#### ptab (Absolute Position Tab Character)

This element specifies that an absolute [position](position.docx) [tab](tab.docx) character shall be placed at the current location in the run content. An absolute [position](position.docx) [tab](tab.docx) is a character which is used to advance the [position](position.docx) on the current line of text when displaying this WordprocessingML content, using the following logic:

Regardless of any number of custom [tab](tab.docx) stops defined using the [tabs](tabs.docx) element (§) , the absolute [position](position.docx) [tab](tab.docx) character shall advance to the [position](position.docx) specified by its alignment and relativeTo attributes. The resulting end [position](position.docx) of the [tab](tab.docx) character shall not be affected by the addition of any custom [tab](tab.docx) stops or changes to the value of the [defaultTabStop](defaultTabStop.docx) element (§).

If the alignment location specified by the positional [tab](tab.docx) cannot be found on the current line, because the starting location is past that point, then the [tab](tab.docx) character shall advance to that location on the [next](next.docx) available line in the document.

[Example: Consider a paragraph which contains two custom [tab](tab.docx) stops at 1.5" and 3.5", respectively. These two [tab](tab.docx) stops would be contained within a [tabs](tabs.docx) element defining the set of [tab](tab.docx) stops of the paragraph as follows:

<w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>

<w:[tabs](tabs.docx)>

<w:[tab](tab.docx) w:val="left" w:[pos](pos.docx)="2160" />

<w:[tab](tab.docx) w:val="left" w:[pos](pos.docx)="5040" />

</w:[tabs](tabs.docx)>

</w:[pPr](pPr.docx)>

If a positional [tab](tab.docx) character was added to a run in this paragraph starting at 1” inside the margin and was defined as follows:

<w:ptab w:alignment="center" w:relativeTo="margin" />

This positional [tab](tab.docx) would then ignore the [next](next.docx) custom [tab](tab.docx) stop and the indents on the current paragraph defined using the [ind](ind.docx) element (§) and would advance to the center of the line with respect to the text margins, moving to a new line if needed. end example]

|  |
| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [r](r.docx) (§); [r](r.docx) (§) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| alignment (Positional Tab Stop Alignment) | Specifies the location of the positional [tab](tab.docx) stop on the line, as well as the alignment which shall be applied to text subsequent to the current positional [tab](tab.docx) stop.  [Example: Consider a positional [tab](tab.docx) stop in a WordprocessingML document who shall move to the left edge of the text margins and whose subsequent text should be left aligned. This positional [tab](tab.docx) stop would be defined as follows:  <w:ptab w:alignment="left" w:relativeTo=”margin” … />  The alignment attribute specifies that this absolute [position](position.docx) [tab](tab.docx) stop shall align on the left edge of the line relative to the margin. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_PTabAlignment](ST_PTabAlignment.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |
| leader (Tab Leader Character) | Specifies the character which shall be used to fill in the space created by a positional tab. This character shall be repeated as required to completely fill the [tab](tab.docx) [spacing](spacing.docx) generated by the positional [tab](tab.docx) character.  [Example: Consider a positional [tab](tab.docx) stop which should be preceded by a sequence of underscore characters, as follows:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Text at the positional [tab](tab.docx) stop  This [tab](tab.docx) stop would have a leader attribute value of underscore, indicating that the [tab](tab.docx) stop shall be preceded by underscore characters as needed to fill the [tab](tab.docx) spacing. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_PTabLeader](ST_PTabLeader.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |
| relativeTo (Positional Tab Base) | Specifies the extents which shall be used to calculate the absolute positioning of this positional [tab](tab.docx) character.  [Example: Consider a positional [tab](tab.docx) stop in a WordprocessingML document that should have a resulting [position](position.docx) that is centered on the text margins, ignoring both any custom [tab](tab.docx) stops and any text indents on the paragraph. This positional [tab](tab.docx) stop would be defined as follows:  <w:ptab w:relativeTo="margin" … />  The relativeTo attribute specifies that this absolute [position](position.docx) [tab](tab.docx) stop shall be relative to the margin. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_PTabRelativeTo](ST_PTabRelativeTo.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

<complexType [name](name.docx)="CT\_PTab">

<attribute [name](name.docx)="alignment" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_PTabAlignment](ST_PTabAlignment.docx)" use="required"/>

<attribute [name](name.docx)="relativeTo" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_PTabRelativeTo](ST_PTabRelativeTo.docx)" use="required"/>

<attribute [name](name.docx)="leader" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_PTabLeader](ST_PTabLeader.docx)" use="required"/>

</complexType>