### [tblW](tblW.docx) (Preferred Table Width)

This element specifies the preferred width for this table. This preferred width is used as part of the [table](table.docx) layout algorithm specified by the [tblLayout](tblLayout.docx) element (§; §) - full [description](description.docx) of the algorithm in the ST\_TblLayout simple [type](type.docx) (§).

All widths in a [table](table.docx) are considered preferred because:

* The [table](table.docx) must satisfy the shared columns as specified by the [tblGrid](tblGrid.docx) element (§)
* Two or more widths may have conflicting values for the width of the same grid column
* The [table](table.docx) layout algorithm (§) may require a preference to be overridden

This value is specified in the units applied via its [type](type.docx) attribute. Any width value of [type](type.docx) pct for this element shall be calculated relative to the text extents of the page (page width excluding margins).

If this element is omitted, then the cell width shall be of [type](type.docx) auto.

[Example: Consider a WordprocessingML [table](table.docx) defined as follows:

<w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>  
 <w:[tblPr](tblPr.docx)>  
 <w:[tblW](tblW.docx) w:[type](type.docx)="fixed" w:[w](w.docx)="1440"/>  
 </w:[tblPr](tblPr.docx)>  
 …  
</w:[tbl](tbl.docx)>

This [table](table.docx) specifies that it has a preferred [table](table.docx) width of 1440 twentieths of a point (one inch). The resulting [table](table.docx) would therefore be sized such that the [table](table.docx) maintains that preferred width, as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hello world |  |

The text Hello world makes the middle cell larger, and the other two cells are size to maintain the preferred widths of one inch for the overall [table](table.docx) width:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hello world this is a longer string. |  |

However, when the middle [table](table.docx) cell requires a larger width to accommodate non-breaking text, that preference may be overridden as needed:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Hello worldddddddddddddddddddddddddddddd |  |

In this case, the middle cell's long non breaking string caused the [table](table.docx) to be expanded to prevent breaking the string, and therefore to override the preferred width on the table. end example]

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| [type](type.docx) (Table Width Type) | Specifies the units of the width property being defined by the parent element’s [w](w.docx) attribute. This property is used to define various properties of a [table](table.docx), including: cell [spacing](spacing.docx), preferred width, and [table](table.docx) margins.  If this attribute is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be dxa (twentieths of a point).  [Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with a [table](table.docx) cell bottom cell [spacing](spacing.docx) with a [type](type.docx) of dxa, as follows:  <w:[bottom](bottom.docx) ... w:[type](type.docx)="dxa" />  This [type](type.docx) shall therefore be used to interpret the width specified in the [w](w.docx) attribute as a value in twentieths of a point. end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_TblWidth](ST_TblWidth.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |
| [w](w.docx) (Table Width Value) | Specifies the value of the width property being defined by the parent element. This property is used to define various properties of a [table](table.docx), including: cell [spacing](spacing.docx), preferred widths, and [table](table.docx) margins.  If this attribute is omitted, then its value shall be assumed to be 0.  [Example: Consider a [table](table.docx) with a bottom margin with a width of 302, as follows:  <w:[bottom](bottom.docx) w:[w](w.docx)="302" w:[type](type.docx)="dxa" />  The value in the [w](w.docx) attribute shall therefore be used to determine the width being specified in the context of the units specified in the [type](type.docx) attribute. In this case, the [type](type.docx) is twentieths of a point (dxa), so the width is 302 twentieths of a point (.2097 inches). end example]  The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_DecimalNumber](ST_DecimalNumber.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

<attribute [name](name.docx)="[w](w.docx)" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_DecimalNumber](ST_DecimalNumber.docx)"/>

<attribute [name](name.docx)="[type](type.docx)" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_TblWidth](ST_TblWidth.docx)"/>

</complexType>