12 Setting Editor display options

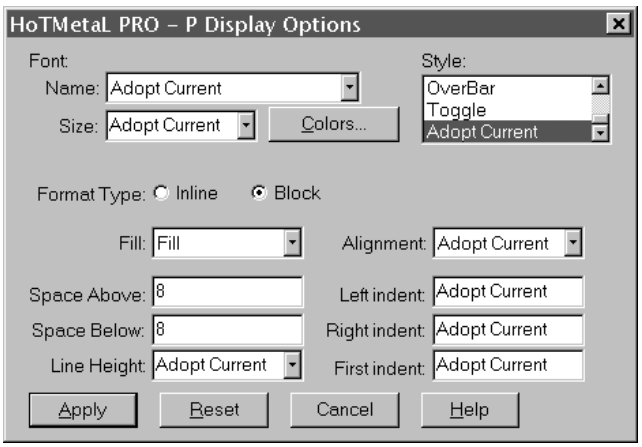
The display styles in the HoTMetaL PRO Editor document window were chosen to correspond to typical browser display. You can modify these display styles to suit your own preferences for working in the Editor: *this will not affect how browsers format the document*. Only the HTML markup or a cascading style sheet affects how a document looks in a browser.

Because HTML files are structured documents, setting a style for an element means setting it for all elements of that type.

To modify display options:

- Put the insertion point inside any instance of the element whose display styles you want to modify.
- Do one of:
  - Choose Display Options... in the Tools menu, and then choose the Modify... sub-item.
  - Press Ctrl+Shift+B .

The Display Options dialog box will look like the following illustration:



The element name is displayed in the Display Options dialog's title bar.

Modifying element display options

You can set the following styles from the Display Options dialog box:

- Elements can be of two format types: *block* or *inline*. Block elements start and end on a separate line from adjacent content. Inline (or character) elements are not set off from adjacent text. All of the styles listed here can be applied to block elements; only font properties and color can be applied to character elements.
- *Font properties* – Font name, font size, font style.

  If you select the Toggle font style, the other style settings are *turned off* in the *current* element if they are *turned on* in the *containing* element. For example, an element whose font style is set to Bold and Toggle will appear as bold text within plain surrounding text and as plain within bold surrounding text.
- *Paragraph styles* – Alignment, line height, and fill mode. (Fill mode determines how line end characters are treated—in *fill mode*, they are displayed as a space, but in *no fill mode* they cause a line break.)

- *Space before and after* – You can add space to the top and bottom of elements in order to set them off from surrounding elements.
- *Indentation* – You can choose right, left, and first indents for elements. By choosing the right and left indent, you can set the line length for the element.
- *Color* – You can choose the foreground (text) and background colors for an element.

Values and units

Numerical values used in the Display Options dialog box can be *absolute*, *relative* (+/-), or expressed as a *percentage* of a base value. The following units can be used: points (1/72 inch), centimeters, inches, machine units (1/16 point), millimeters, picas (1/6 inch), and pixels (same as points).

You can use any unit wherever you are allowed to enter values. For example, font size may be expressed in points, inches, picas, etc.

Units can be specified by giving the full unit name, or the first few letters of the unit name, as long as that is unambiguous (for example, don't use 'p' since that could mean 'points' or 'picas'). In addition, 'cm' and 'mm' specify centimeters and millimeters, respectively. If you don't specify a unit, HoTMetaL PRO will interpret the value as points by default.

The value Adopt Current means 'inherit this style from the element that contains the current element'.

Saving and loading element display options

HoTMetaL PRO saves the formatting set with the Display Options command in a *binary* styles file called *hmpro4.stl* in the *Display* folder. HoTMetaL PRO gets default display options from this file. Whenever a document is saved, this file is updated with whatever display options are in effect for the document. You can also save and load display options in a text file.

To save display options in a text file:

- Set the desired display options in the current document.
- Choose Display Options... in the Tools menu, and then choose the Save... sub-item.

Note The formatting information from a text-format options file will not be saved in the default (binary) styles file until the current document is saved.

To load a text-format display options file:

- Choose Display Options... from the Tools menu, and then choose the Load... sub-item. You can switch display options in the middle of a HoTMetaL PRO session by loading a new text-format options file with this command.

Alternative display options

HoTMetaL PRO has several preformatted display options files (in text format) to choose from. Included are the following options files, which you can load from the *Display* folder:

- *hmpro4.asf* – The default options.
- *lynx.asf* – Mimics the default style of the text-based Web browser, Lynx.
- *mosaic.asf* – Mimics the default style of the NCSA and Spry Mosaic Web browsers.
- *showall.asf* – Shows almost all attributes. This is a useful options file for advanced users who want to see all attributes on screen.
- *colorize.asf* – A colorful options file, in which almost every element has a different color.