

Adobe InDesign 2.0

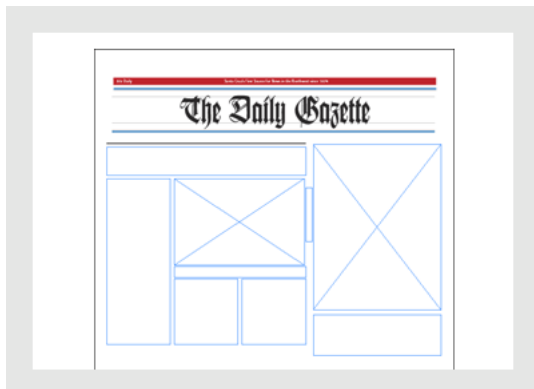
# Format XML data in an InDesign template

An XML file acts as a container for storing unformatted page items—text, graphics, and table data. With Adobe® InDesign® 2.0, it's easy to format the contents of an XML file. The key to this technique is using tags to make the XML content flow into position in the InDesign document. Follow along to see how it's done. (To use XML in InDesign 2.0, you must first copy the XMedia UI plug-in to the Plug-ins folder on your hard drive.)

## 1. Create an InDesign template.

Build your basic layout in InDesign, using placeholder frames. Then choose File > Save As, and select Template from the Save as Type (Windows) or Formats (Mac OS) pop-up menu.

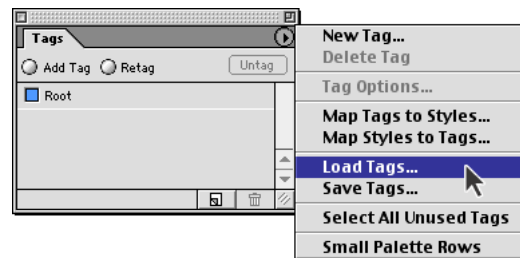
You can also work from an existing document to create a template. Just delete the text and graphics, leaving the frames as placeholders.



## 2. Import tags from the XML file.

Choose Window > Tags to display the Tags palette. Then choose Load Tags from the Tags palette menu, and double-click the name of the XML file.

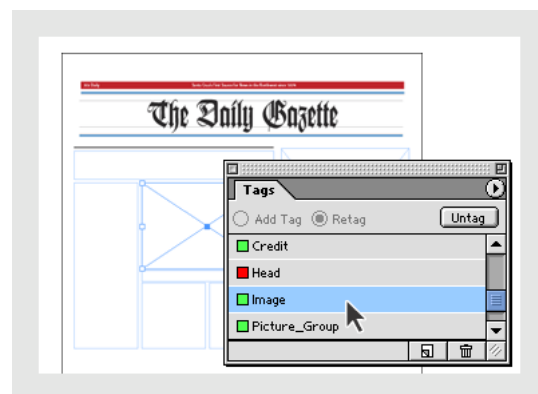
Importing the XML tags ensures that you use the same tag names in the InDesign template.



## 3. Apply tags to placeholder frames.

To apply a tag to a frame, select the frame in InDesign, and click a tag name in the Tags palette. Compare the order of the tags in the XML file with the order of the tags in the InDesign Structure view window. If necessary, drag elements in the Structure view window to rearrange them in the same order as they appear in the XML file.

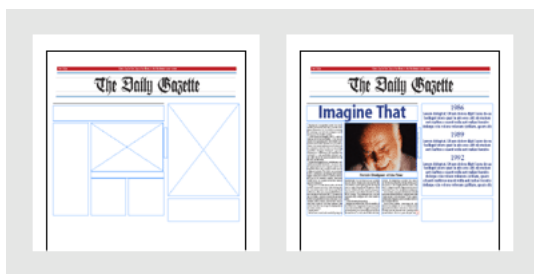
Be rigorous in setting up the structure in InDesign. If you use the right tag names—and arrange the tags in the right order—InDesign automatically flows the XML content into the tagged page items.



#### 4. Import the XML file.

To import the XML file, choose File > Import XML. Select the Replace Content option so that the content from the XML file replaces the template's placeholder content. Then select the XML file you want to import, and click Open.

The XML content flows into the tagged placeholders. All imported elements appear in the InDesign Structure view window, even if they were not added to the layout. Items that don't flow into the template structure appear as untagged elements in Structure view.



#### 6. Add untagged elements to the layout.

Simply drag an element from the Structure view window to the InDesign document to add it to the layout. The tagged element icon indicates that the element has a corresponding page item in the layout.



To learn more about working with XML in InDesign, go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign/crossmedia.html>.

#### 5. Format text by mapping tags to styles.

With few exceptions, imported XML text is unformatted. To format the text quickly, choose Map Tags to Styles from the Tags palette menu. Click Map By Name to map tags to styles that share identical names. For other tags, specify the style you want from the Paragraph Style list in the Map Tags to Styles dialog box.

