

Hierarchical layout systems

This part describes the layout render engine of the Xsdot application server and how to create and combine layouts.

The Xsdot application server is a hierarchical and services based web server which means that you can endlessly place items/services into other items. The parent item controls how its child items are laid-out or displayed.

Controlling the layout and order of the child items is done with the 'Child presentation' and 'Child order' property functions. These functions are also partly available directly in the item's right mouse menu options.

Child presentation / Show children as

Children can be presented in the following ways,

Show children as content

The children are presented as the content that they produce.

Show children as links

The children are presented as links.

Hidden

The children are hidden by the parent item.



Layout systems

The Xsdot application server implements three layout systems that can be combined hierarchically. The layout systems can be selected in the 'Item positioning' property page using the 'Positioning' option. The layout modes are also directly selectable in the item's menu.

Flow layout

This is the most used layout system, it behaves like a table in the containing parent item.

The alignment of the flow-layout items depends on the parents 'Child presentation & alignment' properties. These options are also partly available in the item's right mouse menu.

The following options are available,

Align children vertical

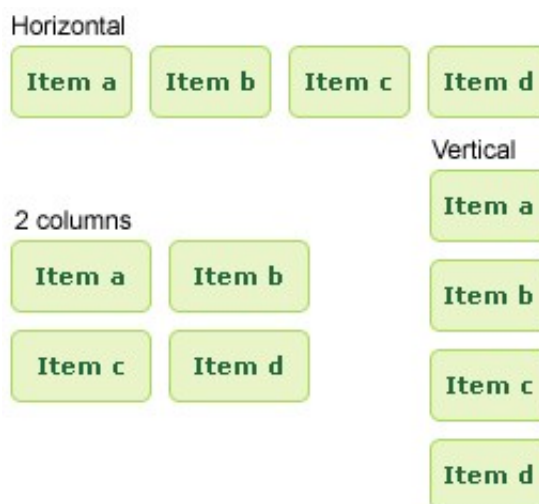
Places the child items vertically in the parent item.

Align children horizontal

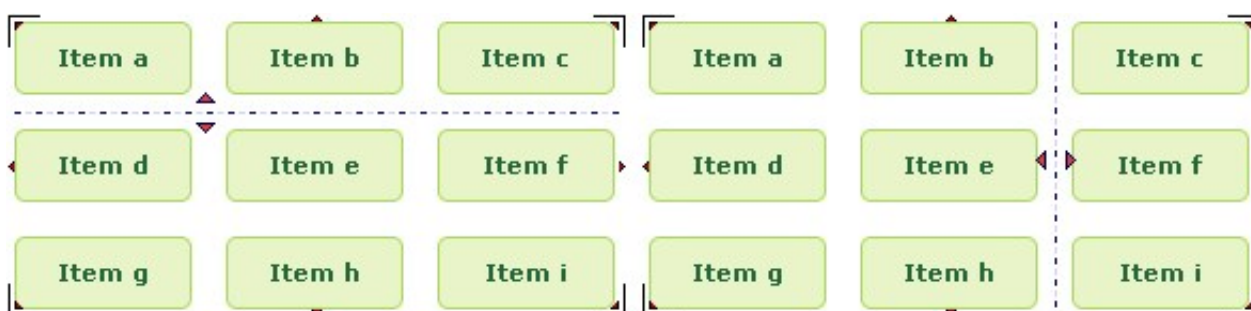
Places the child items horizontal in the parent item.

Align children in n columns

Places the child items horizontal and vertical in the parent item in n columns.

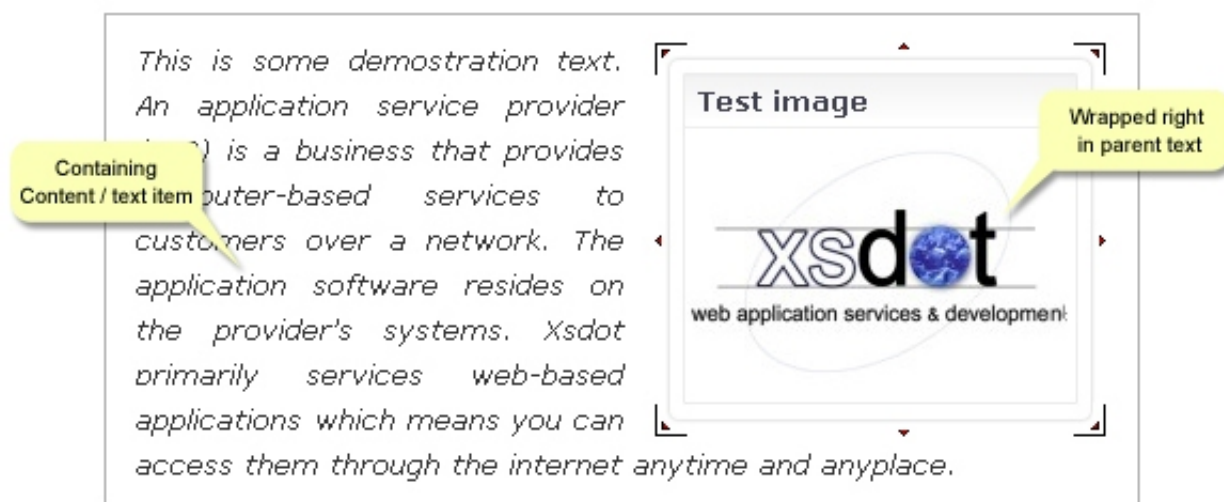
**Row and column sizes**

Row and column sizes can be changed directly in the page by using the content rulers (drag and drop). The row and column sizes can also be changed in the 'Child presentation & alignment' property page using the 'Column widths' and 'Row heights' options. The column widths can be entered in pixels or percentages of its containing item. Use ';' as column or row delimiters.

**Wrapped layout**

There are two wrapped layout versions available depending on the age of your application. Applications that have been implemented after 1 jan 2009 use version 2, older applications use version 1.

The wrapped layouts are used to place items 'wrapped' into a text or content service item.



Version 1

Items in wrapped layout mode can be either aligned left or right in the text. The items are always wrapped in the top of it's parent text.

Version 2

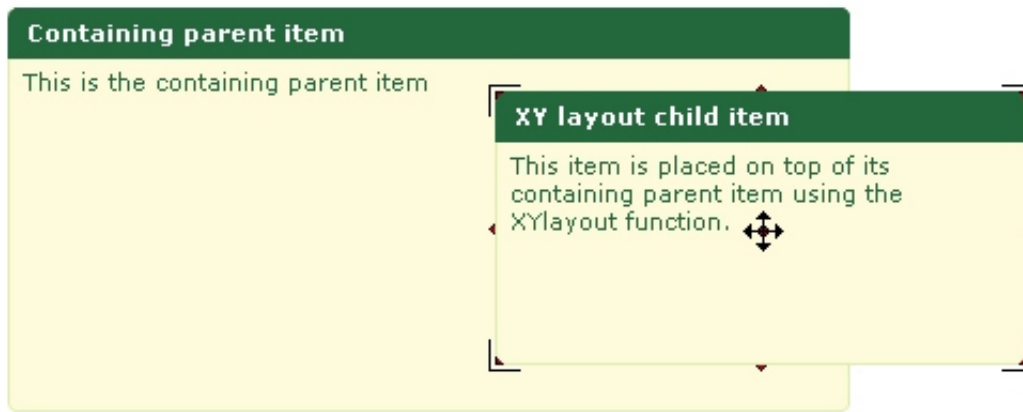
Version 2 implements more alignment options to layout items into text. Furthermore the items are now freely place-able anywhere in the containing text/content.

Alignment options

Left wrapped	The item is aligned left and wrapped in the parent text.
Right wrapped	The item is aligned right and wrapped in the parent text.
Inline	The item is wrapped inline into the text.
Left	The item is aligned left in the text.
Right	The item is aligned right in the text.
Center	The item is centered in the text.

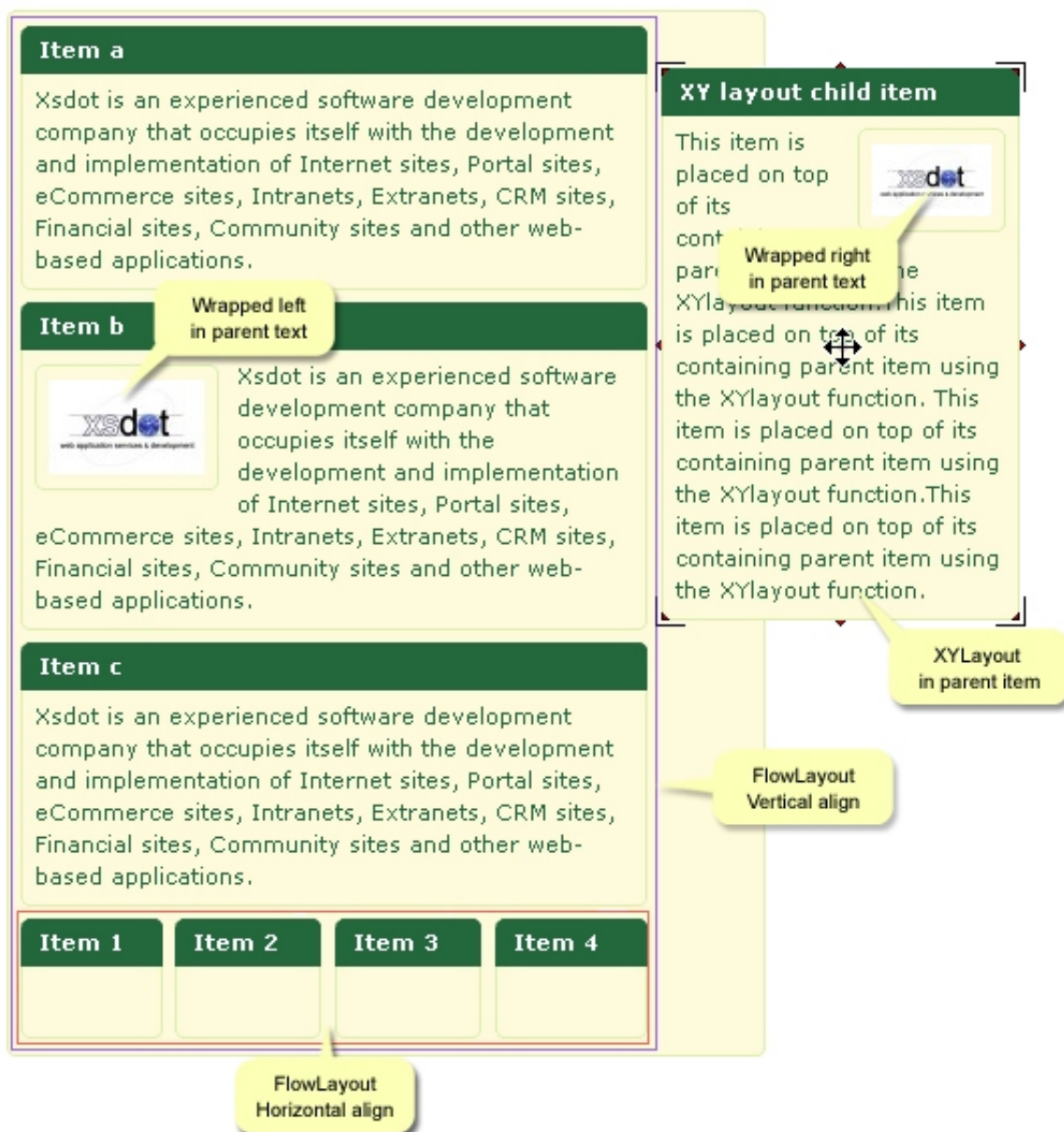
XY layout

With the XY layout it is possible to place an item any where in its parent item by using XY pixel coordinates. The coordinates can be entered at the item's 'Item positioning & alignment' property page. The items that implement the XY layout system can also be dragged and dropped directly using the mouse in the page. XY laid-out items contain a small icon at the center of the item which functions as a drag and drop point for the mouse. Depending on the interaction design of the item's selected 'Cell template' the header of the item can also function as a drag and drop point for the mouse.



Combining layout systems

It is possible to combine the above given layout systems, below is an example of combining layouts,



Property settings in item menu

Positioning & alignment property settings are also available directly in the item menus.

