### [type](type.docx) (ODSO Data Source Type)

This element specifies the [type](type.docx) of external data source to be connected to via as part of the ODSO connection information for this mail merge. This setting is purely a suggestion of the data source [type](type.docx) which is being used for this mail merge, and may be ignored in favor of an alternative mechanism if one is present.

[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment for a mail merge source or merged document:

<w:[type](type.docx) w:val="database" />

The [type](type.docx) element's val attribute is equal to database, specifying that the given merged WordprocessingML document has been connected to an external data source via the ODSO settings, and that the resulting data source was a database. end example]

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| --- |
| Parent Elements |
| [odso](odso.docx) (§) |

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| --- | --- |
| Attributes | Description |
| val (Data Source Type Value) | Specifies the [type](type.docx) of an external data source used for a mail merge operation.[Example: Consider the following WordprocessingML fragment for a mail merge source or merged document:<w:[type](type.docx) w:val="[text](text.docx)" />The val attribute is equal to text, specifying that the given merged WordprocessingML document has been connected to an external data source via the ODSO settings, and that the resulting data source was a text file. end example]The possible values for this attribute are defined by the [ST\_MailMergeSourceType](ST_MailMergeSourceType.docx) simple [type](type.docx) (§). |

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

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

 <attribute [name](name.docx)="val" use="required" [type](type.docx)="[ST\_MailMergeSourceType](ST_MailMergeSourceType.docx)"/>

</complexType>