Data Tables in WordPress

Often times, we would like to display data on our site in tabular format. This could be data conveying a schedule, listing members of a group, or showing measurements. Whatever the data, you can use a table to create it in WordPress.

Before we get started, this tutorial assumes the following:
1. You know how to log in to WordPress (http://yourdomain.com/wp-admin).
2. You know how to create a new Page or Post in WordPress.
3. You have sufficient privileges to create a Page or Post on your site (you are at minimum an Author)

Every OET WordPress install comes with the TinyMCE Advanced plugin. This plugin allows us to add extra functionality to the Editing Toolbar for Pages and Posts. One piece of functionality that it adds is the ability to easily create and edit tables on your page. This tutorial will cover how to use that functionality.

Locating the Table Editing Tools

When you are editing a Page or Post in WordPress, the table editing tools will be located in the second row of the editing toolbar that appears above the content editing window.
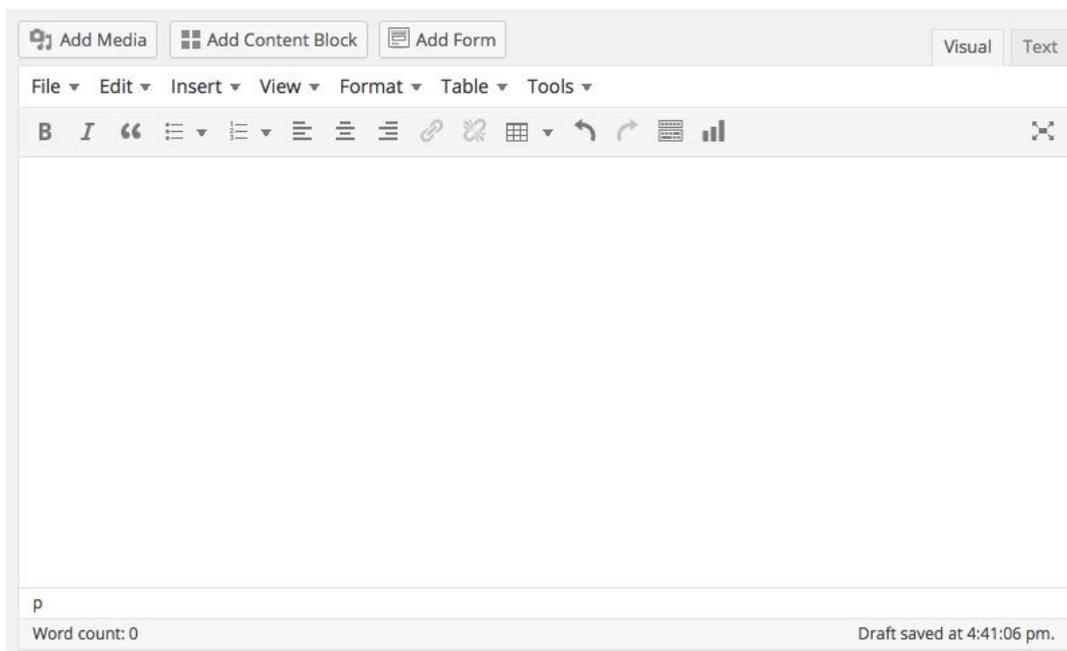

Figure 1: WordPress text editing window

To add a table, we will click on the Table menu. The Table menu looks like a chart. It is pictured below.
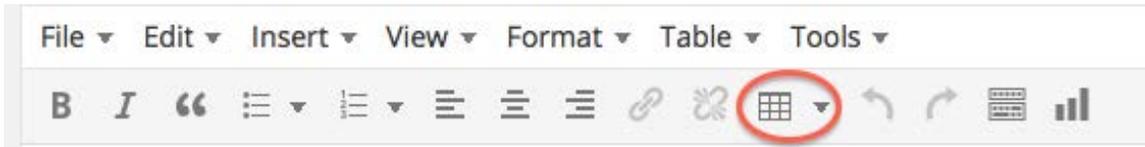
Inserting a Table

Clicking on the insert button displays a menu of options. The first option is to Insert table.
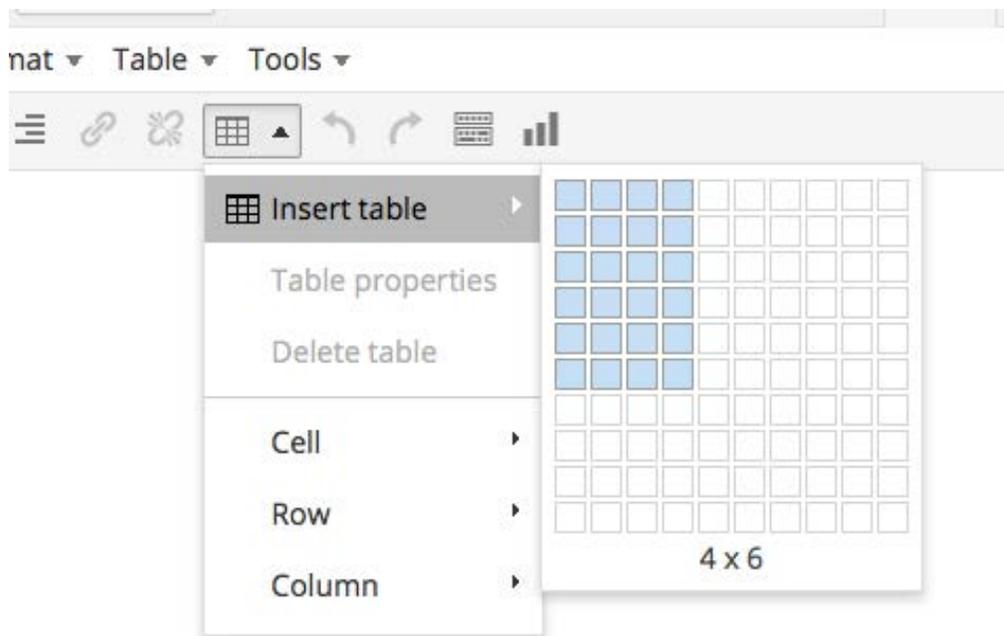
The grid that appears when you hover over Insert table lets you choose the number of rows and columns by dragging your mouse over the squares in the grid. The blue, highlighted squares determine the number of rows and columns. When you click on the last of the blue squares, you will see the appropriately sized table to the page.
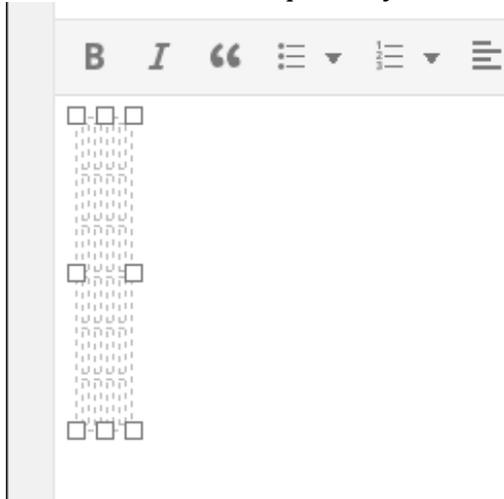

Figure 4: An empty table in a WordPress page/post.

Once the table has been placed in the editing window, you can begin adding content. The cells will expand as text is added. The text in the cell can be treated as regular text. It can be styled with any of the editor tools. You can move between cells using the Tab or arrow keys.
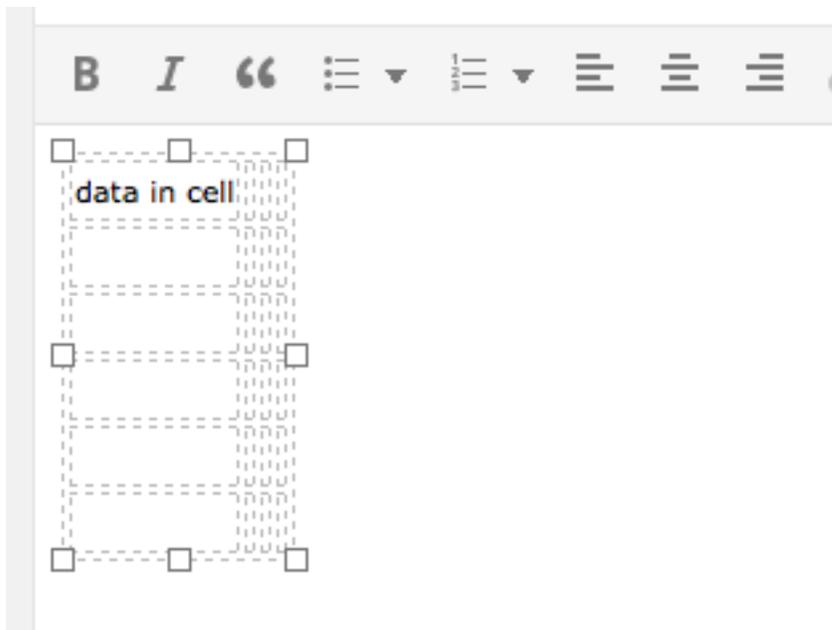

Figure 5: Table with data in a single cell.