

Re: Keeping Formatting When Deleting a Section Break?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.docmanagement/2008-06/msg01052.html>

- *From:* "Suzanne S. Barnhill" <sbarnhill@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jun 2008 08:33:44 -0500
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The alternative to reformatting after deleting the section break is to copy the formatting of the next-to-last section into the last section before deleting the break. If it's just a matter of margins and other settings in Page Setup, then this is done quite easily:

1. Place the insertion point in the next-to-last section.
2. Open Page Setup. Without making any changes, click OK.
3. Now move the insertion point to the last section and press F4. This will copy the Page Setup settings you just made in the previous section.

For an example of how this works, see
<http://sbarnhill.mvps.org/WordFAQs/DetachEnvelope.htm>.

If there are headers and footers involved, you'll need to unlink the last section so that it inherits the headers/footers from the previous section.

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"Steve H" <SteveH@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:FCD3D81F-07A2-4950-B40A-67A41EDBB6CD@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Ms. Barnhill -

My question was this: is there a way to delete a section break and keep the formatting in the preceding section without having the formatting automatically changed to match the second, deleted section? Based on my own experience, the only way I knew how to do it was to re-format the section after deleting the page break.

Re: Keeping Formatting When Deleting a Section Break?

I read through the entire linked document again. While you are correct that the article does address this question, it offers no solution other than what I have already figured out. Basically, the answer is that there is no way to delete a section break without having the formatting of the second section replace the formatting of the first section.

Now, the article did offer some tricks or (not so very short) shortcuts, like copying the section break to the end of the next section prior to deleting the section break. But that is just a trick, as you are still left with an unwanted section break. If you then try to delete that unwanted section break, the formatting change happens anyway. The article offered another solution, in which you change the formatting of the second section to match the formatting of the first section before you delete the section break. But you still have to reformat, right? Regardless of when you do it, the bottom line is that if you want to delete a section break between two sections with different formats, you are going to have to reformat something.

Personally, I was hoping that there was some way to change the default settings so that when deleting a page break, the preceding format is maintained, which seems a lot more logical to me. However, there is nothing in that article or in what you have written that provides any answer to the question other than to say "that's just the way it is" while offering some unsatisfactory shortcuts.

I will acknowledge that the article you linked to did provide an explanation about how sections work in Word; I learned a lot and I am grateful. But, at the same time, the article left me even more bewildered about how illogical this "design" is. I don't think it makes me a "poor workman" to offer criticism, but if you think it does, then so be it. Microsoft's products like Office and Internet Explorer are popular because of Windows bundling and Microsoft's business practices. Word is the "default" word processing program, and it has very little to do with the quality of the program itself. I can think of several better-designed word processing programs and I would use those tools if I could.

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