Theory: Tables: Merging cells

⊙ 20 minutes   0 / 5 problems solved

Skip this topic   **Start practicing**

In the previous topic you've practiced creating tables, but they were quite simple and similar. Today you will learn how to merge cells to create tables for a variety of situations where you need to group data.

§1. Two ways to merge cells

You can merge cells in your table both vertically and horizontally. There are two attributes for this:

- `colspan` allows you to merge cells horizontally, the number of cells to be merged is given as a value;
- `rowspan` allows you to merge cells vertically, the number of cells to be merged is given as a value.

The value of either attribute has to be a positive integer. It specifies the number of columns or rows that the cell fills.

Here is a standard HTML table that shows types of soup and their prices from the previous topic.

```
1     <table border="1">
2       <tr>
3         <th>Main dishes</th>
4         <th>Price</th>
5       </tr>
6       <tr>
7         <td>Tomato soup</td>
8         <td>$3.95</td>
9       </tr>
1
0       <tr>
1
1         <td>French onion soup</td>
1
2         <td>$4.49</td>
1
3       </tr>
1
4     </table>
```

The browser will render it as follows:

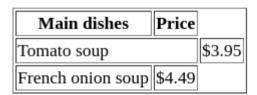| **Main dishes**	**Price**
Tomato soup	$3.95
French onion soup	$4.49

We will use this table to demonstrate both `colspan` and `rowspan` tags.

§2. Merging cells horizontally

Let's try to merge the cells horizontally:

Current topic:

Tables: Merging cells   ...

Topic depends on:

✕ Tables   Stage 3   ...

```
1    <table border="1">
2      <tr>
3        <th>Main dishes</th>
4        <th>Price</th>
5      </tr>
6      <tr>
7        <td colspan="2">Tomato soup</td>
8        <td>$3.95</td>
9      </tr>
1
0      <tr>
1
1        <td>French onion soup</td>
1
2        <td>$4.49</td>
1
3      </tr>
1
4    </table>
```

In the above example, one of the cells is shifted to the right.

Main dishes	Price	
Tomato soup		$3.95
French onion soup	$4.49	

To correct the situation and make the table more pleasant to look at, you may remove an extra cell:

```
1    <table border="1">
2      <tr>
3        <th>Main dishes</th>
4        <th>Price</th>
5      </tr>
6      <tr>
7        <td colspan="2">Tomato soup</td>
8      </tr>
9      <tr>
1
0        <td>French onion soup</td>
1
1        <td>$4.49</td>
1
2      </tr>
1
3    </table>
```

Main dishes	Price
Tomato soup	
French onion soup	$4.49

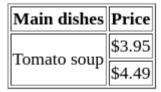## §3. Merging cells vertically

The `rowspan` attribute to merge cells vertically is applied the same way:

```
1    <table border="1">
2      <tr>
3        <th>Main dishes</th>
4        <th>Price</th>
5      </tr>
6      <tr>
7        <td rowspan="2">Tomato soup</td>
8        <td>$3.95</td>
9      </tr>
10     <tr>

11       <td>French onion soup</td>

12       <td>$4.49</td>

13     </tr>

14   </table>
```

Main dishes	Price	
Tomato soup	$3.95	
	French onion soup	$4.49

The cells of the table have shifted, as with `colspan`. Let's remove an extra cell to make the tables better-looking:

```
1    <table border="1">
2      <tr>
3        <th>Main dishes</th>
4        <th>Price</th>
5      </tr>
6      <tr>
7        <td rowspan="2">Tomato soup</td>
8        <td>$3.95</td>
9      </tr>
10     <tr>

11       <td>$4.49</td>

12     </tr>

13   </table>
```

Main dishes	Price
Tomato soup	$3.95
	$4.49

So we have considered how to merge attributes in the tables using `colspan` and `rowspan`. Use them when you need to create non-standard tables with one cell for several columns or rows.

🔖 Report a typo

14 users liked this theory. **1** didn't like it. **What about you?**

😍 🙂 😐 🙁 😡

Start practicing

Comments (0)   Hints (0)   Useful links (0)   Show discussion