

## Use Merged Cells in a Template

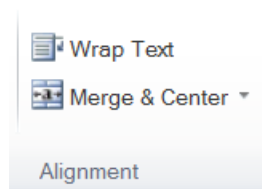
### Overview

In a workbook, a range of adjacent cells can be merged together and treated as a single cell. Oftentimes this is done to accommodate a long piece of text within a cell without having to widen the cell and affect other things in cells above or below.

This document describes how to use merged cells in a report template designed with **XLReporter** and what needs to be considered when connections are made to ranges that contain merged cells.

### Template Design Studio

To merge a range of cells within the Template Design Studio highlight the contiguous range of cells. Under the **Template** menu select the **Format** drop down and select **Format Cells**.



In the **Alignment** section select the dropdown for **Merge & Center** and select either **Merge** (default left alignment) or **Merge & Center** (center alignment). Now the selected range is merged together to behave as a single cell.

To unmerge a range, select the merged cell, return to **Format Cells**, and from **Merge & Center** select **Unmerge Cells**.

If you are designing templates using Microsoft Excel, the merge options are available under the **Home** tab in the **Alignment** section.

### Data Connections

Merged cells can be configured to receive data from Data Connections.

#### Single Value Connections

Single value connections like Expressions, Variables and single value Real Time connections can be configured to a merged cell. When configuring, simply set the **Placement** to the upper-left corner of the merged cell.

Consider the following template:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2		Date				
3						

Cells C2:E2 are merged together. To configure an Expression connection to write the current date into the merged cell, use the following:

Scope Any Sheet Group 0

Source  
Connector Expressions  
Name {DATE}

Placement  
Cell \$C\$2  
Type Direct

Notice the **Cell** is set to \$C\$2 (the upper left cell of the merge).

### Data Group Connections

A data group connection typically returns an entire range of data consisting of multiple columns and rows. The overall principle in using merged cells with data groups is to always account for the merged cells within the group. Consider the following template:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3				<b>Mixer Zone 1 Temperature</b>						
4		<b>Time</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Min Time</b>		<b>Max</b>	<b>Max Time</b>			
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										

From rows 5 to 16 columns D, E and F as well as H, I and J are merged together to display the Minimum and Maximum time for 2 hour intervals over the day.

The history data group must be set up like the following:

The screenshot shows a configuration window with tabs for 'Setup', 'Columns', and 'Time Period'. The 'Columns' tab is active, displaying a table of 'Selected Columns' with columns for Name, Calculation, Scaling, and Heading. The table lists calculations for minimum and maximum values and their corresponding time periods. Below the table, the 'Output Options' section includes a dropdown for 'Timestamp on first column', a text input for 'Empty rows between records' set to 0, and checkboxes for 'Transpose' and 'Include Heading'.

Notice that there are 2 empty rows in between the *time of minimum* and *maximum* calculations. This is to account for columns E and F on the sheet that are merged with column D. Since the *time of maximum* is the

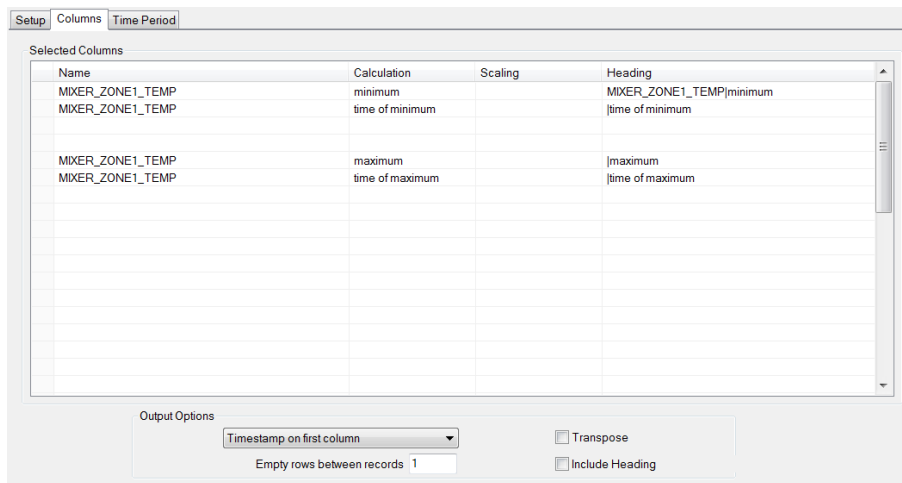
last selected column in the group nothing needs to compensate for columns *I* and *J*. To insert these blank rows, right click on the leftmost column for each tag and select **Insert**, or select the row and press the **Insert** key.

Going a step further, consider this template:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3	<b>Mixer Zone 1 Temperature</b>									
4	<b>Time</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Min Time</b>			<b>Max</b>	<b>Max Time</b>			
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										
16										
17										
18										
19										

In this case not only are columns merged but also a set of 2 rows is merged for each value.

The history data group is configured as such:



This group is almost identical to the previous one except that at the bottom under **Output Options Empty rows between records** is set to *1* to accommodate the merged rows.