### ST\_Merge (Merged Cell Type)

This element specifies the way in which a cell shall be included in a merged [group](group.docx) of cells (horizontally or vertically) within the parent table.

[Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with three rows and two columns with the last column completely vertically merged:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

The second cell in the first row starts a vertical merge that is completed in the last cell, resulting in the following WordprocessingML:

<w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>
 …
 <w:[tr](tr.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 <w:vmerge w:val="restart"/>
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 </w:[tr](tr.docx)>

 <w:[tr](tr.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 <w:vmerge w:val="continue"/>
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 </w:[tr](tr.docx)>

 <w:[tr](tr.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 <w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 <w:vmerge w:val="continue"/>
 </w:[tcPr](tcPr.docx)>
 …
 </w:[tc](tc.docx)>
 </w:[tr](tr.docx)>
</w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>

The val attribute of [type](type.docx) ST\_Merge on the vmerge element defines the cells which are vertically merged, and how each cell is merged together. end example]

This simple type's contents are a restriction of the [XML](XML.docx) Schema string datatype.

The following are possible enumeration values for this type:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enumeration Value | Description |
| continue (Continue Merged Region) | Specifies that the current cell continues a previously existing merged [group](group.docx) of cells in the parent table.If the previous cell in the document (horizontally or vertically) does not either begin or continue a set of merged cells, then this value shall be ignored (i.e. a [group](group.docx) of merged cells must [start](start.docx) with a merge whose ST\_Merge value is restart). |
| restart (Start/Restart Merged Region) | Specifies that the current cell starts (or restarts) a [group](group.docx) of merged cells in the parent table.After this value, all following cells which have a value of continue shall be merged into this merged cell group. |

|  |
| --- |
| Referenced By |
| hMerge@val (§); vMerge@val (§) |

The following [XML](XML.docx) Schema fragment defines the contents of this simple type:

<simpleType [name](name.docx)="ST\_Merge">

 <restriction base="xsd:string">

 <enumeration value="continue"/>

 <enumeration value="restart"/>

 </restriction>

</simpleType>