE”; it is the page layout table.
6. The next element is “BODY”, it represents the web page body; it represents the visible area of the web page.
7. The next element is “HTML”, it represents whole web page, including invisible page elements and scripting elements.

When you click on the web page, this element list shows all the elements covering the point of the mouse pointer, in a sequence of one contained in the next. You may click an element in the list to show and modify the attributes of the element, or delete the element.

Remove table head

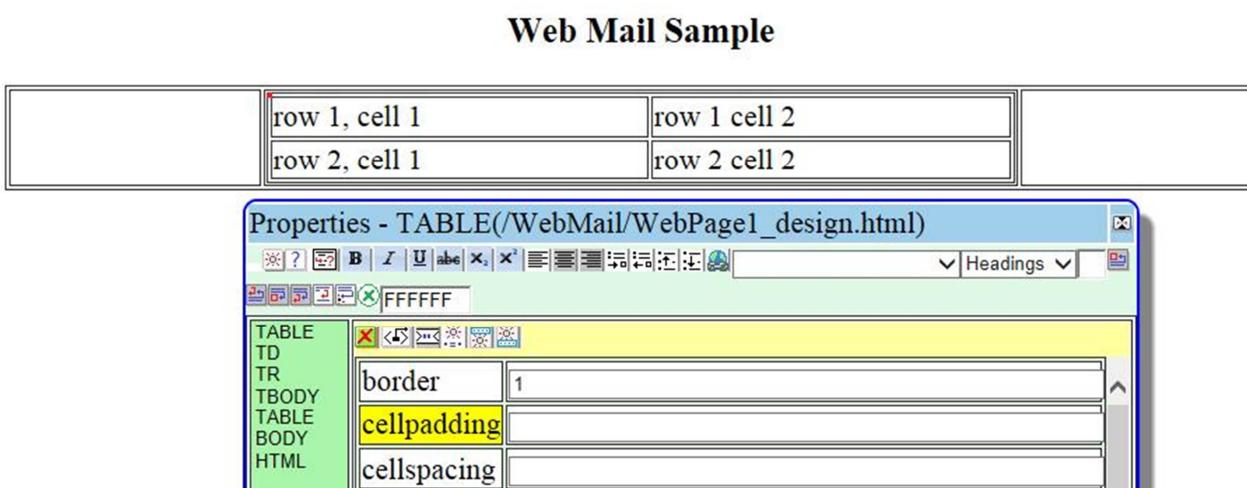
We do not need table head, click the first cell, select THEAD, and click  to delete it.



The screenshot shows a web editor interface. At the top, there's a toolbar with various icons. Below the toolbar is a properties panel titled "Properties - THEAD(/WebMail/WebPage1_design.html)". The left sidebar of the properties panel lists elements: TD, TR, THEAD, TABLE, TD, TR, TBODY, TABLE, BODY, and HTML. The right side of the properties panel shows attributes for the selected element. A mouse cursor is hovering over the "THEAD" entry in the list. The attribute "rowCount" is set to 1. Other visible attributes include "general", "box", and "formatting".

When we click the first cell, the element list shows all elements covering the point of the mouse pointer. TD on top of the list represents the first cell; TR next to it represents the row containing the first cell; THEAD next to it represents the table head containing the row. You should know the rest of the elements in the list, right?

Click THEAD, the attributes for the table head are displayed. On clicking , table head is gone:



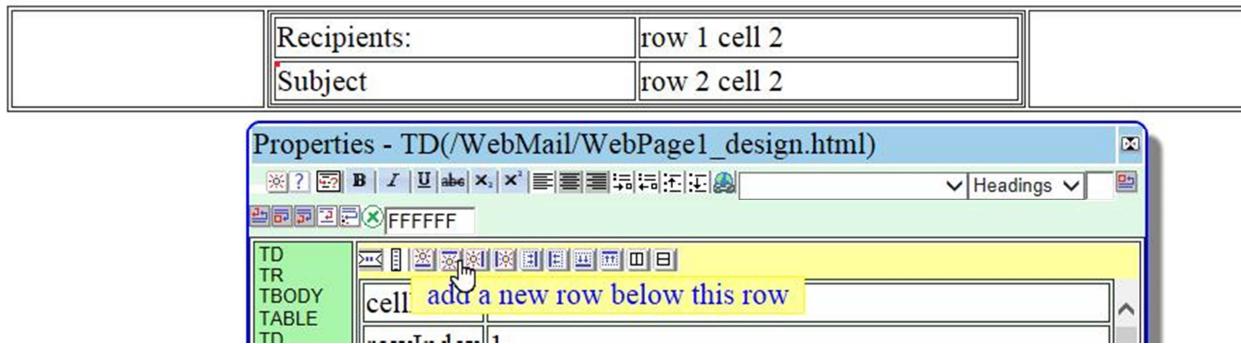
The screenshot shows a web editor interface with a title "Web Mail Sample". Below the title is a 2x2 table with the following content:

row 1, cell 1	row 1 cell 2
row 2, cell 1	row 2 cell 2

Below the table is a properties panel titled "Properties - TABLE(/WebMail/WebPage1_design.html)". The left sidebar lists elements: TABLE, TD, TR, TBODY, TABLE, BODY, and HTML. The right side shows attributes for the TABLE element. The attribute "border" is set to 1. Other visible attributes include "cellpadding" and "cellspacing".

Add rows

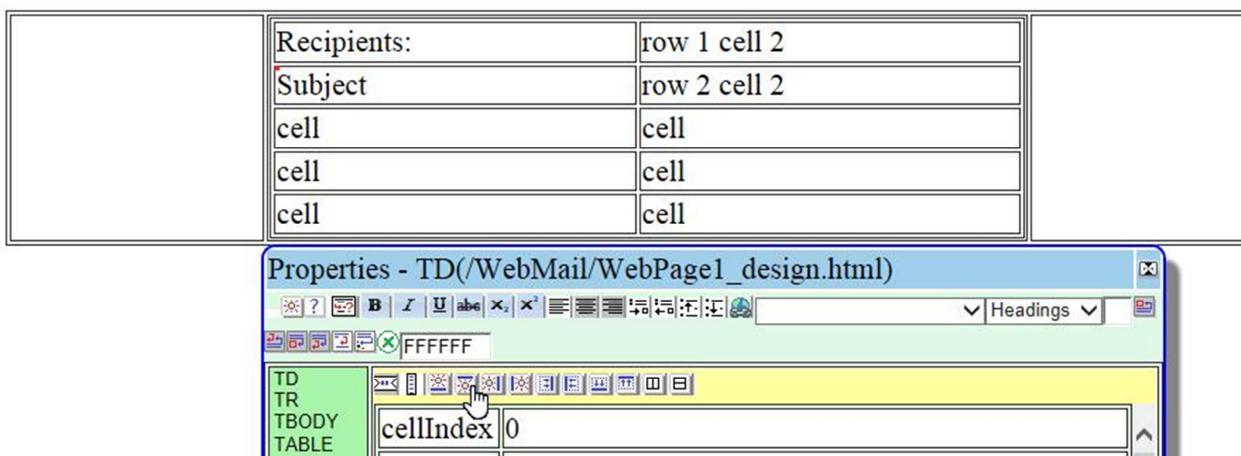
We need to add more rows to the table. For example, click  to add a new row below the current row:



The screenshot shows a 2x2 table. The first row has two cells: 'Recipients:' and 'row 1 cell 2'. The second row has two cells: 'Subject' and 'row 2 cell 2'. A context menu is open over the second row, with the 'add a new row below this row' option highlighted.

A new row is added.

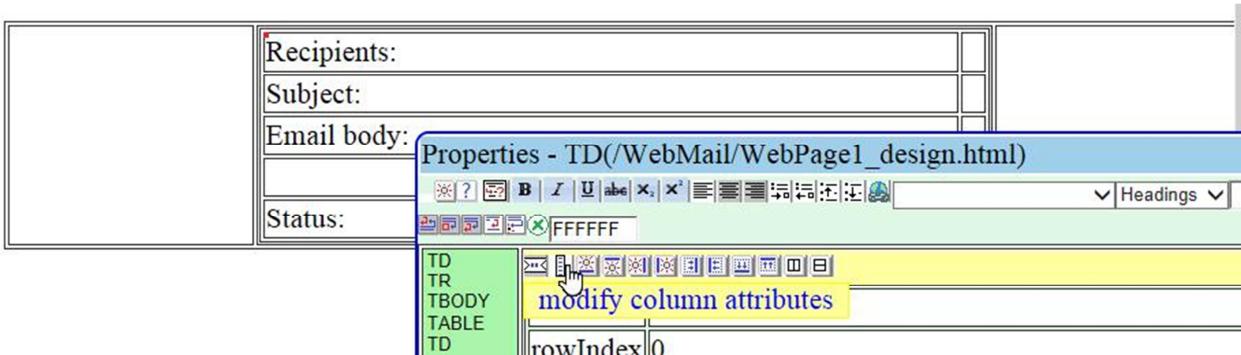
Add more rows:



The screenshot shows a 5x2 table. The first four rows have two cells each: 'Recipients:' and 'row 1 cell 2', 'Subject' and 'row 2 cell 2', 'cell' and 'cell', and 'cell' and 'cell'. The fifth row has two empty cells. A context menu is open over the fifth row, with the 'add a new row below this row' option highlighted.

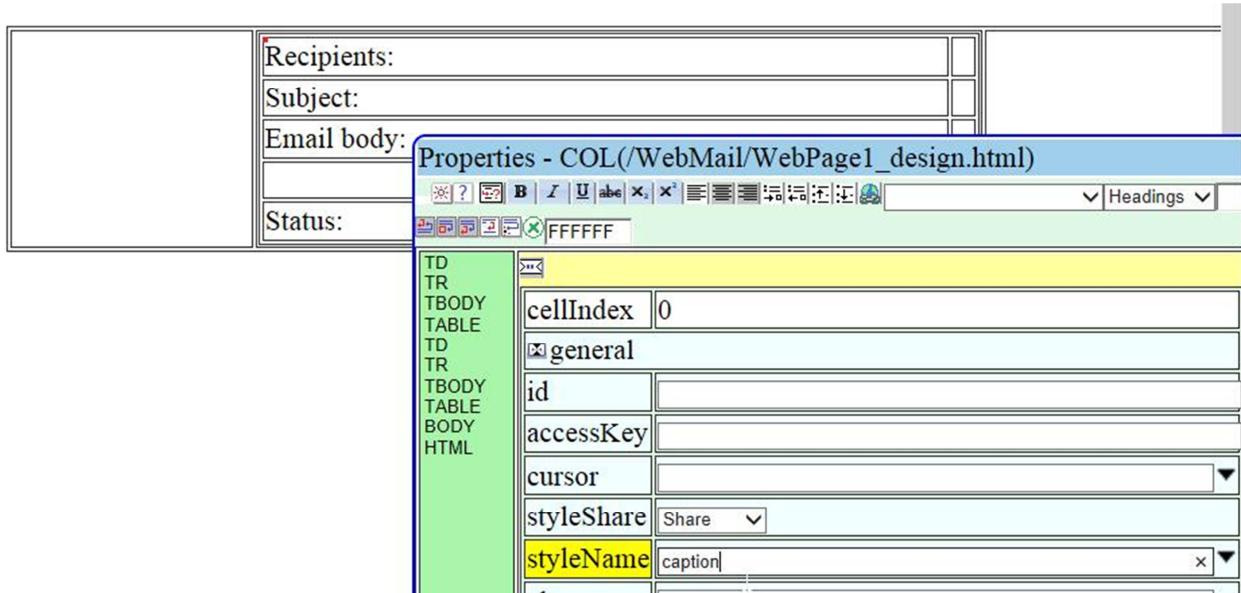
Set caption column width

Suppose we want to set the width of the first column to 30%. We must set "styleName" first. Select the first column:

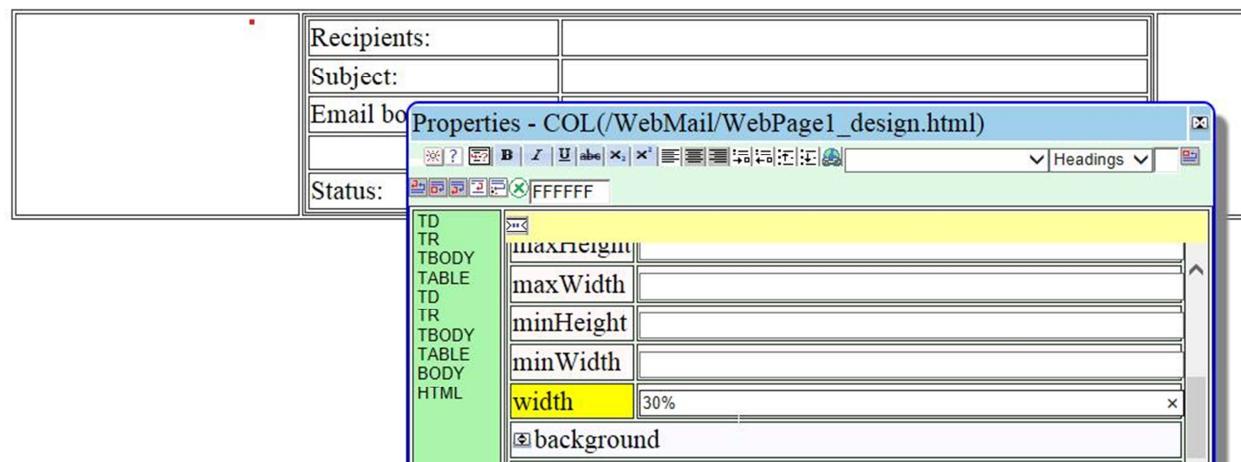


The screenshot shows a table with four rows: 'Recipients:', 'Subject', 'Email body', and 'Status'. The first column is selected. A context menu is open over the first column, with the 'modify column attributes' option highlighted.

Suppose we name the new style “caption”:



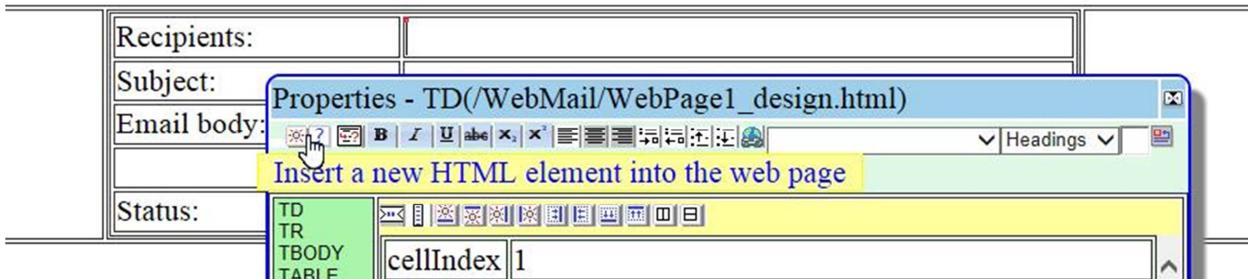
Set width to 30%:



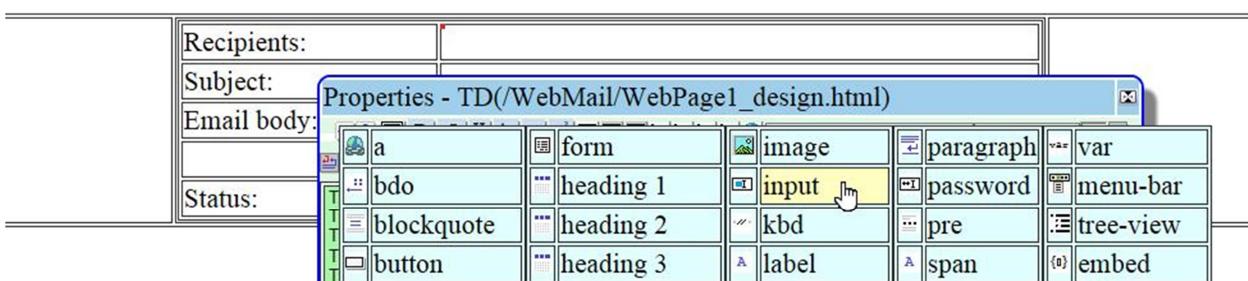
Add text boxes

Add text boxes to let the visitor enter data.

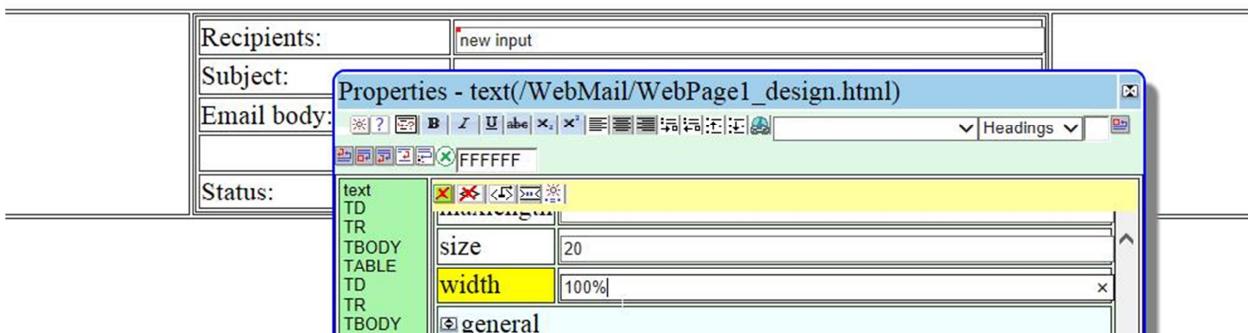
Click the second cell on the first row; click to add element:



Click "Input" to add a text box:



A text box is added. Set its width to 100% to make it fill the cell:



Add another text box. Click the second cell of the second row. Click to add element:



Click "input" to add a text box:

A text box is added. Note that the new text box fills the cell because it shares the width setting of the first text box:

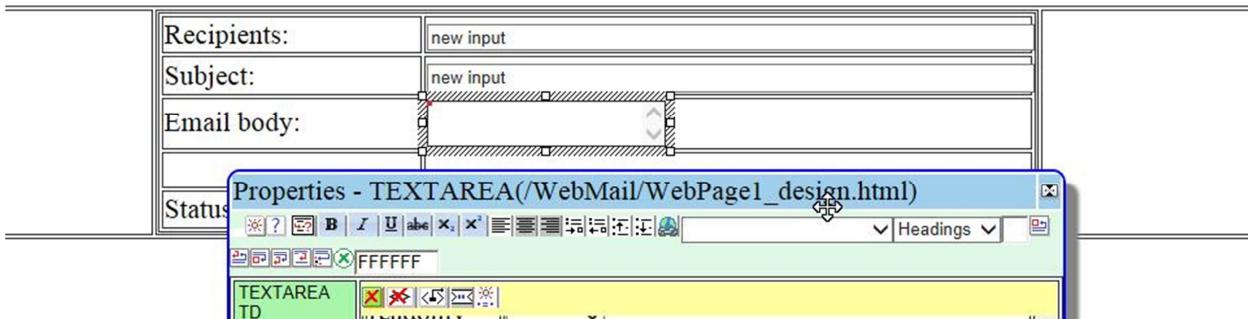
Add text area

We add a text area to let the visitor enter email body.

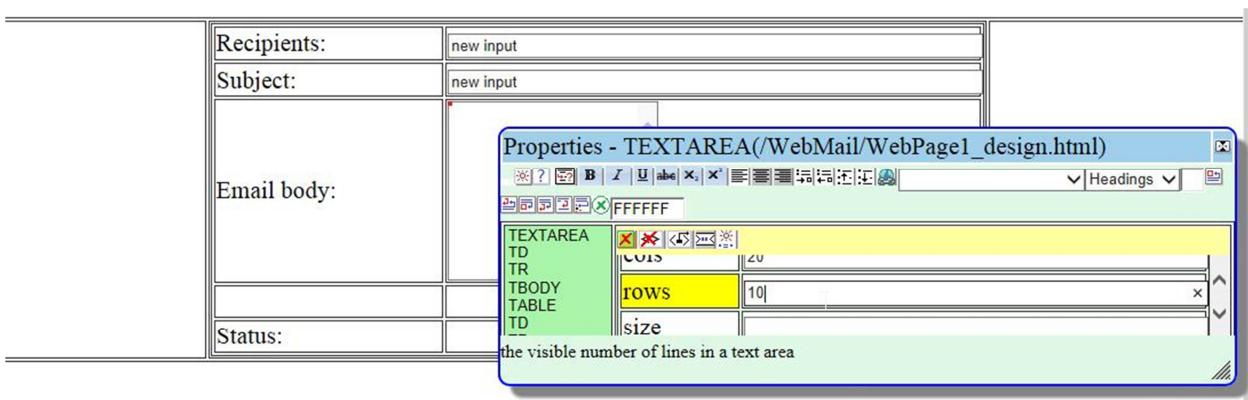
Click the second cell of the third row. Click to add element:

Click "text area":

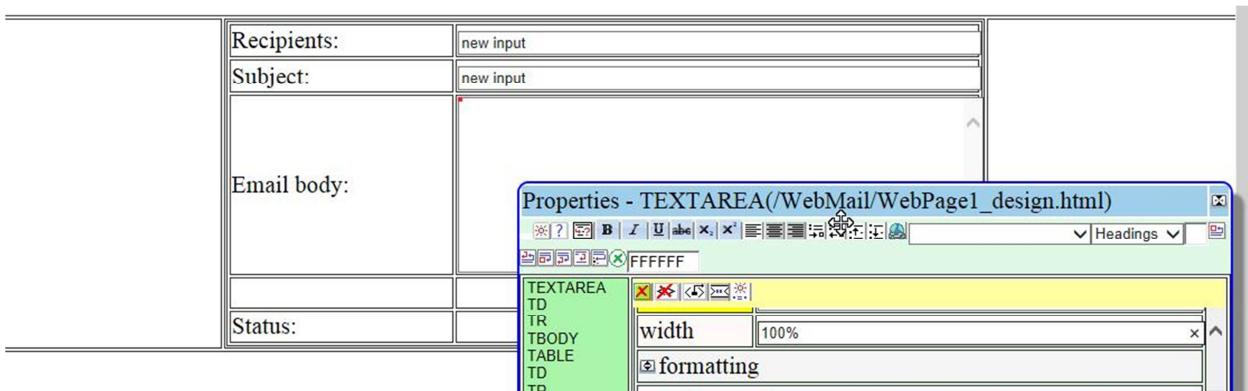
A text area is added:



Set rows of the text area to 10:



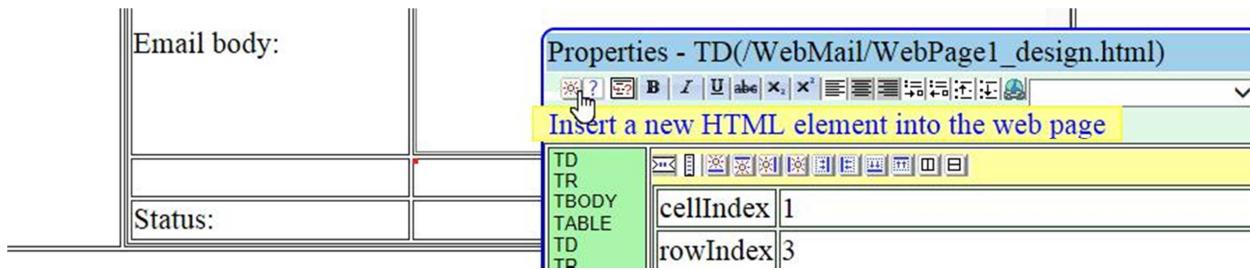
Set width of the text area to 100% to make it fill the cell:



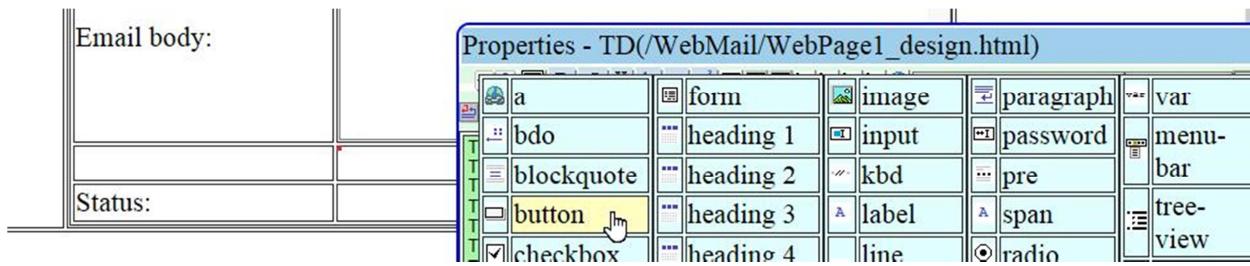
Note that the width attribute is under “box” group.

Add button

Click the second cell of the 4th row. Click to add element:



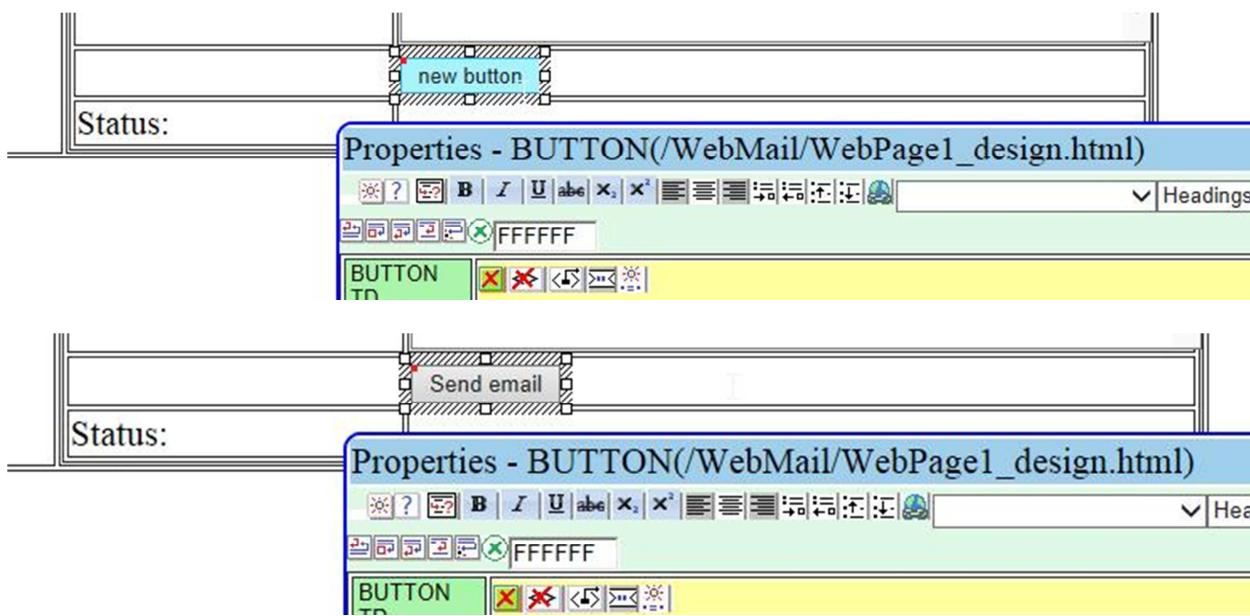
Click “button” to add a button:



A button is added:



Click the button to put the caret inside the button so that we may modify the caption of the button:

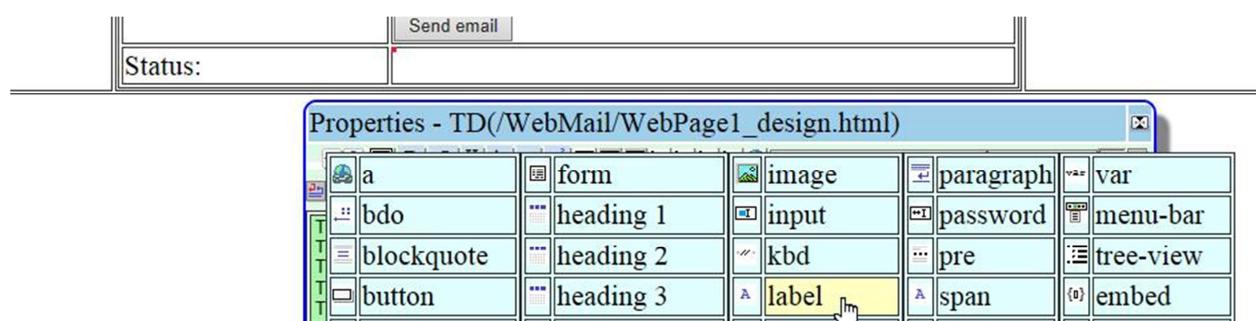


Add label

We want to use a label to show the status or message. It is used to show email data validation result and email sending result.



Click "label" to add a label:



A label appears in the cell:



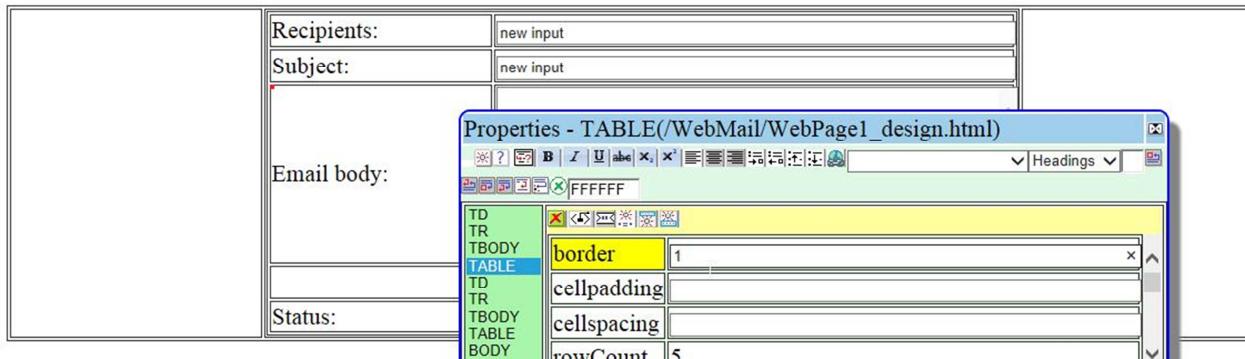
Put the caret inside the label and enter an initial message:



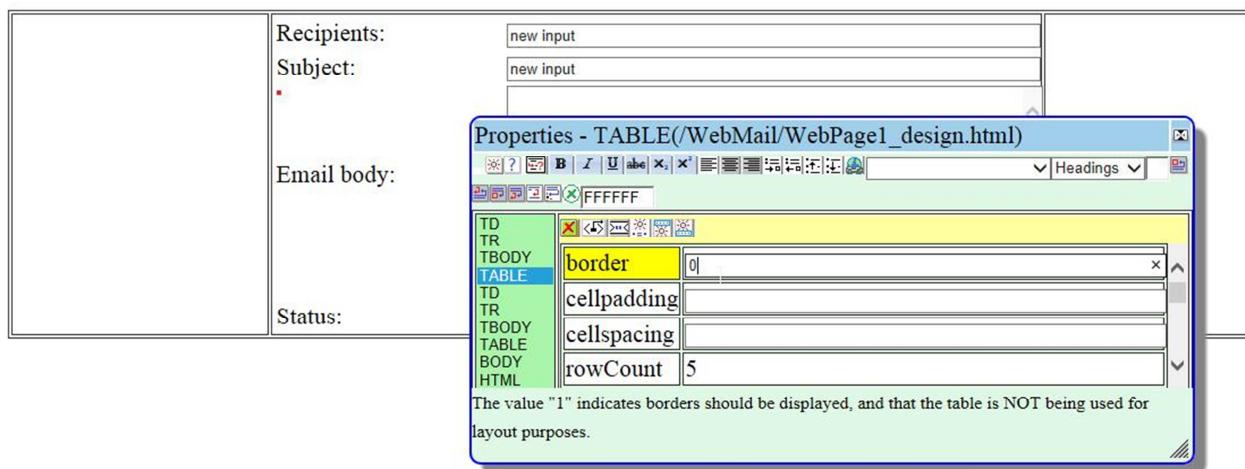
Remove table borders

When we are designing a web page and using tables, table borders are very useful for clearly seeing the page layout. Once the design is done, we may remove table borders by setting border to 0.

Click inside a table. Select “TABLE”:

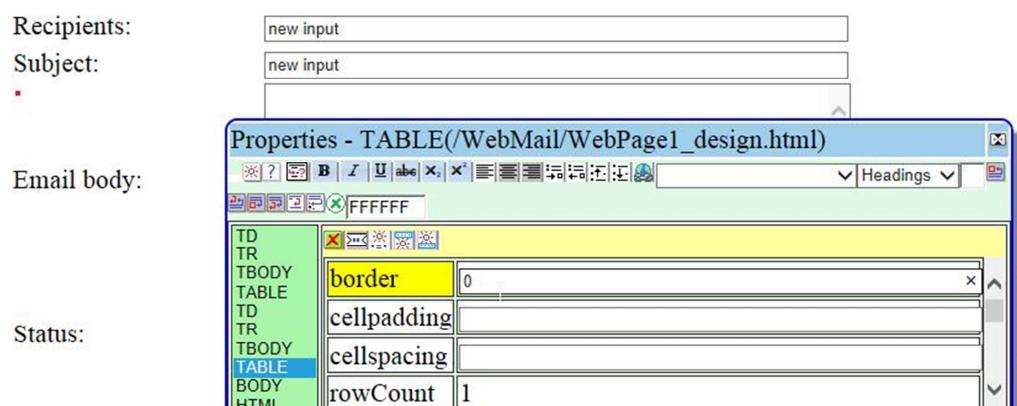


Set border to 0:



Note that “border” attribute is not for sharing. So, setting it to a table will not affect other tables.

Select the outer table and set its border to 0:

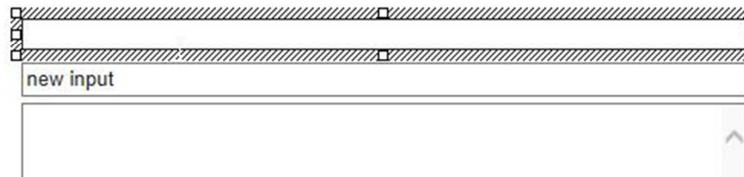


Remove the default text box contents:

Web Mail Sample

Recipients:

Subject:



The screenshot shows a web-based email composition interface. At the top, there are two input fields: one for 'Recipients' and one for 'Subject'. Below these is a large text area for the 'Email body'. At the bottom left is a 'Send email' button, and at the bottom right, the status message 'Missing recipients'.

We thus finish the web page layout:

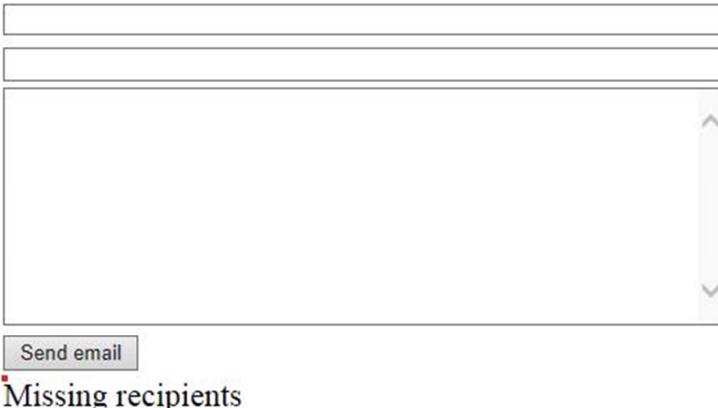
Web Mail Sample

Recipients:

Subject:

Email body:

Status:



This screenshot shows a simplified version of the web mail interface. It includes fields for 'Recipients' and 'Subject', a large area for the 'Email body', a 'Send email' button, and a 'Status' message 'Missing recipients'.

Alternative Layout Samples

The above web page layout uses two tables. One table contains another table. It is for demonstrating the nature of an HTML document: on any point of a web page, there can be many elements covering the same point, one element containing another element. The sequence of the element list shows the containment relations.

To achieve a desired page layout, usually there are many ways to do it. Below we show two alternatives to achieve the above layout using one table. You may also try page layout without tables, or using margins and paddings.

Layout with grid

To achieve the same layout, we may simply use a 5 x 4 grid.

Click the second cell. Click  to add a new column:

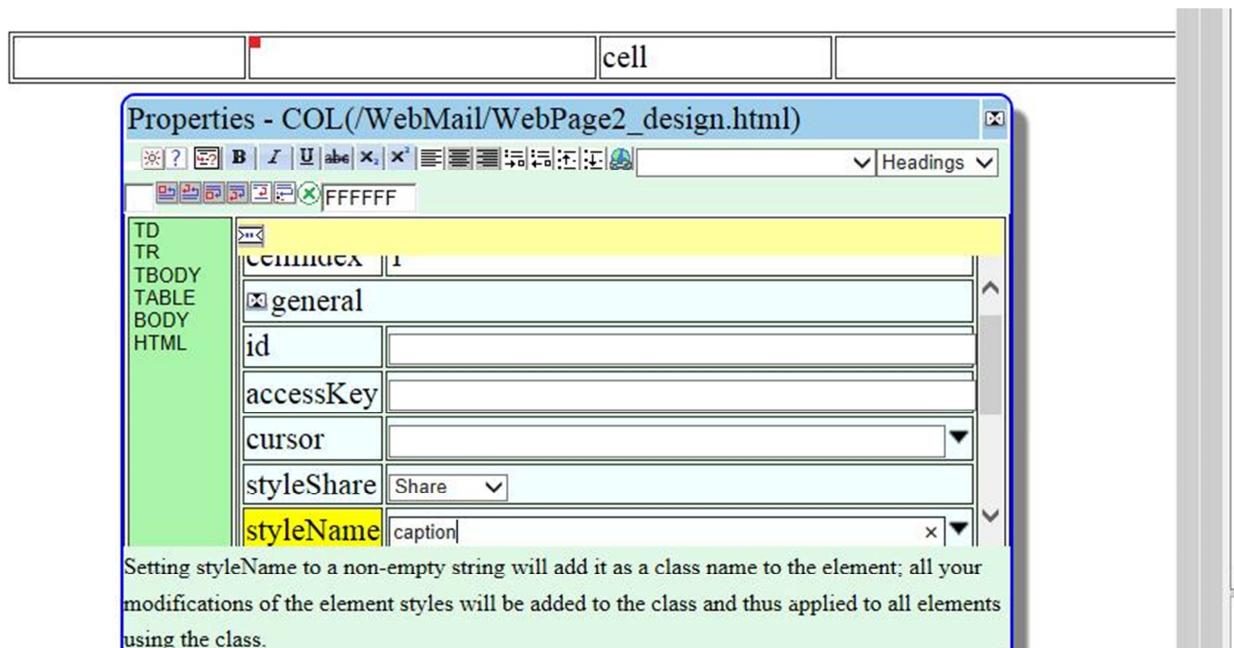


A new column is added:

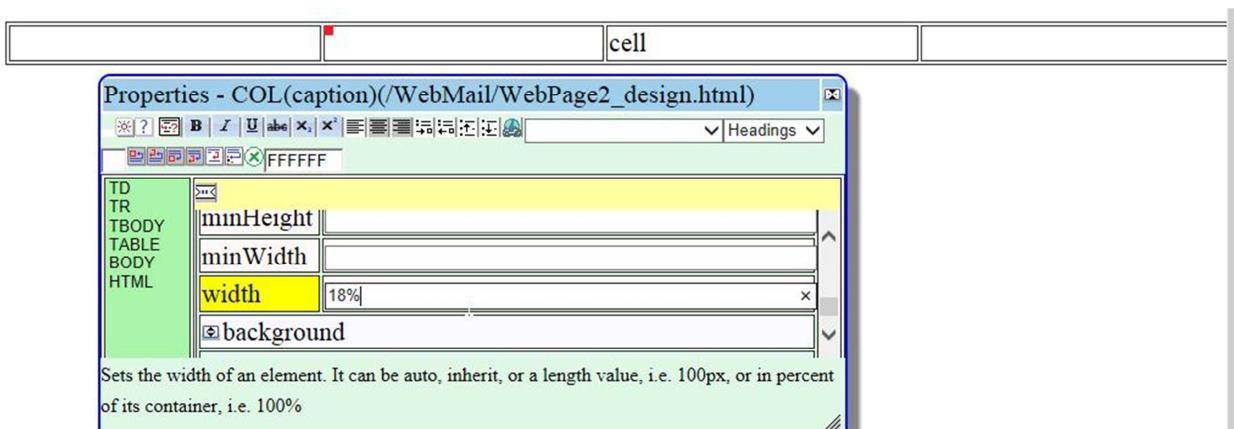


Set the width of the second column to 18%:

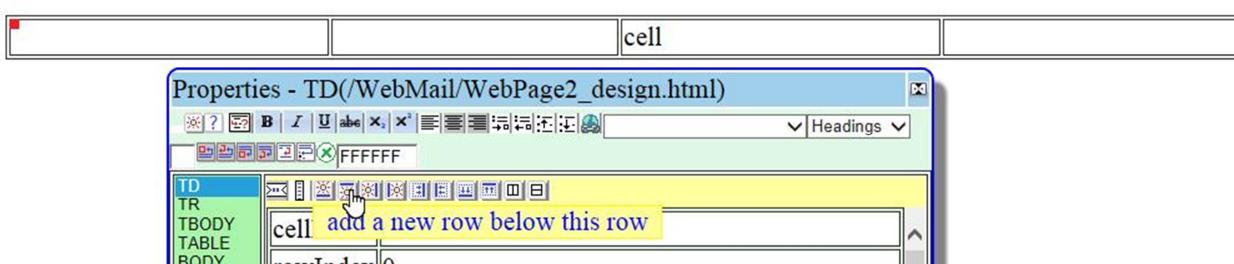




Set width of the column to 18%:



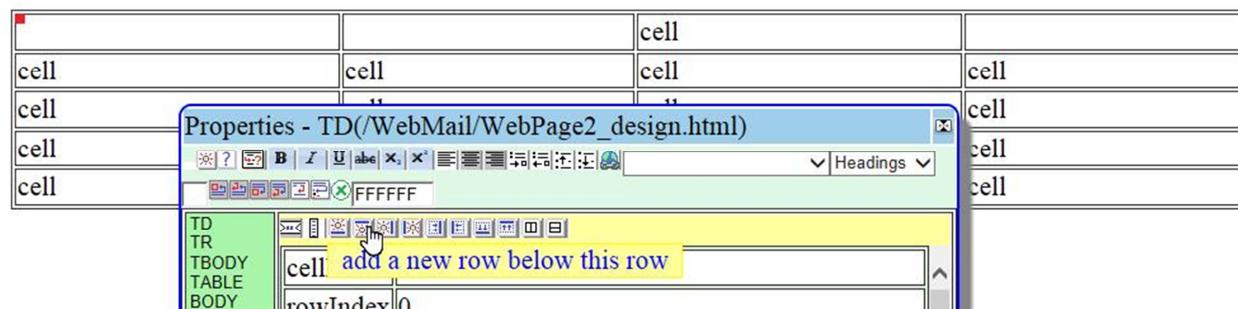
Click a cell or select TD to finish editing column attributes. Click to add a new row:



A new row is added:



Add more rows:



Add elements into cells:

Web Mail Sample

	Recipients:	<input type="text"/>	
	Subject:	<input type="text"/>	
	Email body:	<input type="text"/>	
		<input type="button" value="Send email"/>	
	Status:	Missing recipients	

Remove table border, we get the desired page layout:

Web Mail Sample

Recipients:

Subject:

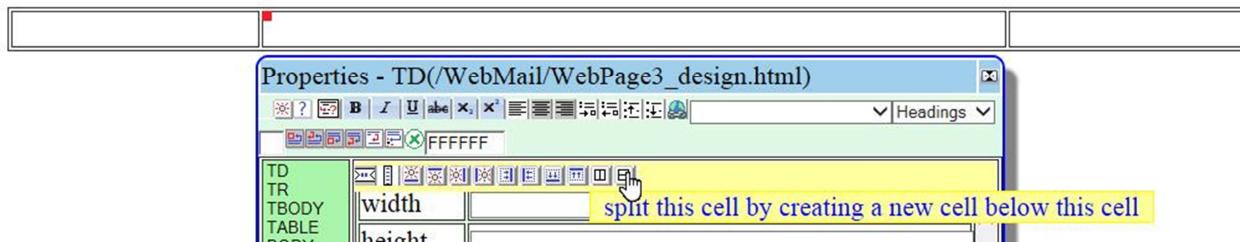
Email body:

Status:

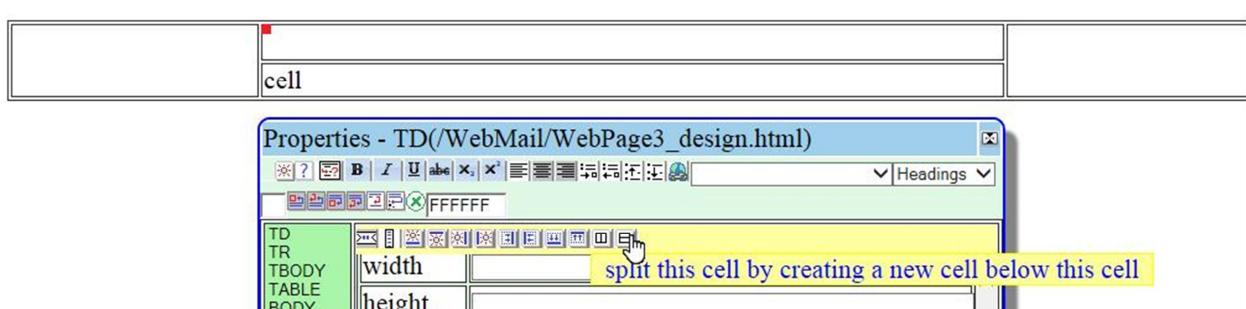
Missing recipients

Layout with splitting cells

Click the second cell. Click to split the cell vertically:



A new cell is created below the selected cell:



Split more:

The screenshot shows a 1x5 table in a visual editor. The first column contains five cells, each labeled "cell". A context menu is open over the second cell, with the "width" option selected. A tooltip indicates that clicking the "width" button will split the cell into two.

Click to add a column to the right:

The screenshot shows a 1x5 table in a visual editor. The first column contains five cells, each labeled "cell". A context menu is open over the second cell, with the "width" option selected. A tooltip indicates that clicking the "width" button will add a new column to the right of the current one.

A new column is added:

The screenshot shows a 1x6 table in a visual editor. The first column contains five cells, each labeled "cell". A context menu is open over the second cell, with the "width" option selected. A tooltip indicates that clicking the "width" button will add a new column to the right of the current one.

Set the second column width to 18%:

Give a styleName:

Set width to 18%:

Add elements into cells:

Web Mail Sample

	Recipients:	<input type="text" value="new input"/>
	Subject	<input type="text" value="new input"/>
	Email body:	
		<input type="button" value="Send email"/>
	Status	Missing recipients

Remove table border. We get desired layout:

Web Mail Sample

Recipients:	<input type="text" value="new input"/>
Subject	<input type="text" value="new input"/>
Email body:	
	<input type="button" value="Send email"/>
Status	Missing recipients

Web Programming

See <http://www.limnor.com/support/WebHtmlEditorProgramming2.pdf>

Data binding

See <http://www.limnor.com/support/WebHtmlEditorProgramming3.pdf>

File Upload

See <http://www.limnor.com/support/WebHtmlEditorProgramming4.pdf>

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