The Framework of MadCap Flare: Understanding The Key Principles Behind How Flare Works

PRESENTED BY:
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BEFORE WE GET STARTED...

The webinar will be recorded and emailed to all registrants

Use the Question Panel in GoToWebinar to ask questions throughout the webinar
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Biggest Challenge

Understanding how all of the pieces fit together
Goal

Start you down the road from confused to **empowered**
Objectives

• Understand why Flare is designed the way it is
• Start to build an understanding of how its main pieces fit together relate to one another
• Demonstrate key aspects of the Flare interface
Why?

The same architecture that makes Flare confusing is what gives it its power.
“Three T’s”

Topics

Contain your content
Located in **Content Explorer**

TOCs

Provide organization and structure to your topics
Located in **TOCs** folder in **Project Organizer**

Targets

Compiles (“builds”) your TOC into usable output, such as PDF or HTML.
Located in **Targets** folder in **Project Organizer**
Demo

1. Create a new Flare project using the Top Navigation and PDF Basic 2 template

2. Look at the relationship between Topics, TOCs, and Targets in the Flare interface

3. Build a target and view output
# Flare Mindset

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Flare filetypes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
<td>Create and structure your content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Style</strong></td>
<td>Decide what you want your content to look like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build</strong></td>
<td>Compile usable output from Flare source files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publish</strong></td>
<td>Put the output where people can access it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stylesheets

Stylesheets determine the look of your content.

Everything that affects how your content looks should be in the stylesheet.

Found in Content Explorer/Resources/Stylesheets folder.
Demo

1. Open a topic and stylesheet side-by-side to see how they relate.

2. Edit a style.

3. Create and apply a style class.

4. Create a TableStyle
HTML TopNav

- **Topic**
- **Skin**
- **TOC**
- **MasterPage (Proxies)**
Skin

Defines the look and feel for your final online output

For TopNav, two types of skin files:

- **TopNav skin**: Settings for header banner, top nav menu, search bar

- **Component skins** (most common):
  - Favicon: image for browser tab, address bar, bookmark, Windows tiles
  - Menu: Styles for the side navigation (menu proxy)

- Found in **Project Organizer / Skins** folder
MasterPage

Applies certain content to multiple (or all) topics. Like a template for online output

Found in **Content Exporer/Resources/MasterPages**

In depth look at MasterPages
Skin

MasterPage

Topic

TOC

Skin

MasterPage

Topic

TOC

Feature 2
Here is some general text for a topic. Replace this with your own content.

topic body proxy

menu proxy and SideMenu component skin
Demo

1. Look at how this all comes together in the target file
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Questions

Let’s connect!

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