

# Use Merged Cells in a Template

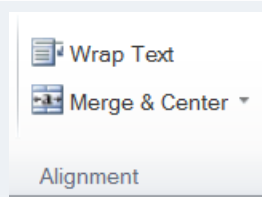
## Overview

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.

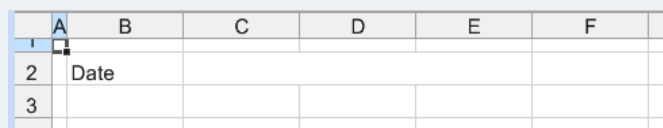
## Data Connections

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 screenshot of an Excel spreadsheet with columns A through F and rows 1 through 3. Cell A1 is empty. Cell B1 contains the text 'Date'. Cells C2, D2, and E2 are merged together and contain the text 'Date'. Cell F2 is empty. Row 3 is empty.

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



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:

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with columns A through J and rows 1 through 19. The data is organized as follows:

	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:

The screenshot shows a configuration window titled "Selected Columns" with tabs for "Setup", "Columns", and "Time Period". The window contains a table with the following data:

Name	Calculation	Scaling	Heading
MIXER_ZONE1_TEMP	minimum		MIXER_ZONE1_TEMP minimum
MIXER_ZONE1_TEMP	time of minimum		time of minimum
MIXER_ZONE1_TEMP	maximum		maximum
MIXER_ZONE1_TEMP	time of maximum		time of maximum

Below the table, there are "Output Options" including a dropdown menu set to "Timestamp on first column", a text input field for "Empty rows between records" set to "1", and checkboxes for "Transpose" and "Include Heading".

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.