Chapter 19: XML

Adobe InDesign CS3 is one of many applications that can produce and use XML. After you tag content in an InDesign file, you save and export the file as XML so that it can be repurposed in another InDesign file or another application. Similarly, you can import an XML file into InDesign and instruct InDesign to display and format the XML data any way you want.

Working with XML

About XML

XML (Extensible Markup Language) is way to repurpose data in a file or automate the process of replacing the data in one file with data from another file. XML employs *tags* to describe parts of a file—a heading or a story, for example. These tags mark data so it can be stored in an XML file and handled appropriately when it is exported to other files. Think of XML as a translation mechanism for data. XML tags label text and other content in a file so that applications can recognize and present the data.

Extensible language

XML is considered an *extensible* language because individuals create their own XML tags—they can create one tag for each type of information that they want to repurpose. XML tags don't carry information about how data is supposed to be displayed or formatted. XML tags are strictly for identifying content.

In InDesign, for example, you can create a `Heading1` tag and assign it to each first-level heading in a document. After you save the document as an XML file, the Heading1 content can be imported and put to use—by any application that can read XML—as a web page, printed catalog, directory, price list, or database table.

InDesign is one of many applications that can produce and use XML. After you tag content in an InDesign file, you save and export the file as XML so that it can be repurposed in another InDesign file or another application. Similarly, you can import an XML file into InDesign and instruct InDesign to display and format the XML data any way you want.

In InDesign, you can create XML tags and tag parts of a document even if you're not experienced with XML. InDesignhandles XML programming behind the scenes and creates the XML for you when you export a document in XML format.
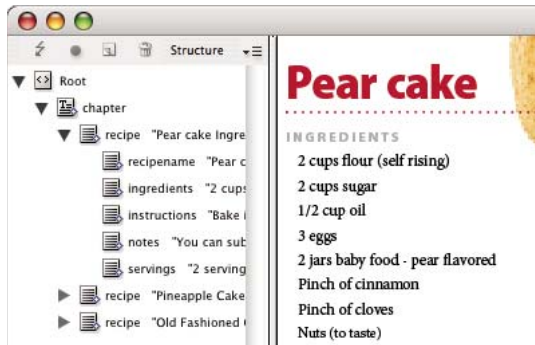
Important: Do not confuse XML tags with InDesign tagged text. For more information about tagged text, which is a different method of exporting and importing InDesigncontent, see the Tagged Text PDF on the installation DVD.

XML data structure

The *element* is the building block of XML data; an element is data that has been tagged. In XML files, elements are nested within other elements to create a hierarchical structure for the data.

You can see the structure of XML data in the Structure pane, which displays the hierarchy and sequence of elements. In the XML structure, child elements are contained by parent elements, which in turn may also be child elements. Or, seen from the other direction, parent elements contain child elements, and these child elements may in turn be parent elements to other child elements.

For example, in the following image, you can see a `chapter` element that contains (is the parent of) several `recipe` elements. Each `recipe` element, in turn, is the parent of elements called `recipename`, `ingredients`, `instructions`, `notes`, and `servings`. All elements are contained inside the `Root` element, which always appears at the top of the Structure pane.

XML in InDesign Structure pane (left) and placed in layout (right)

For more information on using XML in InDesign, visit www.adobe.com/go/learn_id_XMLscript.
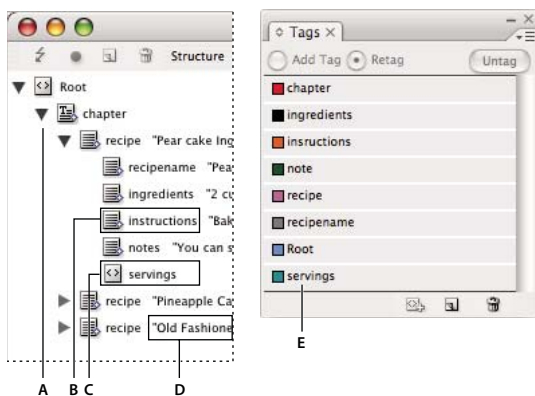
See also

"Structure pane overview" on page 524

"Place (import) text" on page 115

XML tools

InDesign provides the Structure pane and the Tags panel for working with XML content. The Structure pane displays all the elements in the document and their hierarchical structure. To help you identify each element, InDesign displays its element tag and an icon that indicates what type of content it holds. In addition, the Structure pane can display the first few words of text in an element, called a *snippet*.

Structure pane (left) and Tags panel (right)
A. Triangles to expand or collapse elements B. Element (placed in layout) C. Element (not in layout) D. Text snippet E. Element tag

The Structure pane lets you view, edit, and manage XML elements. You use the Structure pane in many ways when working with XML. For example, to place imported XML content into the layout, you can drag elements from the Structure pane directly to a page. You also use the Structure pane to adjust the hierarchy of the elements. You can add elements, attributes, comments, and processing instructions by way of the Structure pane.

The Tags panel lists tags for elements. You can import, export, add, delete, and rename tags. You use the Tags panel to apply element tags to content that you plan to export to XML, and to apply tags to frames before importing XML content into them.

See also
"Structure pane overview" on page 524

About DTD files

To share XML data with others, you need to agree on a standard set of tag names and element attributes so that everyone in your group uses and applies tags the same way. One method for handling the sharing of XML data is to use a document type definition (DTD) file.

A DTD file provides a set of elements and attributes for members of the group to use. It also defines the rules about where elements can appear in the structural hierarchy. For example, the DTD file may require the Title element to be a child of the Story element because the title is supposed to appear inside the story; if you tag a title without tagging the story it appears in, the DTD file marks the Title element as invalid. You can search for and flag invalid structural errors in an InDesign file with a DTD file. This process is called *validating*.

To use a DTD file (if your document doesn't already contain one), you load it into your document. This imports the element names from the DTD into the Tags panel. Others who have loaded the same DTD file have the same element names, which ensures that everyone in the group uses the same elements. The imported elements are locked, which means they can't be deleted or renamed unless the DTD file is deleted from the document.

You may find that a DTD file created by a group or industry similar to yours includes tags and structures that meet your needs. For a current list of registered DTDs, visit www.xml.com/pub/rg/DTD_Repositories (English only).

See also
"Use DTD files to validate XML" on page 530

XML rule sets

XML rule sets are sets of instructions written in a scripting language (such as JavaScript or AppleScript) that evaluate XML data and take certain actions if that data meets certain conditions. Each rule consists of at least one condition and at least one action. A rule evaluates the XML data against the conditions, and if a condition is met, then it takes the appropriate action. For example, an XML rule can specify that whenever the Paragraph element appears under the Subhead element (a condition), a specific style (an action) is applied; or that whenever the Product element (a condition) appears, a new frame is created and a product image is imported (actions). XML rules are a means of dynamically creating and formatting layouts based on XML.

For an in-depth look at using XML rule sets with InDesign, see www.adobe.com/go/learn_id_XMLrules and www.adobe.com/go/learn_id_XMLscript.

Importing XML

XML import and layout methods

After you import XML data, the imported content appears as elements (the basic building blocks of XML) in the Structure pane. InDesign doesn't create new frames or pages when you import XML.

Append or merge?

You can import XML using one of two modes: append or merge. The method you choose depends on your workflow (manual or automated), how you want to handle existing content in your document, and whether you want advanced options for handling the imported data.
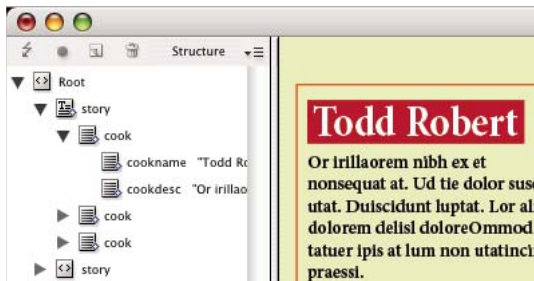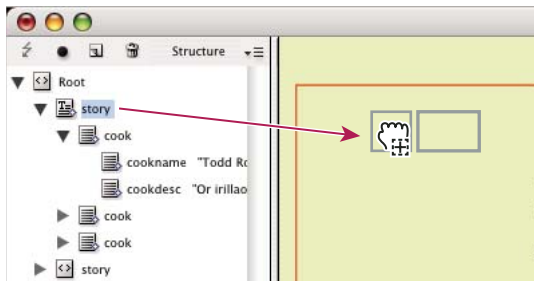
Append mode When you *append* imported content, the existing structure and content of the document are left as is; the new XML content is placed on the bottom of the Structure pane, in the form of elements.

Merge mode When you *merge* imported content, InDesign compares the incoming XML with the structure and names of elements already in your document. If the elements match, imported data replaces existing document content, and is merged into correctly tagged frames (or placeholders) in the layout. (Elements for which InDesign can't find a matching name and hierarchy rank are placed on the Structure pane so that you can place them manually.) Merge mode not only makes automated layout possible, it provides more advanced import options, including the ability to filter incoming text and clone elements for repeating data.
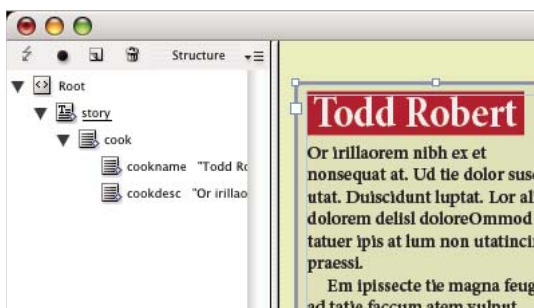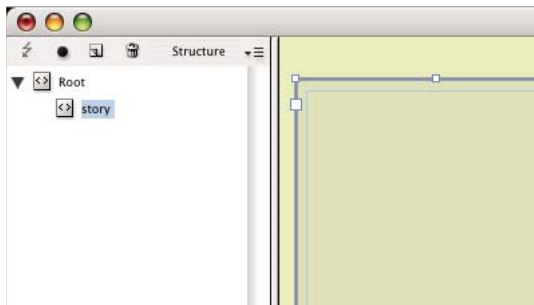
Content layout

After importing XML content, your next step is to place it in your document. You can place content manually, automatically, or by using scripting. The method you choose depends on the content you're importing, your document's layout, and your workflow process.

Place content manually With the manual method, you drag elements from the Structure pane onto the pages of your document or into frames. This method requires little setup or planning. Use this method if the type of content you import varies or if you acquire content from multiple sources.

Manually placing imported XML content

Place content automatically By planning ahead, you can automate the process of placing XML data in your layout. To place XML content automatically, you first prepare the document by creating tagged placeholder frames to hold incoming XML. As long as the XML structure and tag names for incoming content matches the tag names and structure of the placeholder frames, InDesign can place the imported XML automatically in your document. InDesign can also clone elements to handle repeating data such as address lists and catalogue material. Use the automatic layout method as part of a structured workflow process to speed production time and efficiency.

The selected placeholder frame (above) is tagged with the Story element. When XML data is imported (bottom), the Story element placeholder frame is automatically populated with the Story element content.

Note: InDesign recognizes special namespace attributes that can specify paragraph or character styles in XML. For more information, see the XML technical reference guide and other resources at www.adobe.com/go/learn_id_XMLscript.

About merging

You can place XML data in a document using merge mode or append mode. Merging mode allows you to automate the placement of content. You can also filter data in the XML file to place only certain parts of the content.

Merge incoming XML content when:

• The document contains placeholder frames and you want to fill them with imported XML content.

• The document contains XML content and you want to replace it with imported XML content.

• The document doesn't contain any XML structure, and you want InDesign to replace the default root with the root of the incoming XML file.

Merge mode compares incoming XML data to elements already in the document. It moves through the file, element by element, comparing incoming elements to existing elements in the following manner:

1 InDesign begins comparing at the root element

• If the root elements of the imported XML file and In Design document don't match and the Structure pane contains no existing structure, InDesign replaces the root of the XML file with the default root and imports the file.

• If the root elements don't match and the Structure pane already contains elements, InDesign appends the file at the end of the existing structure.

• If the root elements do match, the merge (and matching) process moves forward.

2 InDesign moves to the element under the root

Starting with the element just beneath the root in the incoming XML file, InDesign searches for a matching element in the Structure pane. For a match to occur, the incoming XML element must have the same name as an existing element in the Structure pane, and the two elements must exist at the same level in the hierarchy.

• If InDesign finds a matching element in the Structure pane, it replaces the element in the Structure pane with the element from the incoming XML file.

• If InDesign doesn't find a match, it inserts the incoming element in the Structure pane at the starting point of the search. For example, if the search begins just below the root and a match isn't found, the incoming element is placed just below the root.

3 InDesign continues to compare elements

Element by element, InDesign continues to compare the incoming XML against the existing structure. The starting point for the search in the Structure pane changes as the search progresses, with each search beginning just below the last element inserted or replaced. InDesign always moves down from the current location; it never places elements above the previous element it inserted or replaced.

Import and append XML data

When you import XML content, the new elements appear in the Structure pane. From there, you can drag elements to place them in your document.

1 Open an InDesign document or create a new document to receive the XML content.

2 Open the Structure pane. (Choose View > Structure > Show Structure, or click the splitter button ◀▐ at the bottom of the document window.)

3 Choose File > Import XML (or choose Import XML on the Structure pane menu) and select the XML file you want to import.

4 Select Show XML Import Options.

5 Select Append Content, and then click Open.

6 To link the XML content to the original XML file, select Create Link.

InDesign will list the XML file in the Links panel and display a yellow alert triangle in the panel if the XML file changes.

7 Click OK.

See also

"Link or embed imported text files" on page 119

"Import and merge XML" on page 516

Lay out XML manually

You can manually place XML content in your document layout by dragging elements from the Structure pane to the page or to existing frames. When you place an element, its child elements (and all child elements below those, if any) are placed as well.

In the Structure panel, a structure-specific blue diamond appears on an element's icon if the element has been placed in the document; elements that haven't been placed show an unplaced icon.

Note: If you imported XML using the Merge Content option, some elements may already be laid out. When you merge imported content, InDesign automatically flows elements into existing frames if they are identically structured and tagged.

1 Open the Structure pane (View > Structure > Show Structure) and select the element that you want to lay out.

2 Do either of the following for each element you want to place in your document:

• Drag the element onto the page. InDesign creates a frame for the element.

• Drag the element onto an existing frame. If the frame contains content, it is replaced by content from the XML data.

3 To format the items you lay out, do any of the following:

• Map XML tags to paragraph and character styles.

• Apply styles to elements.

• Format the selected content manually by choosing text options in the Control panel.

Map XML tags to styles

XML tags are merely data descriptions; they carry no formatting instructions. As such, you need to format XML content after you import it and lay it out. One way to do that is to map XML tags to paragraph, character, table, or cell styles. For example, the `Byline` tag could be mapped to the Author character style, so that all imported and placed XML content that is tagged `Byline` is automatically assigned the Author character style. Mapping tags to styles makes formatting imported XML content easier and less time-consuming.

You don't need to map every tag to a paragraph or character style. Some elements may not appear in the layout and others may be easier to format one at a time. Moreover, child elements take on the paragraph or character style that is assigned to their parent, which can cause confusion unless you are careful to map parent and child elements separately.

Important: The Map Tags To Styles command reapplies styles throughout a document, sometimes with unwanted results. When you map a tag to a style, text that was previously assigned to one style may be reassigned to another, depending on its XML tag. If you've already formatted some text, you might prefer to apply styles manually to prevent your paragraph and character style choices from being overridden.

1 Choose Map Tags To Styles from the Tags panel menu or the Structure pane menu.

A menu of styles appears for each tag in the Map Tags To Styles dialog box

2 Do any of the following:

• To import styles, tags, and mapping definitions from another document, click Load, choose a document, and click Open.

• To map tags to styles individually, click the Style column adjacent to a tag, and choose a paragraph or character style from the menu that appears. (The paragraph symbol identifies paragraph styles in the menu; an "A" identifies character styles.) Repeat for each tag you want to map.

• To automatically map tags to styles with the same names, click Map By Name. Styles with names that are identical to tag names are selected in the Style column. To match, a tag and style must not only have the same name, but the same case; H1 and h1, for example, are not considered a match. (If the same style name exists in two different style groups, Map By Name doesn't work and you are alerted to rename one of the styles.)

3 Click OK.

See also

"Define paragraph and character styles" on page 159

"Create and load XML tags" on page 518

About automatic layout

Using InDesign, you can automatically place imported XML content into a layout. To do this, you first create place-holder frames or tables, and tag them with the same tag names as the XML elements you want to place into them. Then, you import XML content into the placeholders in Merge mode. When tags match by name and by structural hierarchy, InDesign merges the XML content, replacing any existing content in the document.

This technique is useful when you want to use the same layout for different sets of content. For example, a weekly newsletter may have the same layout from week to week, but offer different content with each publication.

In order for imported XML to be merged directly into a layout, your document must meet these requirements:

• Frames (or tables) in the document must be tagged with identical tag names as elements in the XML file that you intend to import.

• The structure of the document (as shown in the Structure pane) must parallel the structure of the imported XML file. In other words, the identically named elements must be found in the same locations in the structure hierarchy of both files. To achieve this parallel structure, you may have to rearrange and reorder elements (and their child elements) in the Structure pane or use the Apply XSLT option when you import the XML file.

Note: InDesign flows merged XML content into existing frames only. Any element content that doesn't fit in its frame (or series of threaded frames) becomes overset text.

See also

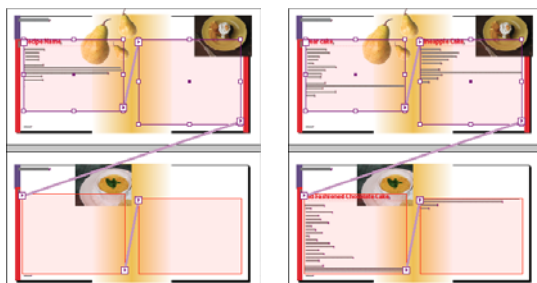"Thread text frames" on page 120

"Tag items" on page 519

"Rearrange structured elements" on page 525

Working with repeating data

XML is *repeating* if the same configuration of elements appears multiple times in a row, but the contains unique data in each instance. For example, database records are repeating. Addresses in a database table contain repeated information—name, street address, city, state, postal code—for a variety of individuals.

When you import repeating XML content, you can tell InDesign to *clone* the repeated elements in the structure. Cloning allows you to merge repeating XML data into a document without having to create placeholder elements in the Structure pane (or placeholder text in a frame) for every single record. For example, to import an XML address list with 25 entries, create a matching element structure for one entry in the Structure pane. When you import the complete list, InDesign clones that structure to create elements for all 25 entries.

Repeating XML content is flowed as a single story when it is merged into the document. If placeholder frames have been threaded together, the content is flowed from one frame to the next. If there isn't enough room in the placeholder frame(s) to accommodate the XML content, you can autoflow the remaining content by creating and threading more frames; you don't have to manually drag elements from the Structure pane into individual frames.
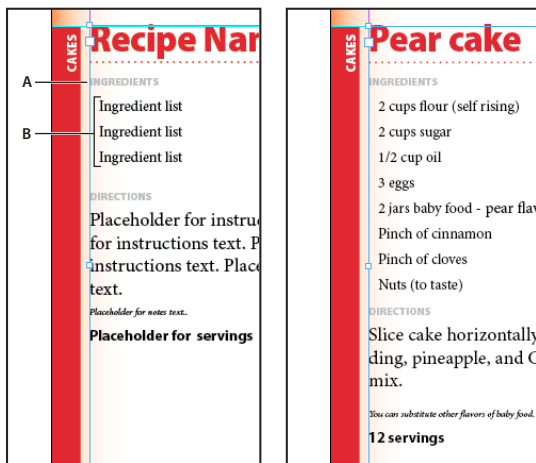

Threaded placeholder in layout (left) and layout after import (right)

Create placeholders for automatic layout

Create placeholder frames or tables in your document when you want InDesign to automatically merge imported XML into your layout.

Note: InDesign flows merged XML content into existing frames only. Any content that doesn't fit in the frames provided becomes overset text.

You can also create placeholder text to ensure XML data is placed and formatted correctly on the page. Placeholder text can also be used to include tabs, spacing, or labels (called *static text*), between the XML elements that will appear in a frame.

Tagged placeholder text (left) and layout after import (right)
A. *Returns and static text added between elements* **B.** *Placeholder text*

For example, if you are importing and placing product information, you can separate the name, description, and price of the product with a tab, and include labels such as "Product:" or "Price:" before the placeholder text entries for those elements. When XML data is merged into the frame, static labels, spacing, and tabs are preserved between the content elements.

Note: If you merge repeating XML data into your document and instruct InDesign to clone repeating elements, the static text and spacing are also cloned for each instance of the data.

See also

"Thread text frames" on page 120

"Create and load XML tags" on page 518

"Rearrange structured elements" on page 525

"Tag items" on page 519

Create a placeholder frame

1 Using the Type tool, create a text frame for the XML content.

If you want imported XML content to flow from one frame to another, create multiple frames and thread them together.
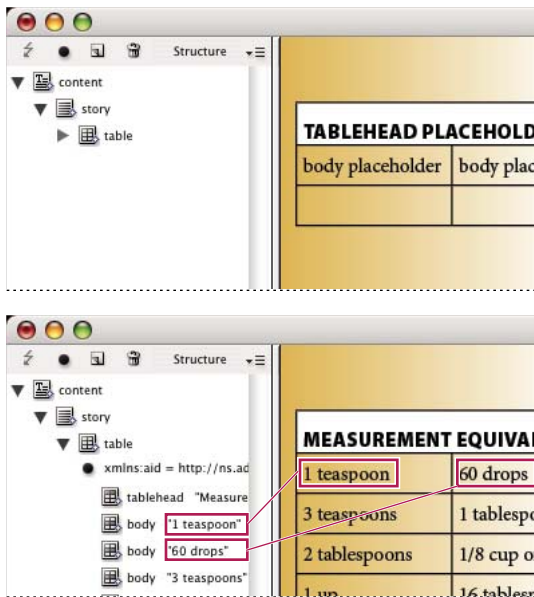
2 Open the Structure pane (View > Structure > Show Structure) and the Tags panel (Window > Tags).

3 If the Tags panel does not contain tags with names identical to the XML elements you plan to import, create the tags or load the tags from the XML file.

4 Tag the placeholder frame with the appropriate tag from the Tags panel. (When you tag a frame, any frames threaded to it are assigned the same tag.)

5 If necessary, arrange or add elements in the Structure pane to match the elements and structure of the XML you will be importing.

Create a placeholder table

You can import XML elements into a placeholder table as well as a placeholder frame. In a table, each cell is represented by an element. InDesign places XML content into the table cell by cell, element by element, starting from the top left corner of the table, matching the element to the tagged cell. When creating placeholder tables, you must tag the table as well as each cell in the table. (Merged cells are considered a single cell.)

Because InDesign doesn't distinguish between rows and columns when importing, the number of columns in the placeholder must match the number of columns in the imported content. Also, all the table cell elements must be contained within a single table element. In other words, the cells are all sibling elements under the same parent.

Placeholder table (above) and flow of XML content into placeholder table (below)

1 Open the Tags panel (Window > Tags) and the Structure pane (View > Structure > Show Structure).

2 If the Tags panel doesn't contain tag names identical to the names of the XML table elements you plan to import, either load tags from an existing document or create the tags.
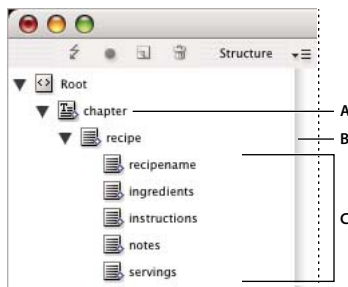
Note: At a minimum you must have tags for the parent element of the table cells, the table cells, and the element in which the table will reside.

3 Create a table containing the appropriate number of columns for the XML content. You don't need to create the exact number of rows, as InDesign will add rows to the table if needed.

4 With an insertion point in the table, choose Table > Select > Table, and select the appropriate tag in the Tags panel.

5 Tag each cell of the table with the desired tag. Depending on the structure of your XML content, you can either select and tag the cells individually, or you can select an entire row or column—for example, if you want to tag the first, or heading row—and tag all the selected cells using the same tag.

6 As necessary, rearrange and add elements in the Structure pane so that your document has the same elements and structure as the XML file you will import.

Create placeholder structure for repeating data

The same rules for merging XML also apply when merging repeating XML: The structure of the elements in the Structure pane must parallel the structure of the imported XML data, and any placeholder frames must be tagged with the same tag names as the parent elements in the XML file.

Structure pane showing structure of placeholder text
A. *Element that will contain all repeated elements* ***B.*** *Element that will be cloned as repeating XML content is imported* ***C.*** *Child elements for data contained in the repeating element*

1 First, you will need a parent or root element that describes the collection of information, or records, you will import.

For example, a `Chapter` element that will contain a series of recipes.

2 Under that parent, create one element that describes the information (or record) that will repeat.

For example, under the `Chapter` element, you might create a `Recipe` element. This is the element that will be cloned for each record in the imported XML.

3 Under this element, create child elements to describe the units of information (or fields) that make up the record.

For example, under the `Recipe` element, you might create `Recipename`, `Ingredients`, `Instructions`, `Notes`, and `Serving` elements.

💡 *To include labels, returns, or tabs between "field" elements in the repeating XML data, create placeholder elements in the frame the imported content will be merged into. And add spacing or labels as needed between the placeholders.*

Create placeholder text

1 Open an existing document, or create a new document for the XML.

2 Open the Tags panel (Window > Tags) and the Structure pane (View > Structure > Show Structure).

3 Make sure the Tags panel contains tag names that are identical to the names of elements you will import with the XML file, and create new tags or load the necessary tags if necessary.

💡 *Importing a sample of the XML content is the easiest way to obtain all the necessary tags and to ensure that the document structure matches the XML file.*

4 Create placeholder frames (and thread them together) as needed for your XML content.

5 Using the Text tool, click in the first frame to create an insertion point, and type placeholder text for each element you want to merge into that frame. Include any spacing you want between elements, as well as any static text.

Note: If you will be importing repeating data, you only need to create one instance of sample text for the elements that will repeat.

6 Format the text as you want it to appear in the final document.

7 Tag the text frame with the tag for the parent element that will contain the elements (or repeating data) you want to import into that frame.

8 Position the insertion point in the placeholder text and choose Edit > Edit In Story Editor.

9 Choose View > Structure > Show Tag Markers.

10 Choose Edit > Select All.

11 In the Tags panel, select Add Tag, and then click the tag you assigned to the frame.

InDesign wraps the placeholder text with the tag, and adds the element to the Structure pane.

12 Select the text representing the first child element and click its tag in the Tags panel. Repeat until you have tagged all the child placeholder text.

Important: When tagging placeholder text, do not select any spacing or static text you want to keep between elements. Tag only the text you want replaced with XML content.

13 In the Structure pane, review the hierarchy created by your tagging to ensure it matches the structure of the XML content you will import.

Import and merge XML

After you have created and tagged placeholder frames, tables, and text—and made sure that your document and the incoming XML file have the same tags and structure—you can import XML content into your layout.

You must use the Merge Content option to import XML into placeholders (or to replace existing content in your document). When merging content, InDesign replaces identically tagged and structured elements in your document with the imported XML elements. You can use additional import options to exclude imported (that is, filter) content that doesn't match the document structure, to delete document items that aren't matched or replaced by the imported XML, and to clone repeating XML elements.

If the imported XML file contains elements that are not found in the document, InDesign places these elements in the Structure pane without laying them out in your document.

To successfully merge XML into placeholders, keep these rules in mind:

• Tag placeholders with the identical tag name as the XML element that will replace it (or be flowed into it).

• In placeholder text, make sure any spacing, returns, tabs or static text is outside the placeholder element tags, but within the parent element for the story.

• When you import the XML, select Do Not Import Contents Of Whitespace-Only Elements. (This preserves spacing and static text if the XML elements you import consist of white spaces only.)

Merge XML into existing content or placeholders

1 Open the InDesign document that contains placeholders for the XML content.

2 Open the Structure pane (View > Structure > Show Structure).

3 Choose File > Import XML (or choose Import XML on the Structure pane menu) and then select the XML file you want to import.

4 Select Show XML Import Options.

5 Select Merge Content, and then click OK.

6 To link the XML content to the original XML file, select Create Link.

InDesign will list the XML file in the Links panel and display a yellow alert triangle in the panel if the XML source file changes.

7 Select additional import options as needed:

Clone Repeating Text Elements If you are importing repeating XML, clones a single placeholder element to create a container for each record in the file.

Only Import Elements That Match Existing Structure Filters the incoming XML, so that elements that do not exist in the Structure pane are not imported.

Do Not Import Contents Of Whitespace-Only Elements Preserves any spacing or static text inserted between elements in a placeholder frame.

Delete Elements, Frames, And Content That Do Not Match Imported XML After XML has been imported, deletes any elements or placeholders in your document that were not matched (or replaced) by incoming data.

8 Click OK.

InDesign merges content into the document starting with the first matching element in the XML file.

XML Import options
When importing and placing XML data using the Merge Content option, the XML Import Options dialog box offers the following options:

Create Link Links to the XML file so that if the XML file is updated, you can update its XML data in your InDesign document.

Apply XSLT Applies a stylesheet to define the transformation of the imported XML. Select Browse (Windows) or Choose (Mac OS) to select an XSLT file (.xsl or .xslt) from the file system. Use Stylesheet From XML, the default option, causes InDesign to use an XSLT processing instruction, if one is present in the XML file, to transform the XML data.

Clone Repeating Text Elements Replicates the formatting applied to tagged placeholder text for repeating content. Create one formatting instance (for example, an address), and then reuse its layout to create other instances automatically. (See "Working with repeating data" on page 512.)

Only Import Elements That Match Existing Structure Filters the imported XML content so that only elements from the imported XML file with matching elements in the document are imported.

Import Text Elements Into Tables If Tags Match Imports elements into a table if the tags match the tags applied to the placeholder table and its cells. For example, use this option to place database records into a table when generating price lists or inventory sheets.

Do Not Import Contents Of Whitespace-only Elements Leaves any existing content in place if the matching XML content contains only whitespace (such as a return or tab character). Use this option if you've included text between elements in your placeholder frames and you want to preserve this text. For example, when laying out recipes generated from a database, you might add labels such as "Ingredients" or "Instructions." As long as the parent element that wraps each recipe contains only whitespace, InDesign leaves the label in place.

Delete Elements, Frames, and Content That Do Not Match Imported XML Removes elements from the Structure pane and the layout of the document if they don't match any elements in the imported XML file. Use this option to filter data from the document. For example, when importing names and addresses, you might have placeholder text for an element containing the company name. If one of the names doesn't include the company element, InDesign deletes the element containing the placeholder text.
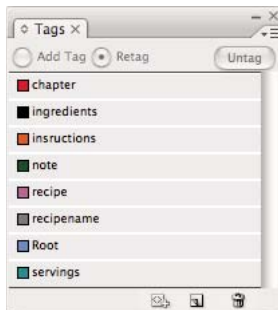
Import CALS Tables As InDesign Tables Imports any CALS tables in the XML file as InDesign tables.

Tagging content for XML

Create and load XML tags

Before you tag page items, create (or load) tags to identify each content type or item in your document. You can create tags from scratch or load them from another source, such as an InDesign document, InCopy document, or DTD file. Use any of the following methods to create or load XML tags for your document:

• Create a tag with the New Tag command.

• Load tags from an XML file or another document.

• Import a DTD file.

• Import tags (and content) using the Import XML command.

The Tags panel with a list of available tags

See also

"About XML" on page 504

"About DTD files" on page 506

Create an XML tag

1 Choose Window > Tags to open the Tags panel.

2 Do one of the following:

• Choose New Tag from the Tags panel menu.

• Click the New Tag button ◲ on the Tags panel.

3 Type a name for the tag. The name must conform to XML standards. If you include a space or an illegal character in the tag name, an alert message appears.

4 Select a color for the tag if you created your tag from the Tags panel menu. (If you created your tag with the New Tag button, you can choose a color by changing the color of the tag.)

Note: You can assign the same color to different tags. The color you select appears when you apply the tag to a frame and choose View > Structure > Show Tagged Frames, or when you apply the tag to text within a frame and choose View > Structure > Show Tag Markers. (Tag colors do not appear in exported XML files.)

5 Click OK.

Load XML tags from another source

You can load tags from an XML file, an InDesign document, or an InCopy document.

Note: InDesignatically adds tags to the Tags panel when you load an XML file.

1 Choose Load Tags from the Tags panel menu.

2 Select the file containing the tags you want to load into the Tags panel, and then click Open.

Change tag name or color

1 Double-click a tag name in the Tags panel or choose Tag Options in the Tags panel menu.

2 Change the name or the color of the tag, and click OK.

Note: You cannot change the name of locked tags. InDesign automatically locks tags specified in a loaded DTD file. To change the name of these tags, you must edit the DTD file and reload it into the document.

Tag items

Before you export content to an XML file, you must tag the text and other items (such as frames and tables) that you want to export. You also need to tag items that you have created as placeholders for imported XML content. Items that have been tagged appear as elements in the Structure pane.

Create (or load) tags to identify each content element that you want to export or import. Then tag text or page items using one of these techniques:

Manual tagging Select a frame or text and then click a tag in the Tags panel, or simply drag a tag from the Tags panel to a text or graphics frame.

Automatic tagging Select a text frame, table, table cells, or image, and then click the Autotag icon in the Tags panel. Items are tagged according to your tagging preset options.

Map tags to styles Associate tags with paragraph, character, table, or cell styles, and then apply tags automatically to text, a table, table cells, and paragraphs that were assigned those styles.

When tagging page items, note the following:

• You can apply tags to stories as well as to text within stories. For example, you might want to apply an `Article` tag to a story, and then apply more specific tags, such as `Title` and `Body`, to paragraphs within the story.

• You can apply only one tag to a story. When you tag a frame in a threaded story, all other frames in the story, along with any overset text, are assigned the same tag.

• You can apply only one tag to a graphics frame. When you tag a graphics frame, InDesign records a reference to the graphic's location (on disk).

• You cannot tag a group of objects. To tag an item that's part of a group, use the Direct Selection tool ⬉ to select the item.

• When you tag text within a tagged element (such as a paragraph within a story), it appears as a child of the existing element in the Structure pane.

• You can tag text or images on a master page, but only one instance of the corresponding element appears in the Structure pane regardless of how many times the item appears on document pages. However, if you manually override a master item and then tag it on a document page, the item will appear as a separate element in the Structure pane.

• You can't tag a footnote.

Note: Avoid tagging special characters, such as the Automatic Page Number character. When exporting, InDesign strips out some special characters to comply with XML standards. InDesign warns you when characters cannot be encoded in XML.

See also

"Edit href attributes" on page 528

"Map XML tags to styles" on page 510

Tag frames manually

You can tag frames by using any of these methods.

• Drag a tag from the Tags panel onto a frame.

• Using a selection tool, select a frame, and then click a tag in the Tags panel.

If a frame is part of a group or nested within another frame, use the Direct Selection tool to select the frame.

• Open a frame's context menu, choose Tag Frame, and then choose a tag.

• Using a selection tool, select an untagged text or graphics frame, drag the frame to the Structure pane, release the mouse, and then select a tag name from the menu that appears.

Tag text within a text frame manually

When you tag text within a frame, the new element appears in the Structure pane as a child of the frame element in which the text is located.

1 Make sure that the story in which the text appears is tagged. (If a story isn't tagged and you tag text within the story, InDesign automatically tags the story using the tag specified in the Tagging Preset Options dialog box.)

2 Using the Type tool, select text within the text frame.

3 Click a tag in the Tags panel.

Note: You can't tag footnotes.

Tag text frames, tables, table cells, and images automatically

By clicking the Autotag icon in the Tags panel, you can tag a text frame, table, table cells, or an image automatically. To tag the item, InDesign applies a default tag that you specify in the Tagging Preset Options dialog box.

1 Select the text frame, table, table cells, or image that you want to tag.

2 In the Tags panel, click the Autotag icon.

InDesign adds the default tag's name to the Tags panel after you click the Autotag icon.

Tag content according to paragraph or character style

Paragraph styles and character styles you assign to text can be used as a means of tagging paragraphs and text for XML. For example, a paragraph style called Caption can be associated with a tag called FigureName. Then, using the Map Styles To Tags command, you can apply the FigureName tag to all text in your document assigned the Caption paragraph style. You can map more than one style to the same tag.

Important: The Map Styles To Tags command tags content automatically, including paragraphs and characters that are tagged already. For example, if a paragraph assigned the Context style has been tagged with the Body tag, but you then associate the Context style with the Expository tag, the paragraph is retagged; it is stripped of the Body tag and given the Expository tag instead. If you want to retain existing tags, apply tags manually (or use the Map Styles To Tags command very carefully).

1 Choose Map Styles To Tags from the Tags panel menu.

2 For each style in your document, specify the tag that you want it to be mapped to.

Map Styles To Tags dialog box

3 To match style names to tag names, click Map By Name. Styles that are named identically to tag names are selected in the dialog box. Map By Name is case-sensitive; Head1 and head1, for example, are treated as different tags.

4 To use style mappings set up in another InDesign file, click Load and select the file.

5 Select or deselect Include options:

Master Page Items Maps styles found on master page text frames to tags.

Pasteboard Items Maps styles found on text frames on the pasteboard to tags. (Deselect this option to avoid tagging content on the pasteboard.)

Empty Frames Maps styles located on empty text frames to tags. (Deselect this option to avoid tagging empty frames.)

6 Click OK.

The new XML tags are applied throughout your document to paragraph and character styles that you specified in the Map Styles To Tags dialog box.

Note: You cannot tag images with the Map Styles To Tags command. You need to manually tag images if you want to include them in an XML file.

Tag text in tables

When you tag a table for XML, you create a table element as well as one cell element for each cell in the table. The cell elements are child elements of the table element, and are created automatically.

1 Click in the table and choose Table > Select > Table.

2 Select a tag for the table in the Tags panel.

InDesign creates a cell element for each cell in the table (you can display them in the Structure pane). The tag applied to table cell elements depends on your Autotag default settings.

3 If needed, tag table cells with a different tag.

For example, you can tag the first-row cells with a different tag to identify them as heading cells. To apply tags to cells, select the actual table cells in your document, and then select a tag. (Selecting cells in the table also selects the corresponding cell elements in the Structure pane.)

💡 *You can also tag a table by selecting it and then clicking the Autotag icon in the Tags panel. The* `Table` *tag (or another tag of your choice) is applied immediately to the table, according to your Autotag default settings.*

Specify Autotag defaults

When you select a text frame, table, table cells, or an image, and then click the Autotag icon in the Tags panel, InDesign applies a default tag to the item you selected. You can specify these default tags in the Tagging Preset Options dialog box.

Note: InDesign applies a default tag when you create an element that requires a parent element, but doesn't yet have one. For example, if you tag text within a text frame but the frame itself isn't tagged, InDesign assigns the frame a tag according to the Tagging Preset Options. The capability to apply default tags helps InDesign maintain correct XML structure.
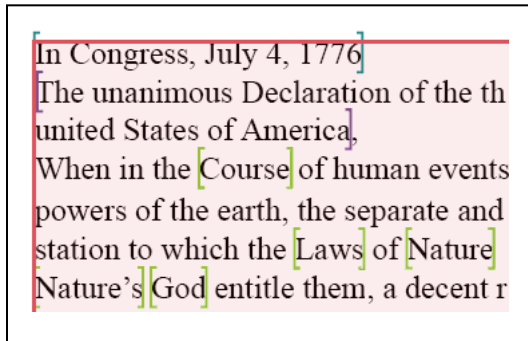
1 Choose Tagging Preset Options from the Tags panel menu.

2 Choose a default tag for text frames, tables, table cells, and images.

💡 *If the tag you need isn't listed, you can choose New Tag from the menu and create a tag.*

Show or hide tag markers and tagged frames

Tag markers are brackets that appear on the page around text that has been tagged. Show tag markers to see where titles, headings, and other text has been tagged on a page. *Tagged frame*s indicate where items such as text frames, tables, and images have been tagged. The color assigned to a tag in the Tags panel determines the color of tag markers and tagged frames. Tag markers and tagged frames only appear in Normal view.

A tagged frame and, within it, tag markers.

❖ Do any of the following:

• To display color-coded tagged frames, choose View > Structure > Show Tagged Frames.

• To hide the color-coding of tagged frames, choose View > Structure > Hide Tagged Frames.

• To display color brackets around tagged text, choose View > Structure > Show Tag Markers.

• To hide color brackets around tagged text, choose View > Structure > Hide Tag Markers.

💡 *To minimize the risk of accidentally deleting a tag marker, edit tagged text in Story Editor, where tag markers are more visible.*

See also

"Use the Story Editor" on page 128

"About markers" on page 291

Untag or retag items

Untag an item to remove its tag but retain the associated content. Retag an item to replace the existing tag (you don't need to untag it first).

Untag an item

1 Select the element in the Structure pane, or select the page item or tagged text in the document layout.

2 Click Untag in the Tags panel.

Retag items

Use one of these techniques to retag an item:

• Using a selection tool, select a text frame, a graphics frame, or an element in the Structure pane, and then click a different tag in the Tags panel.

• To retag a story, use the Type tool to place a insertion point anywhere in the story's text. Select Retag in the Tags panel, and then click a different tag.

• To retag a text block, use the Type tool to select the entire block of text. Select Retag in the Tags panel, and then click a different tag. (If you select Add Tag and then click a different tag, a new child element appears in the Structure pane.)

Delete tags

- To delete a tag from the Tags panel, drag it to the Delete icon 🗑 at the bottom of the panel. If the tag has been applied to content, an alert message appears. Select another tag to replace the deleted tag and click OK.

- To delete all unused tags, choose Select All Unused Tags from the Tags panel menu, and then click the Delete icon at the bottom of the panel.

Note: Tags that were loaded with a DTD file cannot be deleted until the DTD file is deleted.

Structuring documents for XML

Structure pane overview

The Structure pane displays, in hierarchical form, items in a document that have been marked with XML tags. These items are called *elements*. You can move elements in the Structure pane to define the order and hierarchy of items. An element consists of an icon indicating the element type and a tag name.

Structure pane
A. Triangles to expand or collapse elements B. Element C. Text snippet D. Attribute

Additionally, elements may provide this information:

Blue diamond   A blue diamond on an element icon means that the element is attached to an item on the page; the absence of a blue diamond means that the element has not been attached to a page item.

Underline   The tag name is underlined if the item on the page to which the element corresponds is selected. For example, if you select text to which you assigned the `Title` tag, the word *Title* in the text's element is underlined in the Structure pane. Underlining shows you whether selected items on the page and elements in the Structure pane correspond.

Text snippet   The first 32 characters of tagged text, called a *text snippet,* can appear to the right of the element. These snippets help you identify the page item to which an element corresponds.

Dot and attribute   Attributes provide metadata information about an element. If attributes are attached to an element, a black dot along with attribute names and values appear below the element.

Use the Structure pane

- To open the Structure pane, choose View > Structure > Show Structure, or click the splitter button ◂▮▸ (at the bottom of the document window).

- To close the Structure pane, choose View > Structure > Hide Structure, or click the splitter button.

- To expand or collapse an element (and display or hide any of its child elements), click the triangle next to the element.

- To adjust the size of the Structure pane, drag the splitter button.

- To expand or contract an element as well as all elements contained within it, hold down Ctrl (Windows) or Command (Mac OS) while clicking the triangle next to the element.

- To show or hide text snippets, choose Show Text Snippets or Hide Text Snippets from the Structure pane menu.

Structure pane icons

The following icons appear in the Structure pane:

Icon	Name	Use
	Root element	Each document includes one root element at the top, which can be renamed but cannot be moved or deleted.
	Story element	Represents tagged stories (one or more linked frames).
	Text element	Represents tagged text within a frame.
	Graphic element	Represents a tagged frame that includes a placed image. Each graphic element includes an href attribute that defines the path or URL to the linked file.
	Unplaced text element	Unplaced text element not yet associated with a page item.
	Unplaced graphic element	Unplaced graphic element not yet associated with a page item.
	Table element	Represents a table.
	Header cell element	Represents a cell in the header row of a table.
	Body cell element	Represents a cell within the body of a table.
	Footer cell element	Represents a cell in the footer row of a table.
	Empty element	An empty frame is associated with this element.
	Attribute	Includes metadata, such as keywords or location of a linked image (HREF attribute).
	Comment	Includes comments that appear in the XML file, but not the InDesign document.
	Processing instruction	Includes an instruction that triggers an action in applications that can read processing instructions.
	DOCTYPE element	Tells InDesign which DTD file to use when validating the XML file.

Rearrange structured elements

You can change the order and hierarchical rank of elements in the Structure pane. However, observe these rules:

- An XML document is required to have a single root element at the top of the structure. The root element contains and is the parent to all other elements. Only the DTD (appearing as a DOCTYPE element), comments, and processing instructions may appear above the root element in the Structure pane.

- Changes to the XML hierarchy structure may affect the appearance of tagged items on InDesign pages. For example, making a text element the child of an element elsewhere in the structure also moves the text in the layout.

- You cannot drag a table cell element into a table element or move elements into a table element.

❖ In the Structure pane, do one of the following:

- To move an element, drag it to a new location within the structure. A line appears when you drag to indicate where you are inserting the element. The width of the line marks the level within the hierarchy.

- To make an element a child of another element, either position it over the parent element to highlight it or place it amongst the parent's other child elements, and then release the mouse button.

- To demote an element by one level in the hierarchy, drag it just above another parent element and move it to the left slightly until the line indicating its placement spans the width of the parent element.

- To copy or cut an element, select the element or elements in the Structure pane, and then choose Edit > Copy or Edit > Cut. Select the element directly above where you want to insert the element, and choose Edit > Paste.
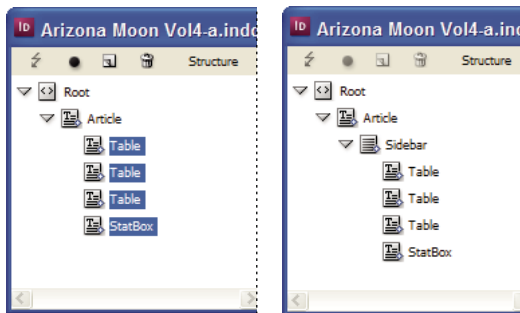
Note: When you cut an element, the element and contents are cut to the clipboard, but the frame remains intact.

See also

Insert a parent element

Insert a parent element in the Structure pane to maintain the proper XML structure or organize content better. Before you can insert a new parent element, you must select the elements that will be the children of the new parent. When the new parent element is inserted, the selected child elements are demoted by one rank in the structural hierarchy.

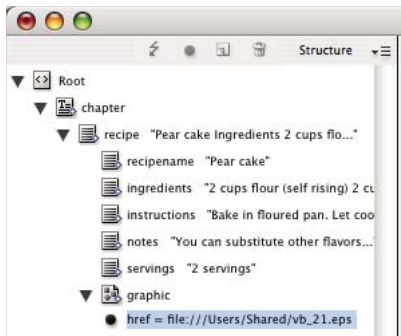*With child elements selected (left); a newly inserted parent element includes the child elements (right).*

1 In the Structure pane, select the elements that will be child elements to the new parent element you want to insert. Note the following:

- You can't select the Root or a root-level element.

- The elements must be on the same level of the structural hierarchy.

- The elements must be contiguous.

- The selection must not include table cells or attributes.

2 On the Structure pane menu, choose New Parent Element, or Control-click (Windows) or Command-click (Mac OS) and choose New Parent Element.

3 Select a tag for the new parent element and click OK.

💡 *Insert a new parent element quickly by selecting Add Tag in the Tags panel and then clicking a tag in the panel. You can also right-click (Windows) or Command-click (Mac OS) an element you selected in the Structure pane, choose New Parent Element, and then choose an element.*

Work with attributes

An *attribute* provides additional information about an XML element. Each attribute consists of a name and a value. Attributes appear in the Structure pane; they are not placed in the document or used as content in the document. Include attributes with elements for the benefit of files and applications that will use the XML files you create in InDesign.

When you tag an image, InDesign automatically creates an *href* attribute with a value that defines the on-disk location of the image file. This *href* attribute allows other files and applications to locate the image on disk so it can be displayed.

An attribute includes a name (href, in this case) and a value.

You can add attributes to any element except the DOCTYPE element (a DTD file), comments, and processing instructions. For example, to include keywords for searching in a downstream application, you can create an attribute called *keywords*. You could also create attributes to indicate substituted text, track article titles, and record other content-related information.

💡 *If you are using a DTD file, view its contents to see which attributes it allows. Attribute names, like tag names, must conform to the DTD.*

Note: *InDesign recognizes special namespace attributes that can specify paragraph or character styles, tables and table cell styles, as well as control whitespace. For more information, see the XML technical reference and other resources at* www.adobe.com/go/learn_id_XMLscript.

Add an attribute

1 Select an element.

2 Do one of the following:

• Click the Add An Attribute button ■ .

• Choose New Attribute on the Structure pane menu.

• Right-click (Windows) or Command-click (Mac OS) the selected element and choose New Attribute.

3 Specify a name and a value for the attribute, and then click OK.

Show or hide attributes in the Structure pane

❖ Choose Show Attributes or Hide Attributes from the Structure pane menu.

You may need to click the triangle icon next to an element to display its attributes.

Edit or delete an attribute

1 Select an attribute in the Structure pane.

2 Do one of the following:

• To edit the attribute, double-click it or choose Edit from the Structure pane menu.

• To delete the attribute, click the Delete icon or choose Delete from the Structure pane menu.

Edit href attributes

InDesign creates `href` attributes automatically to handle image files. The `href` attribute defines the on-disk location of the image file so that the image file can be displayed. When you tag a placed image, InDesign creates an `href` attribute value that lists the image's path and filename.

The path can be an absolute link, a relative link to the same folder as the XML file, or a relative link to the Images subfolder of the folder where the XML file is located. Relative paths are specific to the path where the document is saved.

• An `href` attribute with an absolute link looks like the following (in Windows and the Mac OS):

`href=file:///C:/Images/Meadow.psd`

`href=file:///Users/abhayc//Desktop/abc.jpg`

• An *href* attribute to an image file in the same folder as the XML file looks like the following:

`href=file:Meadow.psd`

• An *href* attribute to an image file in the Images subfolder looks like the following:

`href=file:///Images/Meadow.psd`

You can edit the `href` attribute to specify a new link to an image. For example, you can edit an absolute link to make it a relative link, thereby making the image file accessible when you export the file.

1 In the Structure pane, double-click the *href* attribute. (You may need to click the triangle icon next to the image element to display the attribute.)

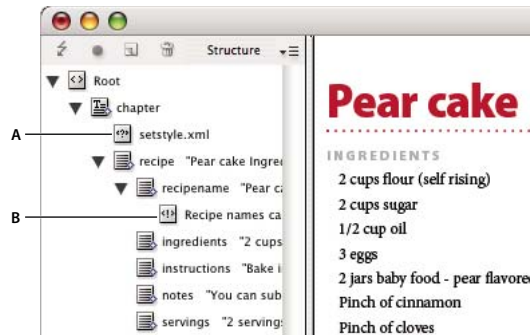**2** For Value, enter the new path to the image, and then click OK.

See also

Add comments and processing instructions

Using InDesign, you can include comments and processing instructions in an XML file. Enter a comment to include descriptive information about an element. Comments can be viewed in web browsers and text editors. They help others understand XML structure and XML tags. A processing instruction is a special, application-specific command. For example, you can enter a page-break processing instruction so that an application to which you export your XML file understands where to enter a page break. InDesign user-created processing instructions are meant for use in other programs; InDesign itself does not act on processing instructions.

Comments and processing instructions appear in the Structure pane. You can move, edit, and delete comments and processing instructions as you can other elements in the Structure pane. They cannot, however, contain child elements or attributes.

InDesign Structure pane with text snippets showing
A. Processing instruction B. Comment

See also

"Rearrange structured elements" on page 525

Add a comment

1 Select the element about which you will comment.

Note: To add a comment to a table, select a table cell element. You can add comments to table cells, not tables.

2 Choose New Comment in the Structure pane menu.

3 Type the comment in the New Comment dialog box.

Add a processing instruction

1 Select an element for the processing instruction.

Note: To add a processing instruction to a table, select a table cell element. You can add processing instructions to table cells, not tables.

2 Choose New Processing Instruction in the Structure pane menu.

3 For Target, enter a name that identifies the processing instruction to an application that reads exported XML files.

4 For Data, enter a value that tells the application what to do with the processing instruction.

View comments and processing instructions

❖ Choose Show Comments or Show Processing Instructions in the Structure pane menu.

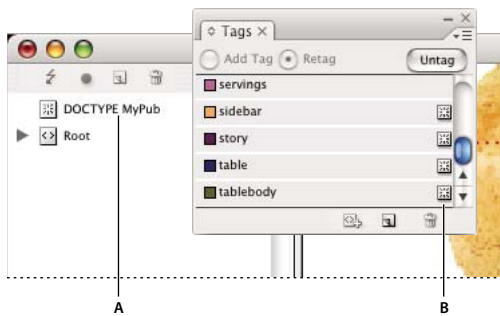### Edit comments and processing instructions

1 Select the comment or processing instruction.

2 Do any of the following:

• Double-click the comment or processing instruction.

• Choose Edit on the Structure pane menu.

3 Edit the comment or processing instruction and click OK.

Use DTD files to validate XML

Validating the XML in a document means to compare the structure, element tag names, and attributes against the specifications of a DTD file. To validate against a DTD file, you must first load it into your document.

Note: Loading a DTD file imports tag names into the Tags panel. These imported tag names are locked; they can't be deleted or renamed except by deleting the DTD file from the document.

The DOCTYPE element appears at the top of the Structure pane if a DTD file has been loaded into your document. (DTDs are sometimes loaded automatically when you import an XML file.) To replace the DTD file in a document, delete the existing DTD and then load a new one.

Working with DTD files in InDesign
A. DOCTYPE element from the DTD file (Structure pane) B. Locked tag from an the DTD file (Tags panel)

See also

"About DTD files" on page 506

Load a DTD file

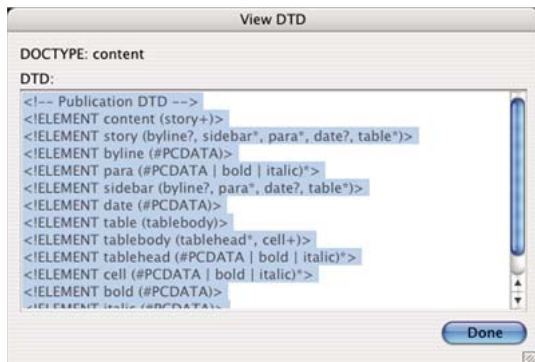When you load a DTD file, InDesign embeds the file in the document.

1 Do one of the following:

• In the Structure pane, choose Load DTD from the Structure menu.

• In the Tags panel, choose Load DTD from the menu.

2 Select a DTD file to import, and click Open.

To view tags defined in the DTD file, open the Tags panel by choosing Window > Tags.

View a DTD file in InDesign

DTDs are written in ASCII text. They may contain embedded instructions and explanations that describe how to apply tags and order elements correctly. In InDesign, you can only view a DTD that is loaded in a document.

DTD file opened for viewing in InDesign

❖ Do one of the following:.

• In the Structure pane menu, choose View DTD.

• Double-click the DOCTYPE element in the Structure pane.

💡 *To print a DTD file, copy code from the View DTD window and paste it in a text editor.*
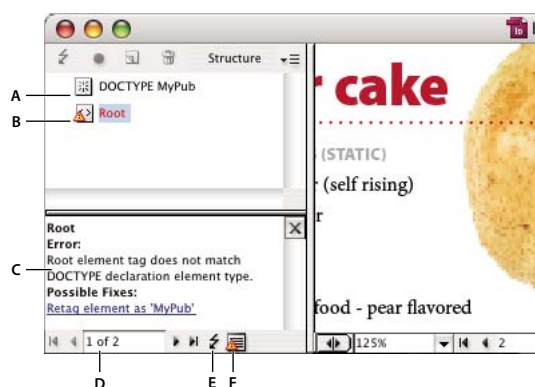
Delete a DTD file

❖ Choose Delete DTD from the Structure pane menu.

InDesign deletes the copy of the DTD file stored in the InDesign document, not the original DTD file. Tags that were imported with the DTD file remain in the Tags panel but are unlocked.

Validate XML structure

When you validate your document, InDesign alerts you if the XML deviates from rules established by the DTD file. It suggests ways to make the XML meet DTD file requirements. You can fix errors one at a time or view all errors in a separate window.

Structure pane with Suggestions pane
A. Loaded DTD B. Error or invalidating condition C. Description of error with suggested fix D. Error count E. Validate button F. View all errors in a separate window

1 Choose View > Structure > Show Structure.

2 In the Structure pane, click the Validate button ⚡ .

💡 *To change the root element from which InDesign validates, choose DTD Options in the Structure pane menu.*

3 To fix errors displayed in the Suggestion pane, either click a suggested fix to try it, or edit the XML structure and tags directly using the Structure pane and the Tags panel.

4 To view other errors, do one of the following:

• Click the left arrow ◀ or right arrow ▶.

• Click the error window button ▦ to view all errors in a separate window.

• Choose View List Of Errors on the Structure pane menu.

Note: InDesign stops validating after detecting 250 errors. A plus sign in the Error Count box appears when this limit is reached.

Exporting XML

Export document content to XML

Before you export content from an InDesign document to XML, you must have done the following:

• Created or loaded element tags.

• Applied tags to items on the pages of your document.

• Adjusted the hierarchy of tagged elements in the Structure pane, if needed.

You can export all or a portion of the XML content in your document. Only content that is tagged can be exported.

Important: If you are exporting a document that contains tables, you must tag the tables or InDesign will not export them as part of the XML.

1 If you want to export only a portion of the document, select the element in the Structure pane where you want exporting to begin.

2 Choose File > Export.

3 For Save As Type (Windows) or Format (Mac OS), choose XML.

4 Specify a name and location for the XML file, and then click Save.

5 In the General tab of the Export XML dialog box, choose any of the following:

Include DTD Declaration Exports the reference to the DTD along with the XML file. This option is only available if there is a DOCTYPE element in the Structure pane.

View XML Using Opens the exported file in a browser, XML editing application, or text editor. Choose the browser or application from list.

Export From Selected Element Starts exporting from the element you selected in the Structure pane. This option is only available if you selected an element before choosing File > Export.

Export Untagged Tables As CALS XML Exports untagged tables in CALS XML format. To be exported, the table must be in a tagged frame, and the table must not be tagged.

Remap Break, Whitespace, And Special Characters Exports break, whitespace, and special characters as decimal character entities rather than straight characters.

Apply XSLT Applies a stylesheet to define the transformation of the exported XML to, for example, a modified XML tree or HTML. Select Browse (Windows) or Choose (Mac OS) to select an XSLT from the file system. The default setting, Use Stylesheet From XML, uses an XSLT transformation instruction if one is referenced in the XML that is applied on export.

6 Choose an encoding type from the Encoding menu.

7 To specify export options for images, click the Images tab, and then select one or more of the following:

Original Images Places a copy of the original image files in an Images sub-folder.

Optimized Original Images Optimizes and compresses the original image files and places copies of the files in an Images sub-folder.

Optimized Formatted Images Optimizes the original image files that contain applied transformation (such as rotation or scaling) and places them in an Images sub-folder. For example, if the document contains two images, one cropped and one not, only the cropped image is optimized and copied to the Images sub-folder.

8 If you selected Optimized Original Images or Optimized Formatted Images in the previous step, choose options for the optimizing the images.

9 Click Export.

Note: Not all special characters are supported in XML (such as the Automatic Page Number character). InDesign warns you if it cannot include a character in the exported XML file. This warning also appears if you didn't tag a table.

See also

"Create and load XML tags" on page 518

"Tagging content for XML" on page 518

"Rearrange structured elements" on page 525

Optimized image export options

The following options are available when you choose Optimized Original Images or Optimized Formatted Images in the Images tab of the Export XML dialog box.

Image Conversion Specifies which file format to use for the converted image. If you choose Automatic, InDesign chooses the best file type based on the image. Hence, you may want to specify both GIF Options and JPEG Options.

GIF Options Specify the formatting for images that are converted to GIF format when exported to XML. You can set the following options:

• **Palette** Specifies the color palette you want the image to conform to when converted. Choose the palette for the final display format of the XML content. Adaptive (no dither) works well for images with primarily solid colors and can be used when the final output will be to multiple formats.

• **Interlace** Downloads every other line of the image with each pass, instead of downloading the entire image in one pass. Interlacing enables a preview of the image to download quickly, as each successive pass adds resolution until the final quality is met.

JPEG Options Specify the formatting for images that are converted to JPEG format when exported to XML. You can set the following options:

• **Image Quality** Specifies the quality of the converted image. The higher the quality setting, the larger the file size and the longer it takes to download.

• **Format Method** Specifies how the JPEG image is formatted for download. Baseline downloads the final quality image in one pass, so that the file displays at its final quality as soon as it opens; this format may take longer to download than a Progressive formatted image. Progressive downloads the image in a series of passes, with the first pass a low-resolution version and each successive pass adding resolution to the image until the final quality is attained.

Save tags only as XML

Save tags only so you can load the tags into an InDesigndocument and make use of them there.

1 Choose Save Tags from the Tags panel menu.

2 Type a name, specify a location, and then click Save.

The tags in your document, along with their assigned colors, are saved in an XML file.

Edit an exported XML file

After you've used InDesign to create and export an XML file, you can make changes to the XML using either of these methods:

• To make changes directly in the XML file, open it in a text or XML editor.

• To make changes that will be preserved in the source document, open the InDesign file that the XML was exported from. After you make changes to the content in InDesign, you can export it to XML again, using the original XML filename if you want to replace the file.