Introduction to Table Tags

This document covers simple tables. Complex tables require knowledge beyond the scope of this guide.

This module supplements "Making Accessible PDFs" and assumes you are working with Adobe Acrobat Professional 8.

Simple tables are tables with one row of column headings across the top of the table and/or one column of row headings on the left. Tables in PDF documents must associate data cells with column and row headers. The tag elements for PDF tables are very similar to the tag elements of HTML tables.

Data cells are associated with column/row headers by editing the attributes of the table tags.

Editing Table Tags

PDF table tags are very similar to HTML table tags. A well-constructed table will have the root "Table" element, "THead" section for headings, and a "TBody" section for data rows.

The tag tree identifies tables with a small grid followed by <Table> ⊞ ▦ <Table> .
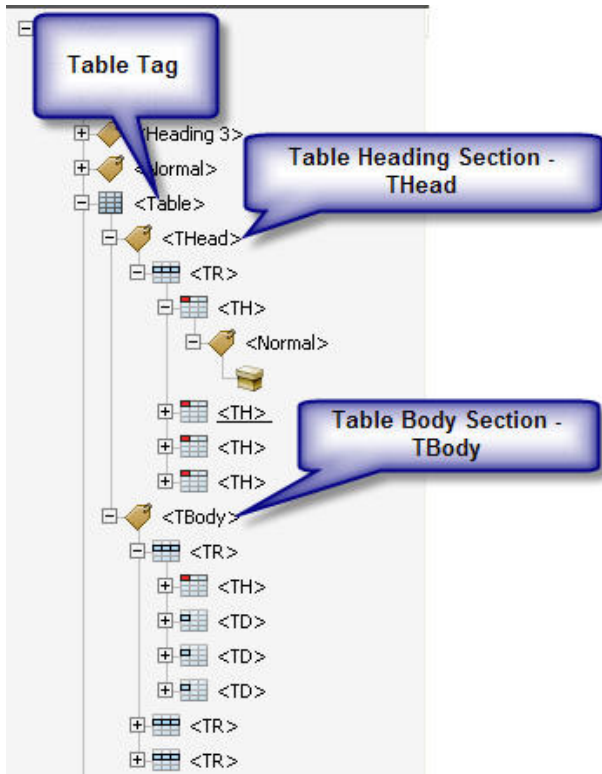
A well-constructed table will have tagged elements similar to the table shown below.

Adding Table Tags

In some cases, the THead tag is not created in the PDF.

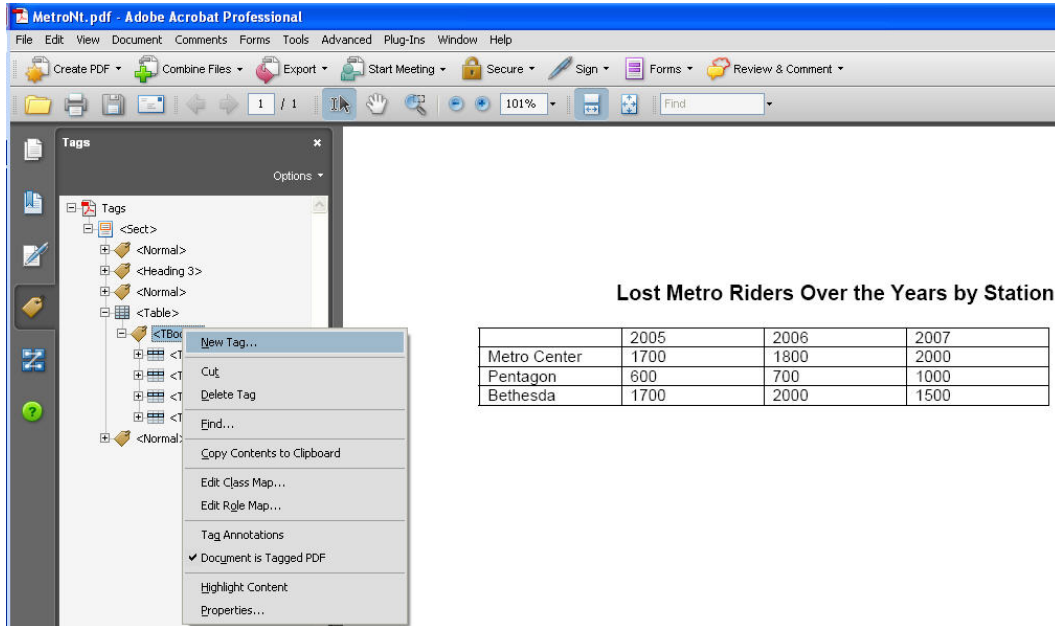The example below shows a table missing <THead> and <TH> elements.
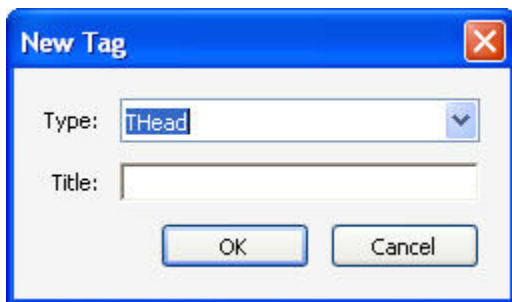

To insert <THead>:

Editing PDF Table Tags

1. Right click on the <TBody> tag.
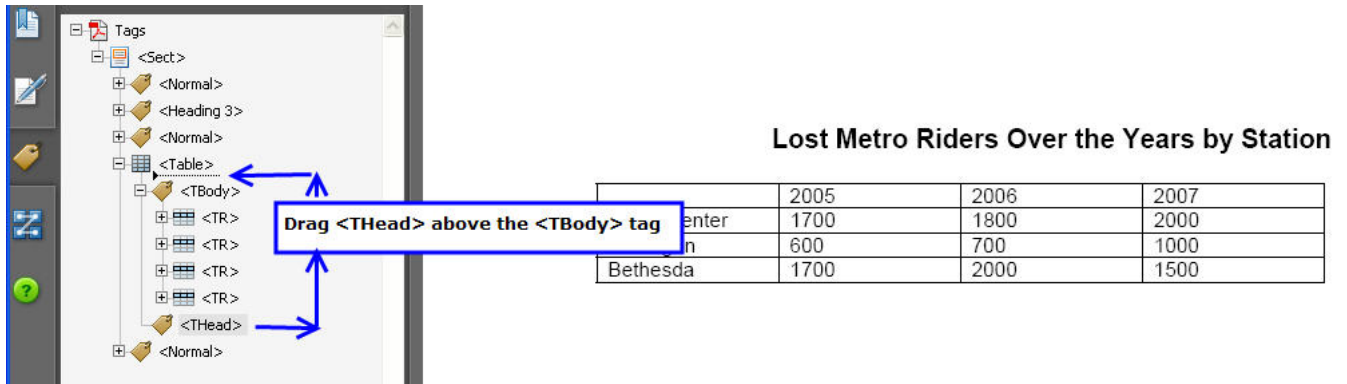2. Select "New Tag" from the menu list.

3. A "New Tag" dialog box will be displayed.
4. Enter "THead" into the Type.
5. Click on "OK".

6. The new tag will be inserted below the <TBody> tag;
7. Click and drag the tag above the <TBody> tag. A small arrow will show where you are in the tag tree.
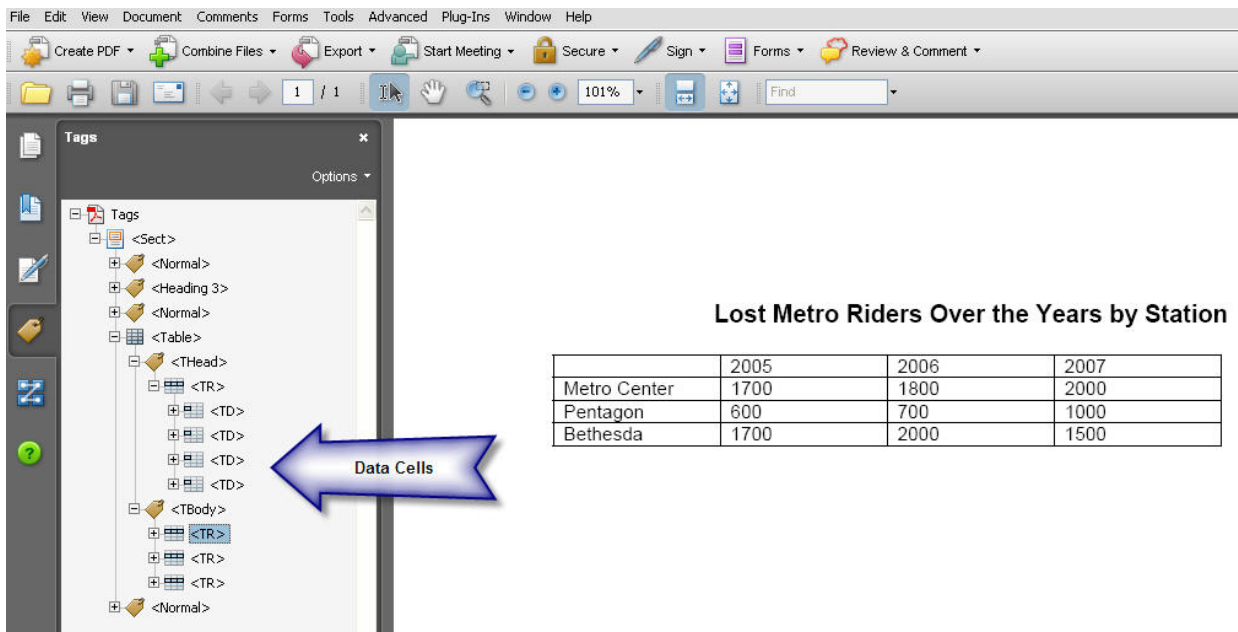
8. Use the same drag and drop process to drop the top row <TR> from the TBody section into the <THead> section.

Associating Data Cells

The next step is to associate the data cells with the column/row headings.

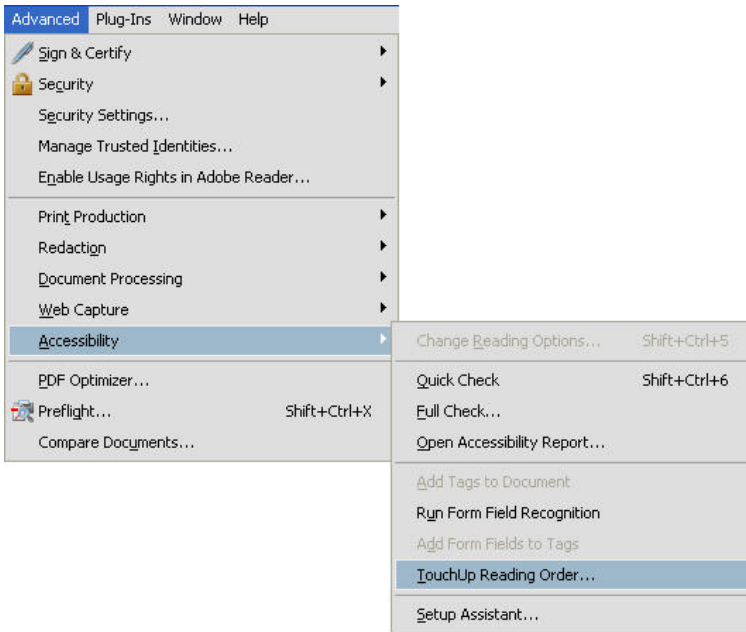Expand the <TR> tag to display the data cell tags.

In the first row the last three data cells are headings; these need to be identified as heading cells with the <TH> tag; "Scope" attributes will also need to be added.
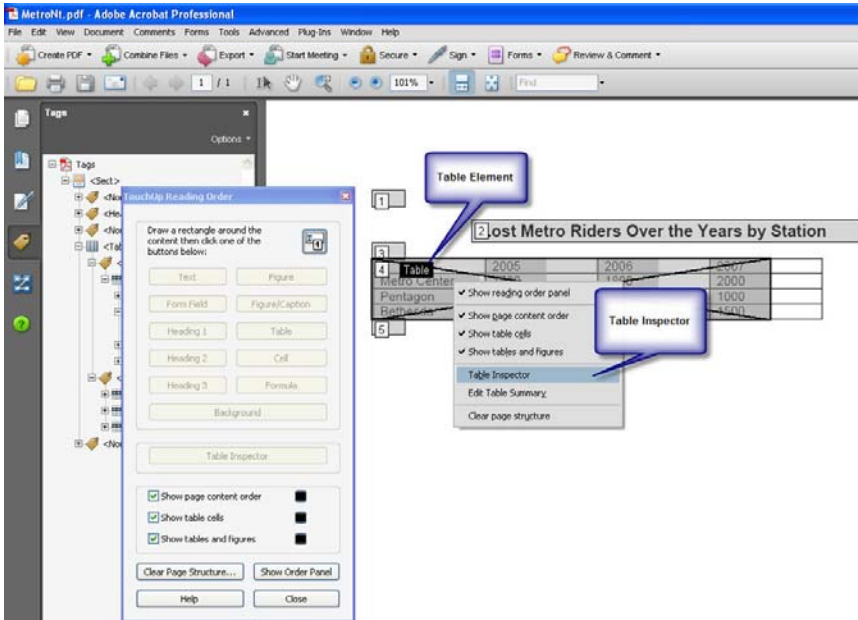
Table data cells are changed with the Table Inspector.

1. To display the Table Inspector click on Advanced
2. Accessibility
3. Touchup Reading Order

4. Right Click on the Table element and select Table Inspector. The Table Inspector will highlight the table cells.
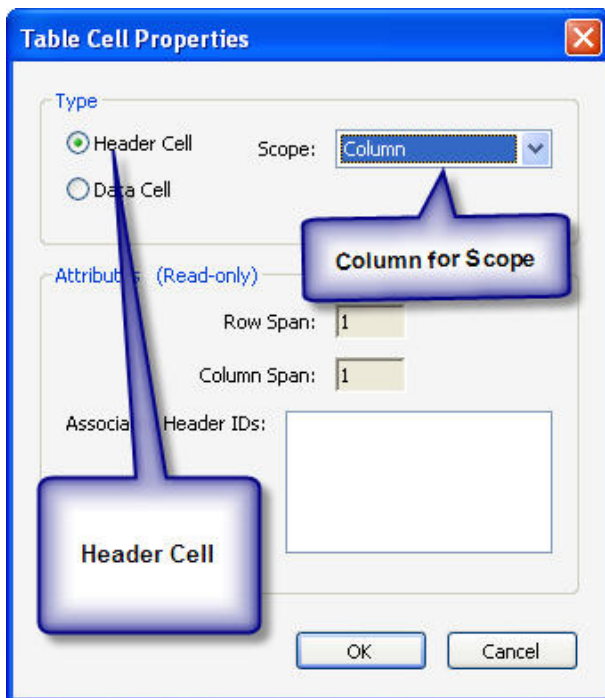
Lost Metro Riders Over the Years by Station

	2005	2006	2007	
Metro Center	1700	1800	2000	
Pentagon	600	700	1000	
Bethesda	1700	2000	1500	

5. Right click on a heading cell and select Table Cell Properties
    Note : Adobe grid lines don't match up to table grid lines

Lost Metro Riders Over the Years by Station

	2005		2007	
Metro Center	1700	Table Cell Properties...	2000	
Pentagon	600	Table Inspector Options...	1000	
Bethesda	1700	2000	1500	

6. The Cell Properties box will be displayed.
    a. Select the Header Cell option.
    b. In this example, the data is in a column; select Column for the Scope.
    c. Click "OK".

Table Cell Properties

Type
- ⦿ Header Cell   Scope: Column
- ○ Data Cell

Column for Scope

Attributes (Read-only)
Row Span: 1
Column Span: 1
Associated Header IDs:

Header Cell

OK   Cancel

Repeat this for the other cells that should be Header cells.

Editing PDF Table Tags

Heading cells in rows should have the scope set to Row.

Lost Metro Riders Over the Years by Station

	2005	2006	2007
Metro Center	1700	1800	2000
Pentagon	600	700	1000
Bethesda			

Table Cell Properties

Type
- ● Header Cell   Scope: Row ▼
- ○ Data Cell

Attributes (Read-only)

Row Span: 1
Column Span: 1
Associated Header IDs:

[OK]   [Cancel]

This concludes the "Editing PDF Table Tags" supplement.