

Decimal point alignment using `fo:list-block` or `fo:leader`

To align text on a decimal point without using `text-align="."`, you have to split the number into two parts (integer and fraction) and format them separately (splitting can be done in XSLT). The most concise method is to wrap the fractional part into a leader with fixed length; then you can align the whole to the right. More or less like this:

```
$123,456<fo:leader leader-pattern="use-content"  
                leader-length="18pt"  
                leader-pattern-width="18pt">.78</fo:leader>
```

Code above guarantees the fixed distance of 18pt from the decimal point to the right edge of the inline object, regardless of the actual length of the fractional part. Aligning these constructs to the right produces the desired effect.

The method discussed above is not the only one. You can also put the integer and the fraction to adjacent cells in a table, or to label/body of a list object. These methods are more verbose albeit conceptually simpler. Code below demonstrates decimal point alignment created with `fo:list-block` element:

```
<fo:list-block start-indent="0in"  
              provisional-label-separation="0pt"  
              provisional-distance-between-starts="60pt">  
<fo:list-item>  
  <fo:list-item-label end-indent="label-end()">  
    <fo:block text-align="right">$123,456</fo:block>  
  </fo:list-item-label>  
  <fo:list-item-body start-indent="body-start()">  
    <fo:block text-align="left">.78</fo:block>  
  </fo:list-item-body>  
</fo:list-item>  
</fo:list-block>
```

With the code cited above distance between left edge of the parent area and decimal point is fixed to 60pt.

Below is the table with two columns, every column is 120pt wide and contain some numeric data aligned by decimal point. In the first column data is aligned using 'fo:list-block' method cited above, in the second column using 'fo:leader' method.

\$123,465.78	\$123,465.78
\$545.1	\$545.1
\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
\$99.99	\$99.99