LayoutZone

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Installation

Drop the LayoutZone.zip file into the Scripts folder inside your InDesign application folder. It should be at the top level of the Scripts folder, and not inside a folder that's already there.

Double-click the .zip file to decompress the archive. The archive will decompress into a LayoutZone folder. Inside the folder you should see three folders and the LayoutZoneMenuItems.jsxbin file. Delete the .zip archive. Launch or restart InDesign to begin working with LayoutZone.
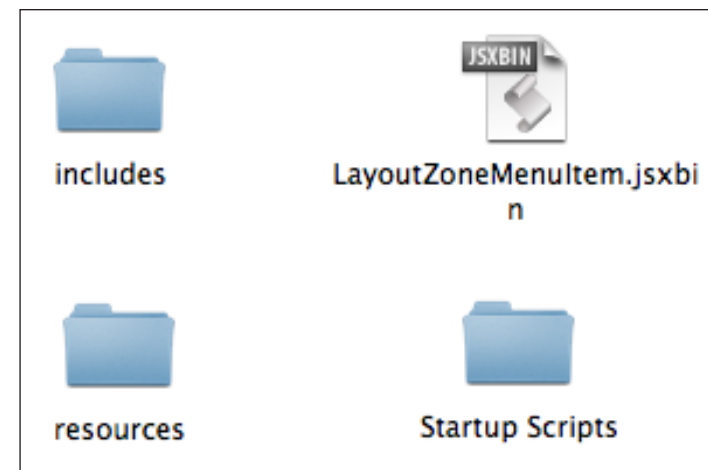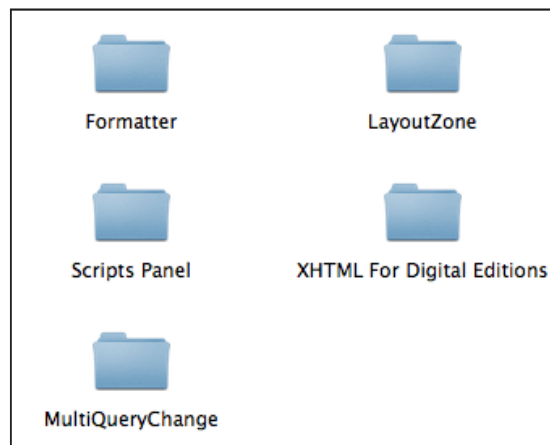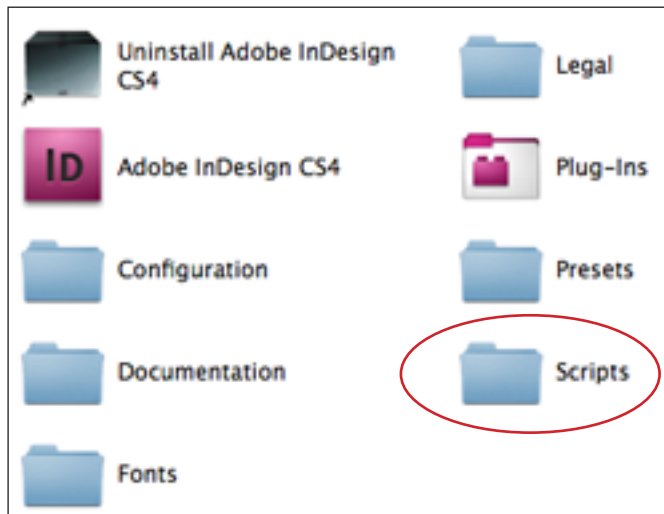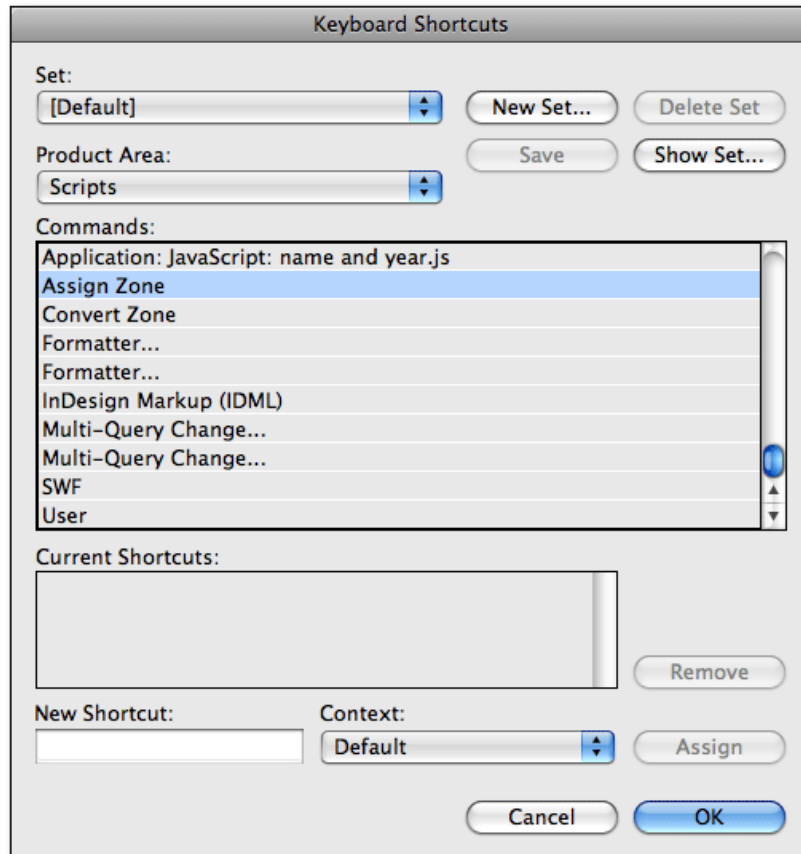
Creating a Shortcut

If LayoutZone is a tool you're going to be using frequently, you can use InDesign's keyboard shortcut editor to assign a keyboard shortcut to trigger the Assign Zone or Convert Zone commands dialog box.

To do this, go to **Edit > Keyboard Shortcuts**. This command opens InDesign's keyboard shortcut editor. Click on the New Set button to save a new set if you haven't already created a custom keyboard shortcut set.

To add a shortcut for LayoutZone, choose Scripts from the Product Area drop-down menu. Scroll through your list of scripts to locate the Assign Zone and Convert Zone commands. Select a command, and enter a shortcut in the New Shortcut field, being careful to observe if you've entered a shortcut that's already in use. When you're ready to save a shortcut, click on the Assign button, then click OK.
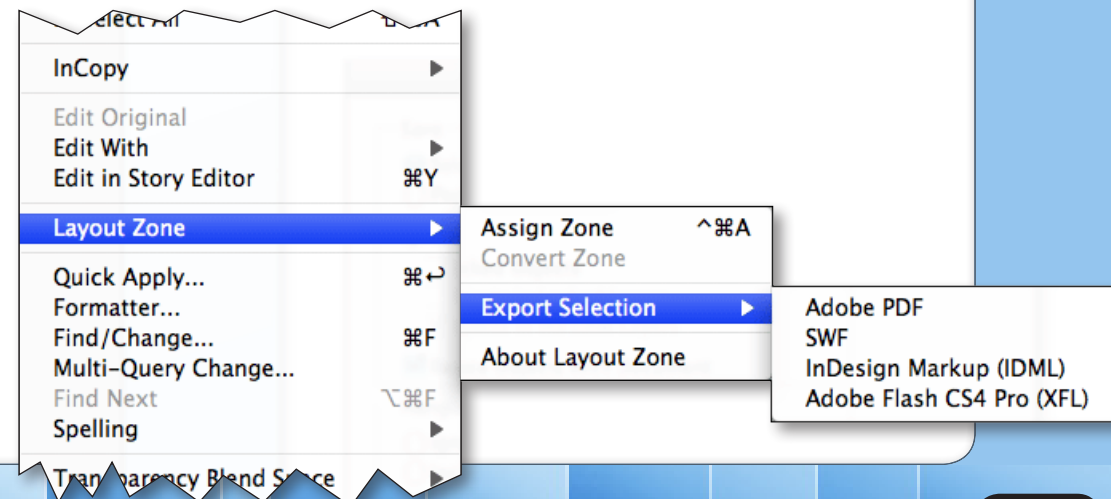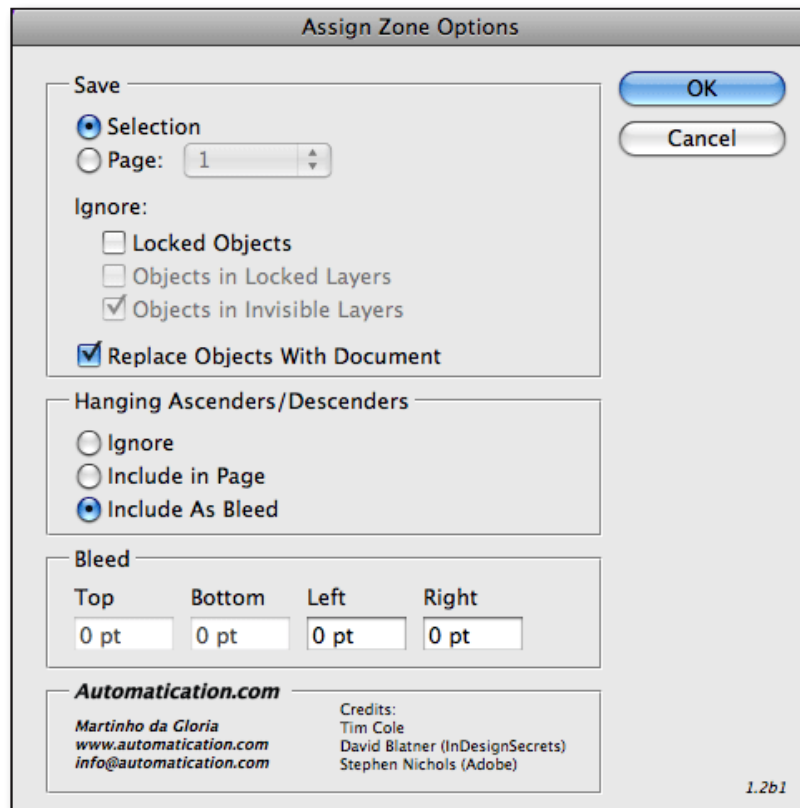
Getting Started

LayoutZone is a powerful utility that enables you to convert one or more objects on your page into a placed InDesign file that can be edited outside the parent document. LayoutZone also enables you to convert a placed InDesign file back into editable native objects within the parent document.

In addition, LayoutZone gives you the ability to export any selection (as opposed to an entire page or entire document) in PDF, SWF, IDML, or XFL formats.

Assign Zone Options

To use LayoutZone, select one or more page objects, then use **Edit > LayoutZone > Assign Zone** to bring up the **Assign Zone Options** dialog box (if you don't select an object, then the dialog will open with the **Selection** option grayed out).

You then have a number of options available for creating a layout zone in your InDesign document:

Save
- **Selection:** exports a .indd version of your selected object(s).
- **Page:** exports an entire page as a .indd document.
- **Ignore**
  - **Locked Objects:** does not include locked objects in the .indd export.
  - **Objects in Locked Layers:** does not included objects in locked layers in the .indd export.
  - **Objects in Invisible Layers:** does not include any objects in invisible layers in the .indd export.

Assign Zone Options

Save

- ⦿ Selection
- ○ Page: 1

Ignore:

- ☐ Locked Objects
- ☐ Objects in Locked Layers
- ☑ Objects in Invisible Layers

☑ Replace Objects With Document

Hanging Ascenders/Descenders

- ○ Ignore
- ○ Include in Page
- ⦿ Include As Bleed

Bleed

Top	Bottom	Left	Right
0 pt	0 pt	0 pt	0 pt

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Stephen Nichols (Adobe)

1.2b1

[OK] [Cancel]

- **Replace Objects With Document:** when checked, this option tells LayoutZone to replace your selected objects or entire page of objects with the exported .indd file. To edit those objects, you would **option/alt + double-click** on the placed .indd file, or open the .indd file from the file system using the **File > Open** command.

Hanging Ascenders/Descenders

- **Ignore:** if you check this box, LayoutZone will not try to adjust the dimensions of the exported .indd page to accommodate ascenders or descenders that might extend outside the bounds of their container frames. This could result in undesirable clipping of text or other content.
- **Include in Page:** LayoutZone will increase the page size to accommodate ascenders and descenders.
- **Include as Bleed:** LayoutZone will build a bleed area into the exported .indd page to accommodate the ascenders and descenders.

Bleed

- Use the bleed options to specify your own document bleed. Use
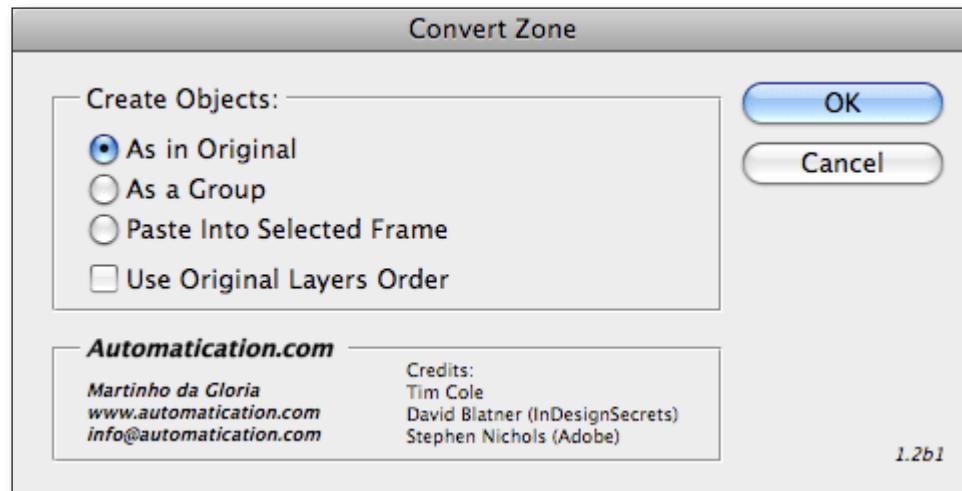
this option if LayoutZone's "Include as Bleed" feature doesn't give you the result you want in accommodating ascenders, descenders, strokes, etc.

Convert Zone

LayoutZone enables you to convert a placed InDesign file back into native, editable objects in the parent document. To use this option, simply select a placed InDesign file with the selection tool, and then choose the **Edit > LayoutZone > Convert Zone command.** The resulting dialog box gives you the following options:

Create Objects
- **As In Original:** duplicates the objects in the placed InDesign file in the parent file.
- **As a Group:** converts the placed InDesign file into local, native objects, and groups them together.
- **Paste Into Selected Frame:** use this option if you have the placed InDesign file cropped in any way by its frame, whether it's a rectangle, oval, or irregularly shaped frame. LayoutZone will convert the placed InDesign file, group, and paste its objects into a frame of the same shape and size.
- **Use Original Layers Order:** this option preserves the layer order of the objects in the converted InDesign file.

Export Selection

LayoutZone also enables you to export a document selection in 4 different file formats: PDF, SWF, IDML, and XFL. Choose **Edit > LayoutZone > Export Selection > [file format].** LayoutZone copies and pastes the selected objects into a new document sized to fit the selected objects, and then invokes the appropriate InDesign export dialog box. Because InDesign's own export feature is used, all the standard options for the export are available for each file format.