Getting Started with MadCap Flare
Part 2: Feature Concepts
Who Am I?


• Internationally recognized content creation and delivery consultant.
• Helps create efficient, flexible content.
• Certified – Flare, Mimic, ViziApps.
• Works to make the complex understandable.
Welcome to...

» The second of four webinars for new Flare users.
» We’ll look at some of Flare’s core control files.
» The result – you’ll use these features better...
» ...possibly even learn about features that you didn’t know existed.
Today’s Agenda

» Styles and CSSs
» Table CSSs
» Proxies
» Master Pages and Page Layouts
» Skins
Where Do These Things Fit?

Skin

- Master page
- Topic template(s)
- CSS
- Table CSS

Skin

- Master page
Styles and CSS

» Local formatting – Selecting text, then using the Home ribbon’s Font and Paragraph options.

» Common but very inefficient.
Instead, Use Styles

» What’s a style?

» A named set of properties for a type of content.

» Like H1 style set as 16pt, Navy, Arial, Bold.
  • You must apply styles, although Flare *does* apply h1 and p when you create a new topic.
  • If you then have to change a property, you only do so once, for the *style* – the change applies everywhere you applied the style.
What’s a Style Sheet?

» A file that defines the properties of all (ideally) the styles for a project.

» Called a cascading style sheet, or “CSS”.
  • Like Word’s styles conceptually but:
    – An open standard rather than MS-proprietary.
    – Separate from the content template rather than part of it.
“Cascading” – Definition 1

“Cascade” of three ways to apply styles.

- External – CSS file to which each topic links.
  - Highest efficiency, lowest priority.
- Embedded – Stored in topic to which styles apply.
  - Middle efficiency, middle priority.
- Inline/Local – Formatting via text formatting toolbar.
  - Lowest efficiency, highest priority.
Style “Cascade” Example

Head Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link to CSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head Body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Link to CSS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Styles.css

H1=16CSnavy
H2=14CSpink
P=10Ablank
“Cascading” – Definition 2

» “Child” styles inherit settings from their parent styles.

  • For example, if Normal style uses Arial and you create a child style based on Normal, the child uses Arial.
  • So the more properties you can define in a parent style, the more efficient your CSS development.
Parent/Child Example

- The styles under “p” are child styles (“sub-classes”) of p.
- Changing a property of p changes that property in all the p child styles.
How To Create and Define Styles

» Use Flare’s Stylesheet editor.
How To Apply Your CSS

» Apply the CSS to your topics.
  • Define one CSS as the master CSS for the entire project – Project > Project Properties.
How To Apply Your CSS’ Styles

» Then apply styles *from* the CSS to types of text.
  • Tedious, but pretty easy (with some discipline).
Why Use Styles and Style Sheets?

» ...instead of local formatting?

  • Cleaner, simpler code – this:
    <p>
  • Instead of this:
    <p class="abc" style="margin-left: 12px; text-align: left;">
Why Use Styles and Style Sheets?

» Plus:
  • Efficiency – Style changes apply across the entire project.
  • Consistency – If all authors use one CSS (correctly), everyone’s outputs standardize.
  • Extensibility – Styles may affect other processing, like Word file import into Flare.
  • The future, per the W3C...
Table CSS(s)

» Conceptually similar to regular CSSs but specifically for tables.
» Can be applied to all tables in a project with just a few mouse clicks.
» Created using the Tablestyle Editor.
Tablestyle Editor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Columns</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
<th>Column1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body1</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body1</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footer1</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
<td>Footer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table CSS(s)

» About that global application...
Proxies

» Placeholders for types of information.
» For example, the proxies in this master page:
Proxies

» Produce this output.
Proxies

» Flare auto-assigns some proxies when you create features like master pages.
» You can delete unused proxies.
» Or add proxies by selecting Insert > Proxy.
Master Pages

» To create headers and footers to be used on every topic in *online* output.
» And customize those headers and footers – adding a copyright statement, product name, etc.
» For example, this simple master page.
Master Pages

» Produces this simple output.

You are here: Topic

Topic Title

Delete this text and replace it with your own content.
Master Pages

» Modifying that master page to this...
Master Pages

» Produces this in every topic...

You are here: Topic

Acme Vaporizer, Mark 2

**Topic Title**

Here's my text.

Copyright © 2015 Acme Instruments, Inc.
Page Layouts

» To define headers, footers, orientation, page size, and margins for *print* output.
  • Similar to Word’s Page Setup feature.

» And customize those elements, like adding a page number, copyright statement, logo, etc.

» For example, this simple page layout...
Page Layouts

» Produces this on every page...
Page Layouts

Topic Title
Here's my text.
Skins

» Let you define a “frame” for online output.
» And control frame elements like navigation tabs, toolbar items, logos, etc., and their position, colors, display, etc.
» For example...
Skins

» The traditional “tri-pane” skin.
Skins

» The new “topnav” skin.
Summary

» Next, we’ll cover single sourcing features and answer some common questions.

» These webinars may be repeated, so let us know if there’s a topic you think should be added for next time.
Hyper/Word Services Offers...

Training // Consulting // Development

Flare // Advanced Flare (thru MadCap)
ViziApps Mobile Apps // Single Sourcing
Structured Authoring
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