

I want to show you a really neat feature of InDesign Alternate Layouts called Linked Text. This is a fantastic feature that can help you keep the content of multiple layouts in sync.

In this file, I've completed the layout of each phone page. Turn to page two of the desktop layout. Now you may recall that when you use the create Alternate Layout feature to begin the phone layout, you selected the Link Stories option. Well, here's what that option does for you: in the desktop layout, replace this paragraph with "What to leave behind" and apply the H2 paragraph style.

Now turn to the phone layout. Then you'll see that the text hasn't changed here. But if you show your frame edges, you'll see an out-of-date link icon in the corner of the text frame, indicating that the text is out-of-date. If you look in the Links panel, you'll see the same thing.

Double-click the icon in either place and the text on the phone layout will update. Because paragraph styles with the same names were used in each layout. The formatting in each layout is preserved. Now it looks like I can close this page up a bit. InDesign's Linked Text feature is very deep. There's a lot more to the feature beyond this simple use. You can read all about it in the InDesign user guide. Linked Text is a fantastic feature. That can be a big help when maintaining or updating the text content of multiple layouts.