

# Print and Page Layout Community Group

The Print and Page Layout Community Group @ W3C ([www.w3.org/community/ppl/](http://www.w3.org/community/ppl/)) is open to all aspects of page layout theory and practice. It is free to join, and all are welcome at all levels of expertise.

The open-source XSLT extension functions ([www.w3.org/community/ppl/wiki/XSLTExtensions](http://www.w3.org/community/ppl/wiki/XSLTExtensions)) allow you to run your XSL-FO formatter within your XSLT transform to get an area tree, and to do it as often as you like, so the XSLT can make decisions based on formatted areas to do things like:

- Adjust the start-indent of a fo:list-block based on the length of the longest fo:list-item-label in the list; or
  - Size this text to be 51.65771484375pt so it fits this box.

# XSLT and XSL-FO Processors

The open-source extension is available for Java and DotNet and uses either the Apache FOP XSL formatter or Antenna House AHF formatter to produce the area trees.

A single Java jar file covers four combinations of XSLT processor and XSL-FO formatter:

- Saxon 9.5 and FOP
  - Saxon 9.5 and Antenna House
  - Xalan and FOP
  - Xalan and Antenna House

The DotNet version supports:

- DotNet 4.0 and FOP
  - DotNet 4.0 and Antenna House

API

The PPL CG provides `ppl:area-tree()` for running the formatter and getting the area tree plus a selection of convenience functions to help hide both the details of the area tree and the differences between the area trees of different XSL-FO formatters.

```
ppl:area-tree($fo-tree as node() ) as document-node()
```

Runs the XSL-FO formatter on \$fo-tree to get an area tree.

Run the `YSE-1.0` command on the tree to get an area tree.

# XML

# What can you do with an area tree?

**Size text to  
fill available  
width**

The text is formatted at a known size, then formatted “for real” with the font-size multiplied by the ratio of the available width to the formatted width



# What can you do with an area tree?

# Adjust fo:list-block start-indent

Just the list item labels are formatted, the longest length is found, and the provisional-distance-between-starts is set on the fo:list-block

## Print and Page Layout Community Group XSLT Extensions

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`ppl:area-tree($fo-tree as node()) as document-node()`

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### XML



This screenshot shows a large amount of XSLT code, likely from a GitHub repository or a code editor. The code is heavily annotated with red and orange highlights, indicating specific parts of the XSLT that are being analyzed or modified. The code includes various XSLT constructs like `<xsl:template>`, `<xsl:variable>`, and `<xsl:for-each>`, along with calls to the PPL extension functions such as `ppl:area-tree()` and `ppl:block-bpd()`. The overall structure is complex, reflecting the logic required to handle the area tree and calculate the start-indent for fo:list-block elements.

# What can you do with an area tree?

# Make list item body avoid a long label

Each fo:list-item-body formats its fo:list-item-label and, if the fo:list-item-label is too long, adds space above itself to get out of the way

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