



A Case Study in Technical
Communication Best Practices



COMPANY WEBSITE

www.traccsolution.com

LOCATION

Irvine, California

INDUSTRY

Management Consulting | Software

Global Management Consulting Firm CCI Delivers Documentation Across Multiple Online and Print Formats in 14 Languages Using MadCap Lingo and MadCap Flare



GOALS

- » Facilitate more efficient development and delivery of CCI's documentation and training materials through content re-use and single-source, multichannel publishing.
- » Enhance users' experience by making it easier to navigate the online Help and locate the information they need.
- » Lower the cost and effort associated with translating CCI's documentation into 14 languages.

SOLUTIONS

- » MadCap Flare native XML single-source, multi-channel content authoring software
- » MadCap Lingo computer-aided translation (CAT) tool and workflow management software
- » MadCap Analyzer for analyzing Flare content and recommending improvements
- » MadCap Contributor for reviewing and contributing to Flare-based documentation

BENEFITS

» EFFICIENCY

Flare's topic-based single-source publishing facilitates content reuse and streamlines delivery of documentation in HTML5, PDF, EPUB, PowerPoint, and Adobe Illustrator outputs.

» INTUITIVE EXPERIENCE

HTML5 Help in Flare with Google-style search provides employees a clean, modern web experience when accessing the information they need.

» CUSTOMIZATION

Snippets, variables, and conditional tags in Flare enable CCI to customize content for different clients with minimal effort in ways previously not possible.

» COST-EFFECTIVE TRANSLATION

MadCap Lingo, which is fully integrated with Flare, eliminates redundancies in translating CCI's documentation into 14 languages, saving time and money.



Competitive Capabilities International (CCi) is at the forefront in delivering solutions for global operations excellence management. Serving organizations across more than 70 countries, CCI's solutions drive sustainable bottom-line results for clients by building world-class capabilities and best practices across the entire value chain. At the heart of these solutions is CCI's cloud-based software platform, TRACC, which powers the business improvement initiatives of some of the world's leading organizations.

To help clients take full advantage of TRACC in improving their operations, CCI delivers a range of documentation and instructional materials. Today, the company relies on MadCap Flare for single-source publishing of this content across multiple formats, including HTML5-based Help, PDFs, EPUB files, and Microsoft PowerPoint slides. Additionally, CCI uses the translation capabilities of MadCap Lingo to cost-effectively produce content in 14 different languages.



Multiple Publishing Tools Add Complexity

For years, CCI relied on a combination of products to produce its PDF documentation and training materials. Content was first developed in Microsoft Word. Then, the Word content was manually imported into Adobe InDesign to create layouts for the different outputs that CCI was delivering. However, it was both time-consuming and labor-intensive to manually make edits and ensure consistency across CCI's extensive documentation, including some 12,000 pages of content in PDF and EPUB formats and 10,000-plus PowerPoint slides (these figures are for the English content only).

"Because everything had to be done manually, including updating the shared images and text scattered throughout our content, we couldn't efficiently maintain, customize, and deliver documentation to better serve our customers' needs," recalled Karen Miller, CMS specialist at CCI. "We had to work through one document at a time, which was just painful."

"Additionally, we had to produce translated versions of our Adobe Illustrator illustrations and infographics that we use throughout our various outputs, which was quite expensive," said Richard Cooksey, IT consultant at Inceptus Technology Corporation.

As a result, the CCI content development team began to search for a tool that would enable the company to improve efficiency, reduce time to delivery, cut costs, and allow rapid tailoring of content to the needs of individual customers. After an evaluation of authoring tools on the market, MadCap Flare emerged as the clear choice, providing a method for single-source publishing that would increase automation and customization.

"With advanced features, such as topic-based authoring, conditional filtering and multiple output formats, MadCap Flare seemed like the answer to help CCI meet all their requirements," explained Cooksey.

Miller added, "Flare also aligned with our need for a system that puts the content development team in charge. You can really tell that Flare was thought through by documentation professionals."

Streamlined Content Development and Delivery

Taking advantage of MadCap Flare's Microsoft Word import capabilities, CCI was able to import all of its existing documents and convert them into Flare—an enormous feat considering the amount of content that needed to be migrated.

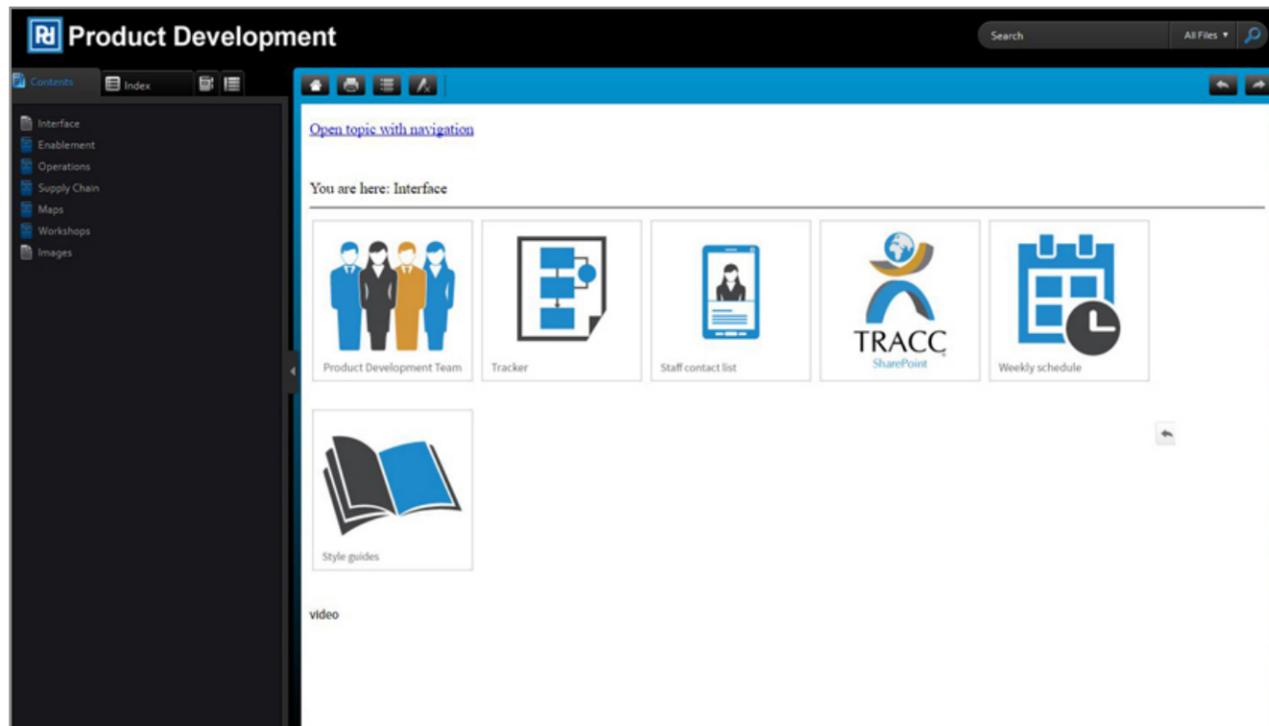
"Since we moved our Word content into Flare, we've been able to manage all our content through a single system," Miller noted. "That translates to a more seamless experience for both our team and our users."

Today CCI delivers EPUB and PDF documentation, as well as PowerPoint-based training materials for its TRACC Platform software system. Additionally, the company provides an internal HTML5-based Help system for employees to help them search through the published content. By taking advantage of MadCap Flare's topic-based single-source publishing capabilities, the CCI team has been able to streamline the process of creating and publishing this content.

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KAREN MILLER

CMS Specialist | Competitive Capabilities International (CCI)



CCI's HTML5-based Employee Help System created with Flare

In the past, multiple people and processes were required just to update content for all the different outputs. Now using MadCap Flare, the content development team can update the content once within a single Flare project, and then use conditional tags to mark the content they want extracted and published to the bespoke TRACC Platform software.

“We love that we have the ability to tag, structure, and export our content from Flare as XML files so we can transform and import it into our software system. It’s significantly reduced project and delivery time,” Miller said. “Instead of having to duplicate efforts, we have just one automated process. We’re also able to produce more consistent layouts of documents.”

Simplifying Collaboration and Quality Control

CCI has gained further efficiencies and fostered collaboration by leveraging MadCap Flare’s ability to integrate with the Git version control system (VCS) and MadCap Contributor, which is fully integrated with Flare.

“We have much better management, tracking and versioning of content now through Flare integration with Git,” Miller notes. “And Contributor makes it easy for anyone on the team to proofread and edit content once it’s in Flare.”

Meanwhile, to ensure content quality, the team relies on MadCap Analyzer, which is fully integrated with MadCap Flare. MadCap Analyzer goes through CCI’s Flare-based documentation to find issues, such as inconsistent code and broken hyperlinks, and provide recommendations for addressing them.

“Analyzer has been super helpful in enabling us to manage our content and find critical issues quickly,” Miller says.

“The translation memory functionality in MadCap Lingo allows us to see what we’ve translated as we work for future reuse, eliminating unnecessary repeated translations.

RICHARD COOKSEY

IT Consultant | Inceptus Technology Corporation

Trimming Translation Time and Costs

CCI also takes advantage of the tight integration between MadCap Flare and MadCap Lingo computer-aided translation (CAT) tool and workflow management solution to deliver its documentation in 14 languages.

In the past, the CCI team relied on a third-party translation house to help with its translation needs, a time-consuming and expensive approach. Each time the company updated content, which totaled roughly 500 PDF and EPUB documents and 100 PowerPoint slide decks, it would be re-translated in its entirety in 14 different languages—even if the majority of the content stayed the same from previously translated copies.

“Working with the translation house, we’d be charged for work we had already done—it was an incredible expense and really limited us,” Cooksey recalled. “By contrast, the translation memory functionality in MadCap Lingo allows us to see what we’ve translated as we work for future reuse, eliminating unnecessary repeated translations. This has really improved efficiency while giving us greater visibility and control of the translation process.”

Enhancing Experiences for Employees and Clients

Beyond the efficiencies CCI has realized, the company relies on MadCap Flare to enhance the experiences of employees and clients, alike. For employees, the writers use MadCap Flare's HTML5 output to deliver a more intuitive, modern internal Help system.

"Flare's HTML5 output provides a sleek web look and feel, and has also enabled CCI to give employees an easy-to-navigate knowledge base," Cooksey explained.

The team also takes advantage of Flare's Google-style search feature to make it easier for employees to access the information they need.

"The search functionality provided with Flare is amazing. Now our employees can use the search bar and locate information quickly by typing in a keyword instead of manually searching across thousands of documents," Miller said. "It helps them be more productive."

At the same time, the CCI team can now efficiently customize content for clients by making extensive use of snippets and variables in MadCap Flare.

"Before, our inefficient content delivery process prevented us from being able to support customer requests to customize and configure content," Cooksey recalled. "Now, snippets and variables created in Flare along with version control and continuous integration offer us tremendous flexibility to automate changes for different variations to suit each customer. We are able to do so much more for our customers with Flare; it often takes less than a day's work to complete the changes they want for quite significant product customizations."

Miller adds, "I can also easily create variables for product names as well as reuse content. This has saved so much time, since I generate all of those outputs from one project."

Opening Doors to Innovation

Because CCI delivers documentation and training materials in so many formats, the company's content developers continue to seek ways to streamline the process of delivery. Recently, the team developed an application that enabled the writers to integrate both Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Illustrator into MadCap Flare.

"Through integrations enabled by our app, we've been able to have all of our PowerPoint and Illustrator content, images, and info-graphics single-sourced and managed by Flare in the HTML5 format", Miller explains. "We can then customize the PowerPoint content for individual clients, automatically rebuild the PowerPoint files, and publish ready-to-use slide decks for those clients."



Level	Number	Description	Schematic	Comments
Top Level (Process Types)	1	Level 1 defines the scope and content for the Supply Chain Operations Reference model. Here the basis of competition performance targets are set.	[Schematic: A single arrow pointing right]	
Configuration Level (Process Categories)	2	The organization's supply chain can 'configure to order' at Level 2 from the core process categories. Organizations implement an operations strategy through the configuration they choose from their supply chain.	[Schematic: A horizontal line with three arrows pointing right]	
Process Element Level (Decompose Processes)	3	Level 3 defines an organization's ability to compete successfully in its chain markets, and consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process element definition Process element information inputs and outputs Process performance metrics Best practices where applicable System capabilities required to support best practices System and tools 	[Schematic: A flow diagram with boxes labeled P1.1, P1.2, P1.3, P1.4]	
Implementation Level (Decompose Process Elements)	4	Organizations implement specific supply chain management practices to achieve a competitive advantage and to adapt to changing business conditions.	[Schematic: A detailed flow diagram with multiple boxes and arrows]	

Trainer Notes

1. Process mapping may already be well established in the organisation, in which case a decision needs to be made about the methodology to be used.
2. This slide introduces the SCOR methodology to mapping.
3. The methodology used in the Supply Chain TRACCs is based on the Supply Chain Operations Reference (SCOR) framework, developed and endorsed by the Supply Chain Council (SCC). It is summarised on the slide.
4. The reference model contains standard descriptions of common processes, a framework of relationships and standard metrics to address process performance.
5. The Supply Chain Council specifies four process levels in its SCOR supply chain measurement tool, and indicates the type of processes to be modelled at each level.
6. Processes at higher levels can be modelled using simpler symbols such as arrows, while processes mapped at level 4 would be detailed, making extensive use of the symbol, word and phrase systems contained in the methodology.
7. Mapping methodologies therefore tend to differ most in terms of how they approach mapping at the detailed process level.

CCI Maintains Consistency in Content in PowerPoint and HTML5-based Help outputs with Flare

“ The ability to have straight-forward management of PowerPoint and Illustrator-sourced content in, along with our other Word-sourced Flare content is quite powerful and innovative.

KAREN MILLER

CMS Specialist | Competitive Capabilities International (CCI)

Miller adds, “The ability to have straight-forward management of PowerPoint and Illustrator-sourced content in Flare, along with our other Word-sourced Flare content, is quite powerful and innovative. It speaks volumes about the flexibility of Flare.”

Cooksey added, “We love working with MadCap, and we’ve seen such a huge improvement in workflow with Flare. It’s given us a sense of empowerment to achieve things we had struggled to imagine doing before.”

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