

# Getting Started with MadCap Flare

## Part 2: Feature Concepts



# Who Am I?

» Neil Perlin – Hyper/Word Services.

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



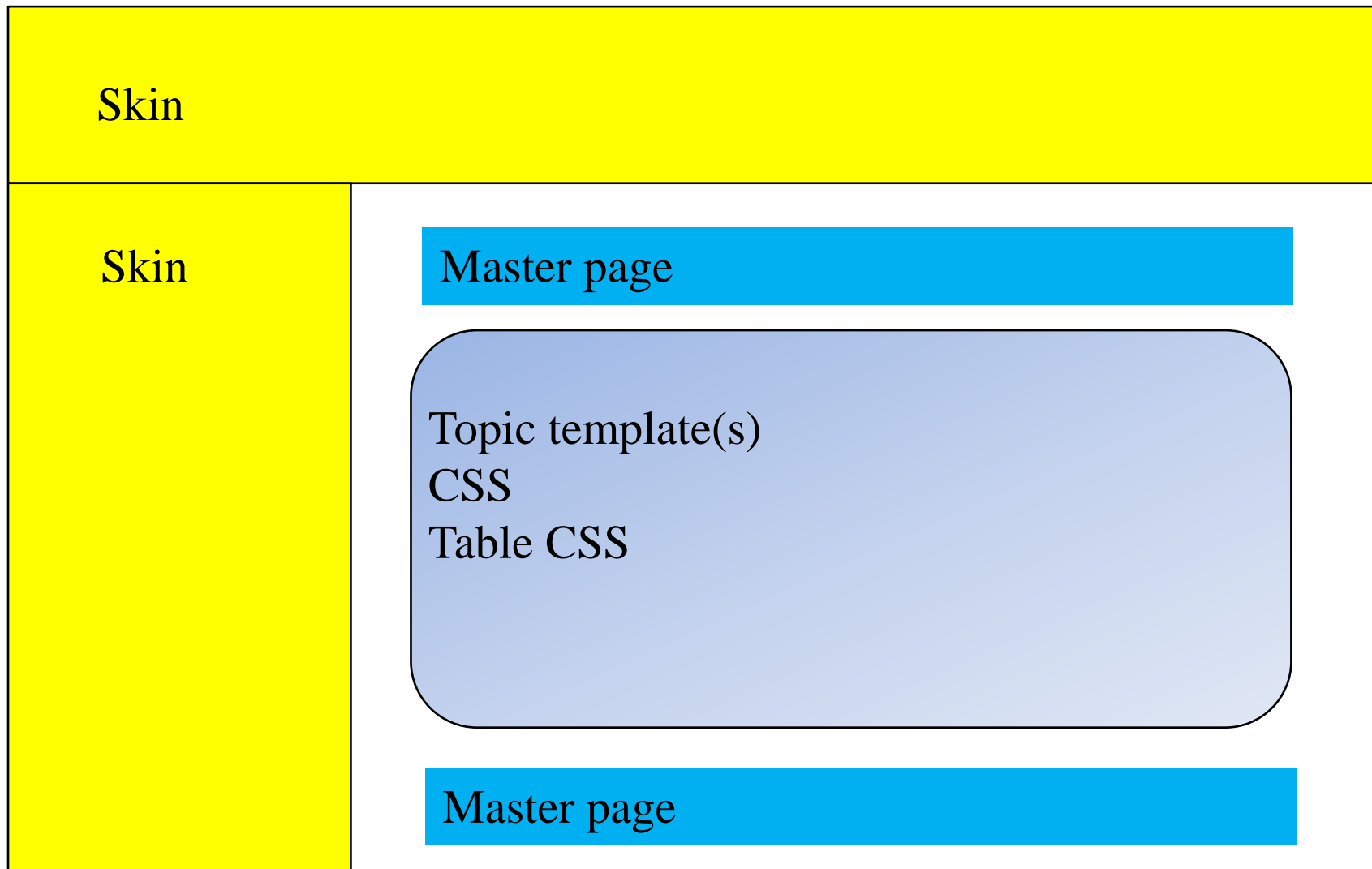
# Welcome to...

- » 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

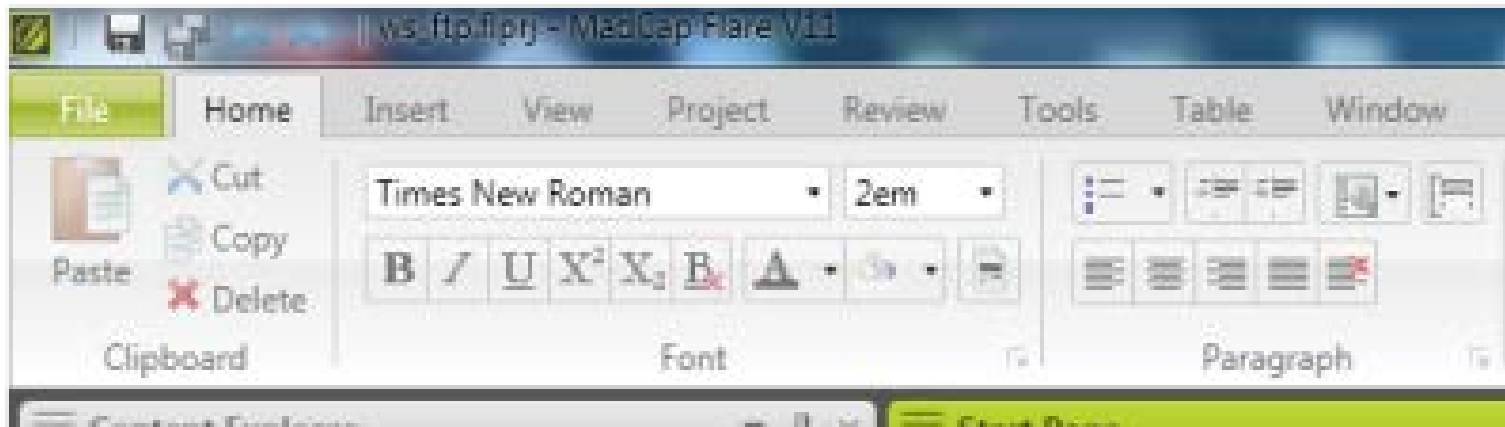
- » Styles and CSSs
- » Table CSSs
- » Proxies
- » Master Pages and Page Layouts
- » Skins

# Where Do These Things Fit?



# 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*?

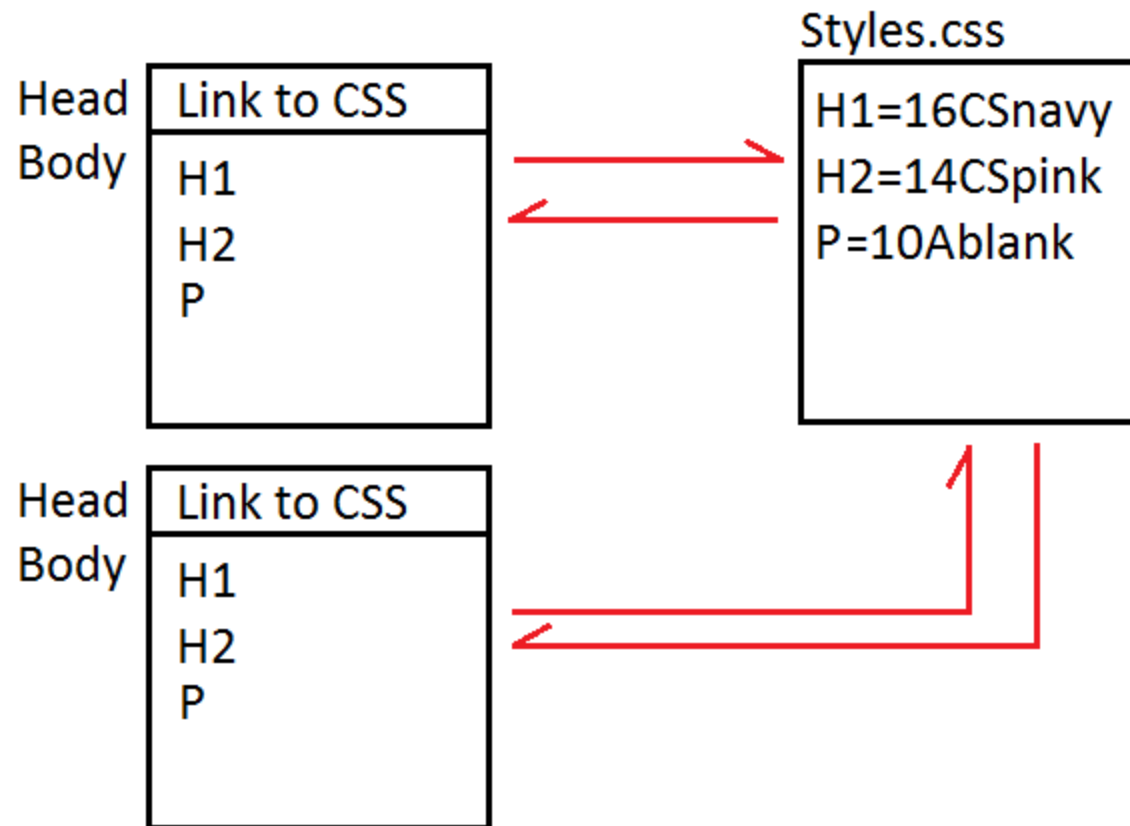
- » A file that defines the properties of all (ideally) the styles for a project.
- » Called a cascading style sheet, or “CSS”.
  - Like Word's styles *conceptually* but:
    - An open standard rather than MS-proprietary.
    - Separate from the content template rather than part of it.



# “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

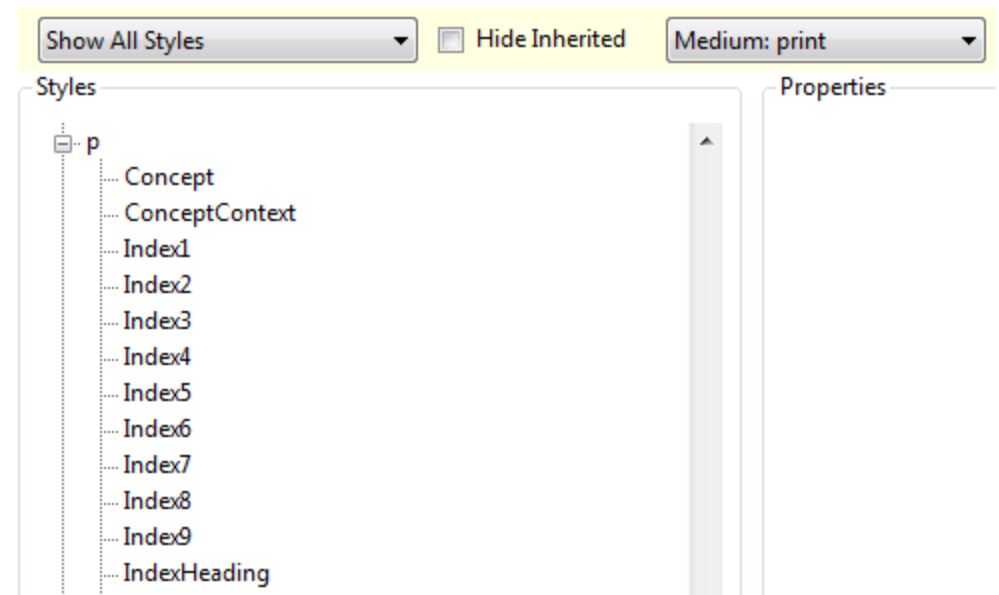


# “Cascading” – Definition 2

- » “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.

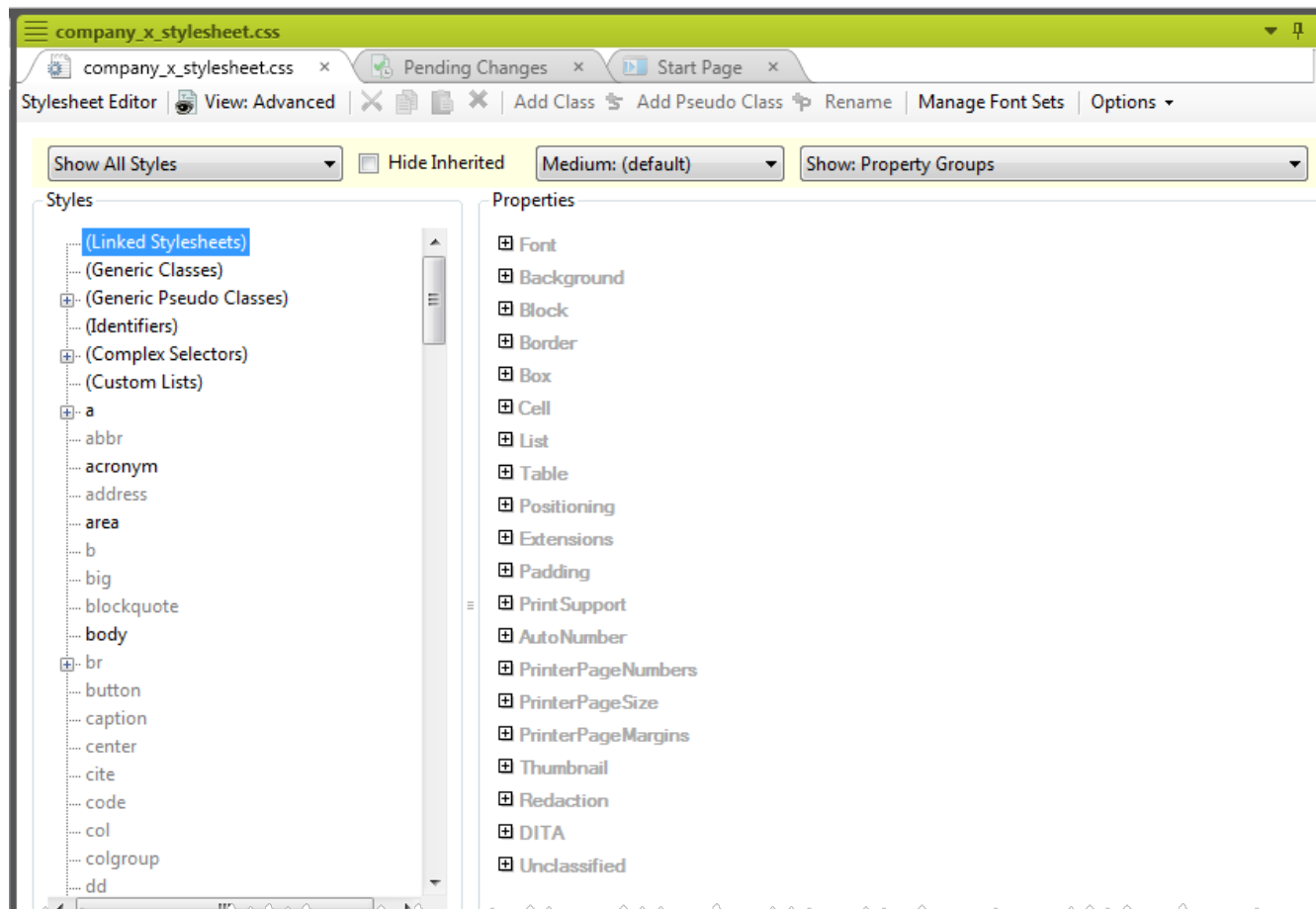
# Parent/Child Example

- » 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.



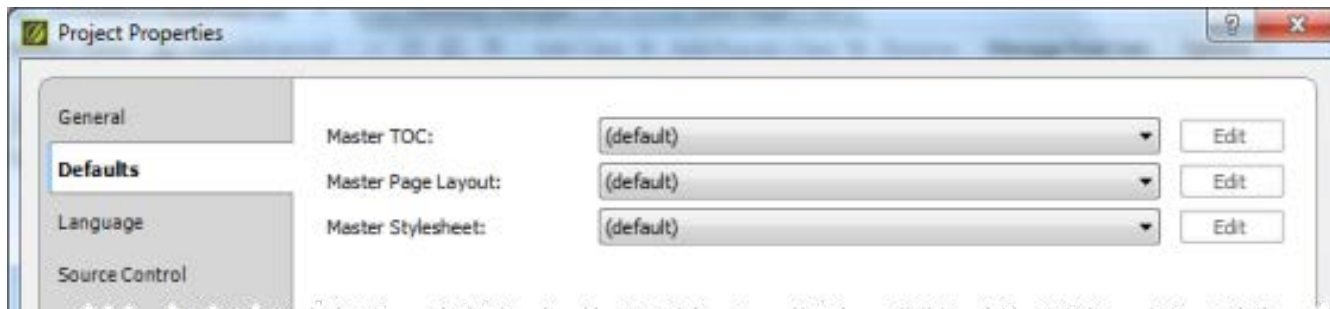
# How To Create and Define Styles

» Use Flare's Stylesheet editor.



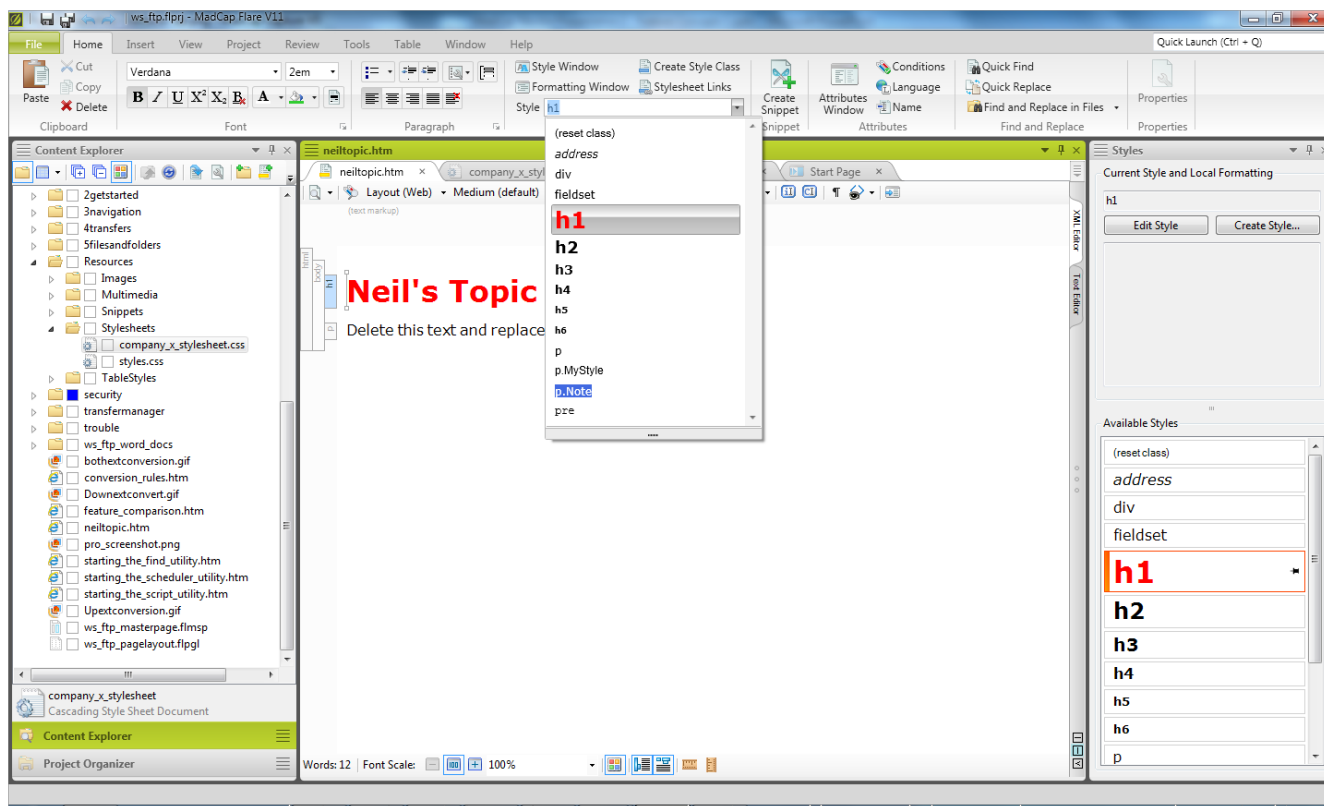
# How To Apply Your CSS

- » 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

The screenshot shows the Tablestyle Editor interface with the following configuration options:

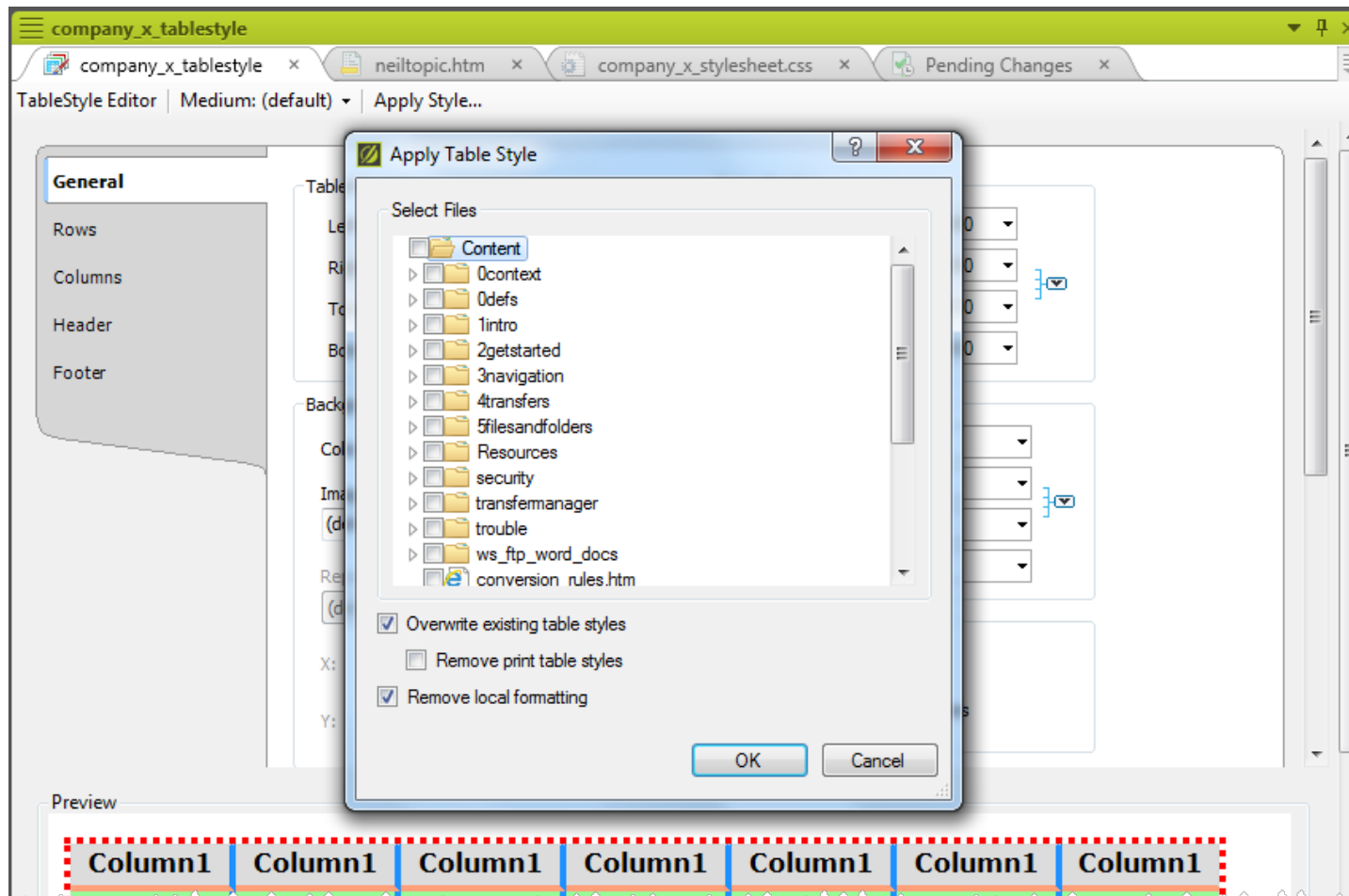
- General** (selected tab)
- Table Margins**: Left: (not set), Right: (not set), Top: (not set), Bottom: (not set)
- Outer Borders**: Left: dotted 4px #ff0000, Right: dotted 4px #ff0000, Top: dotted 4px #ff0000, Bottom: dotted 4px #ff0000
- Background**: Color: (not set), Image: (default), Repeat: (default), X: (default), Y: (default)
- Border Radius**: Top-Left: (not set), Top-Right: (not set), Bottom-Right: (not set), Bottom-Left: (not set)
- Cell Border Collapse**: ☒ Collapse cell borders, ☐ Do not collapse cell borders

**Preview**

Column1	Column1	Column1	Column1	Column1	Column1	Column1
Body1	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body
Body2	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body
Body1	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body
Body2	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body	Body
Footer1	Footer	Footer	Footer	Footer	Footer	Footer

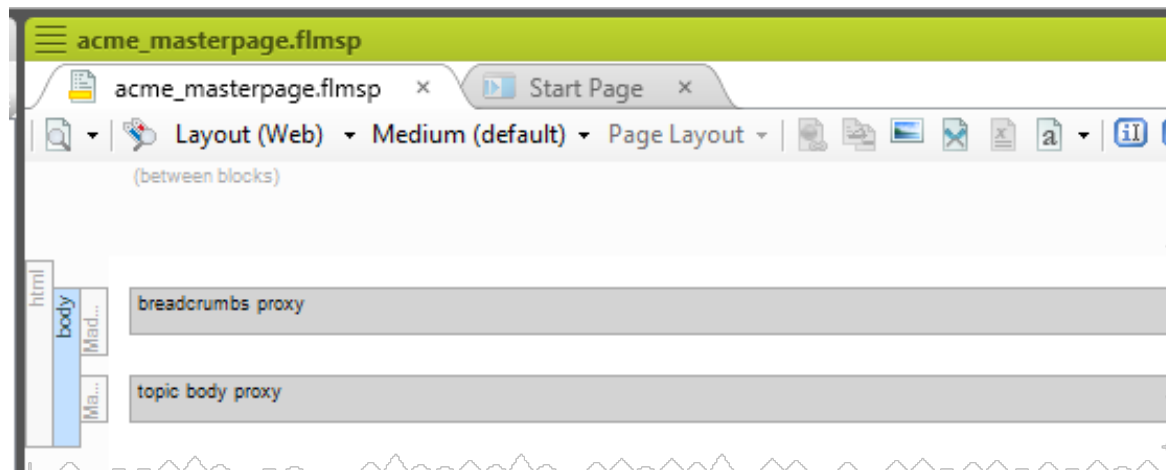
# Table CSS(s)

» About that global application...



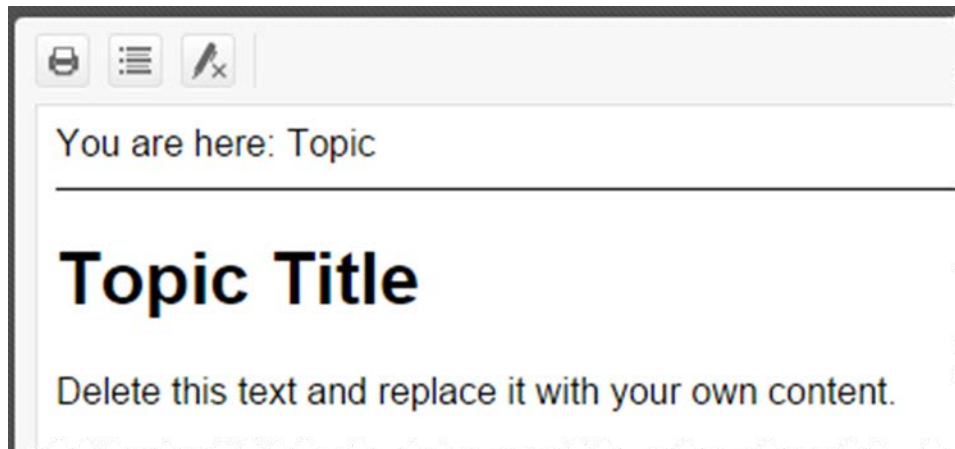
# Proxies

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



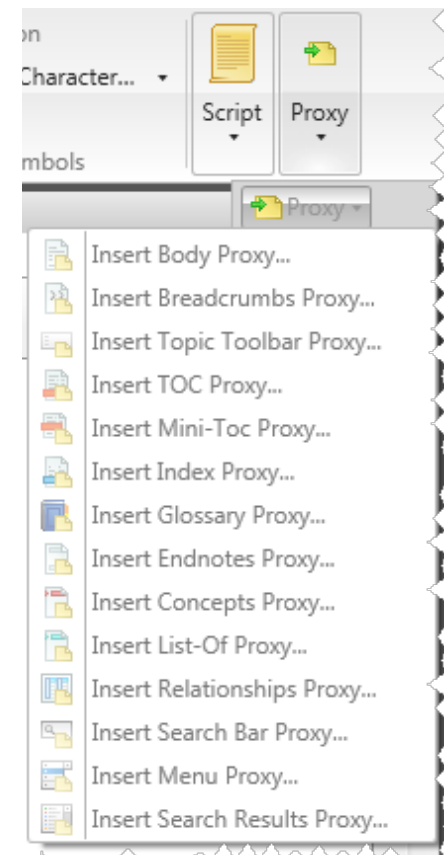
# Proxies

» Produce this output.



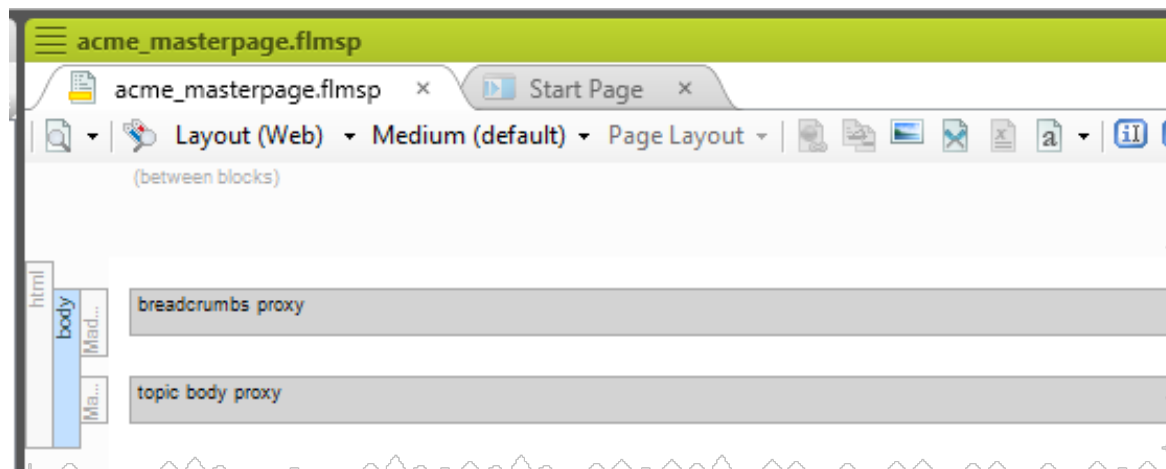
# Proxies

- » 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

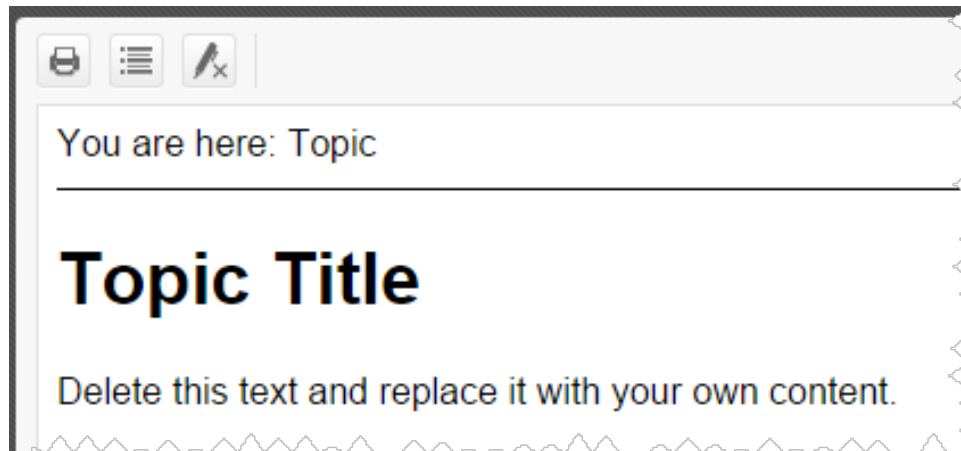
- » To create headers and footers to be used on every topic in *online* output.
- » And customize those headers and footers – adding a copyright statement, product name, etc.
- » For example, this simple master page.





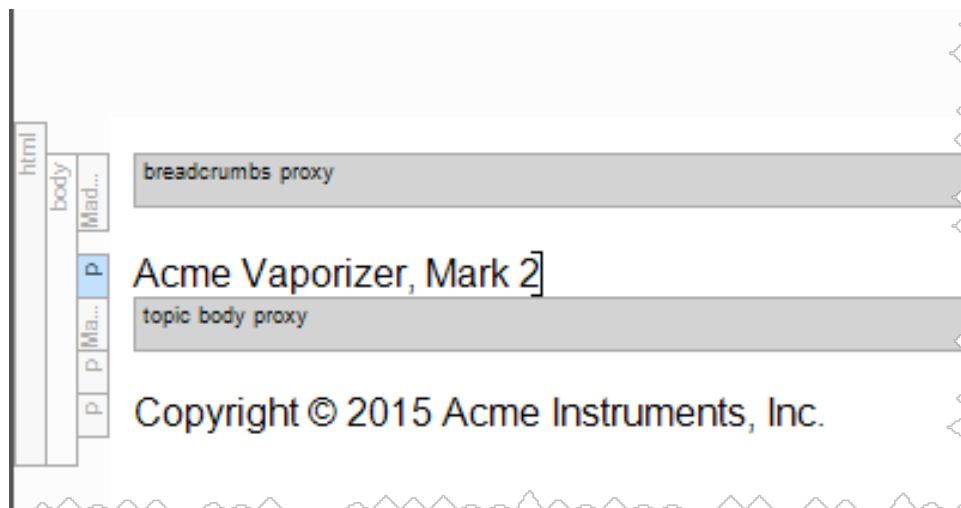
# Master Pages

» Produces this simple output.



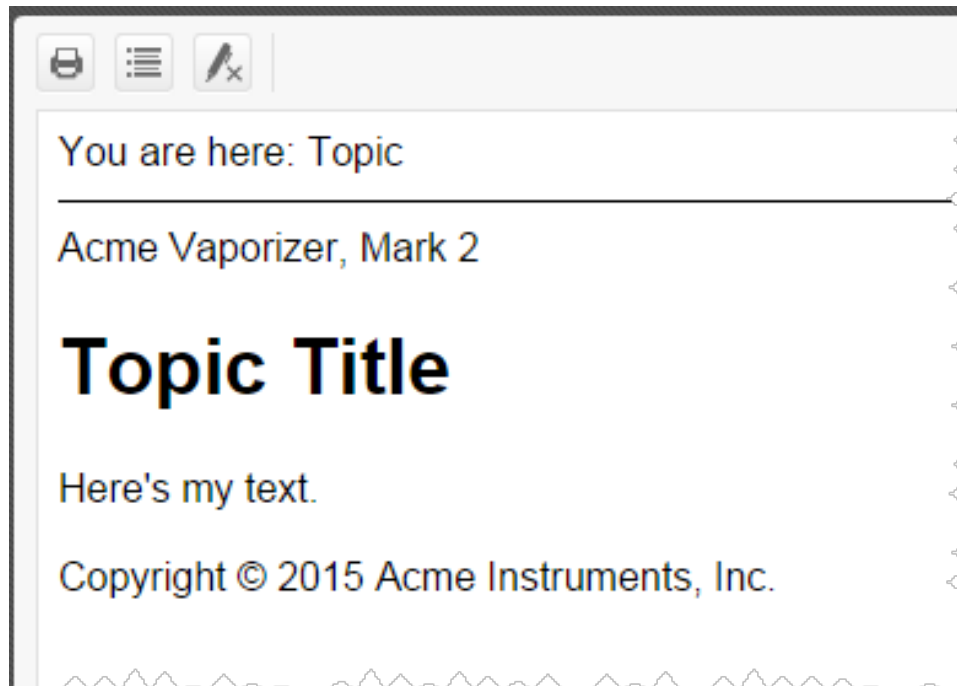
# Master Pages

» Modifying that master page to this...



# Master Pages

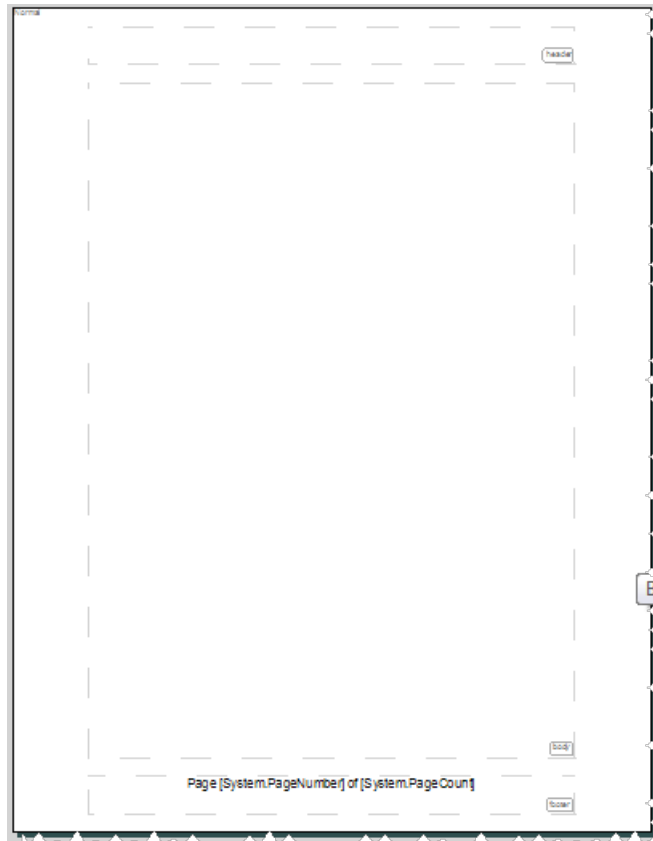
» Produces this in every topic...



# Page Layouts

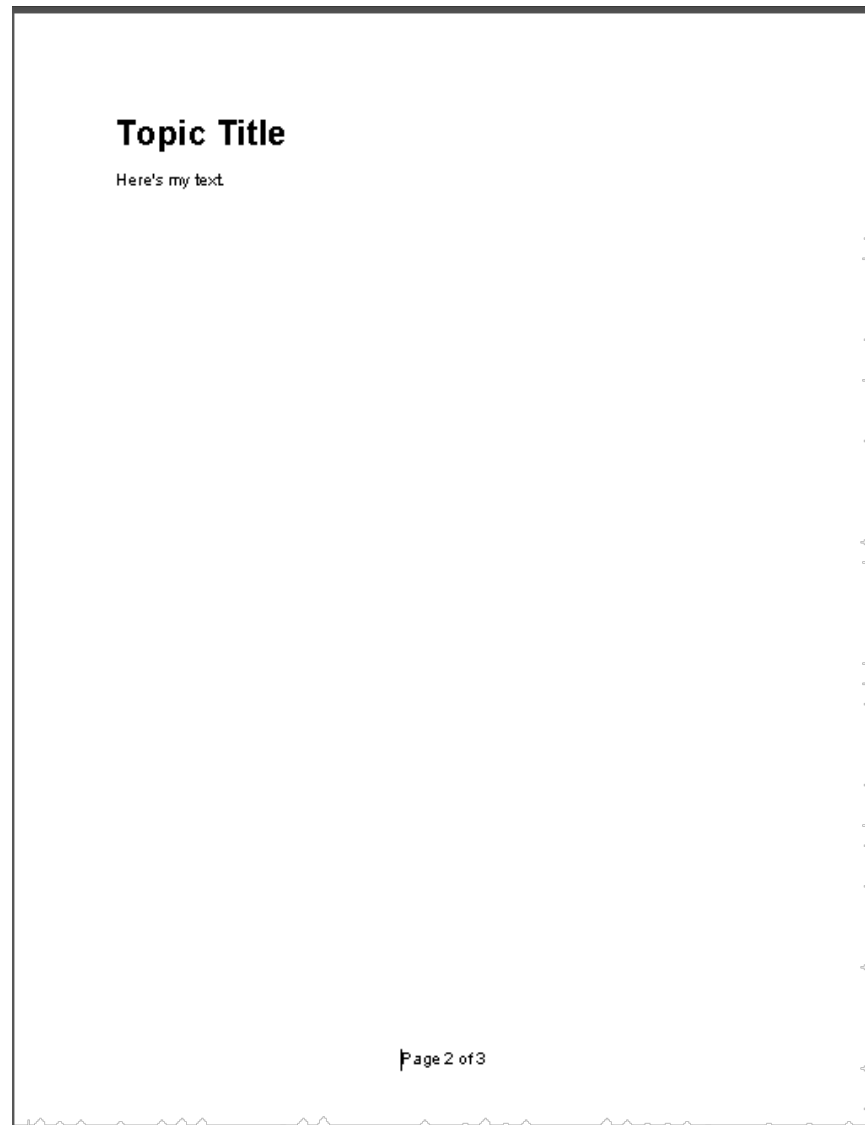
- » To define headers, footers, orientation, page size, and margins for *print* output.
  - Similar to Word's Page Setup feature.
- » And customize those elements, like adding a page number, copyright statement, logo, etc.
- » For example, this simple page layout...

# Page Layouts



» Produces this on every page...

# Page Layouts

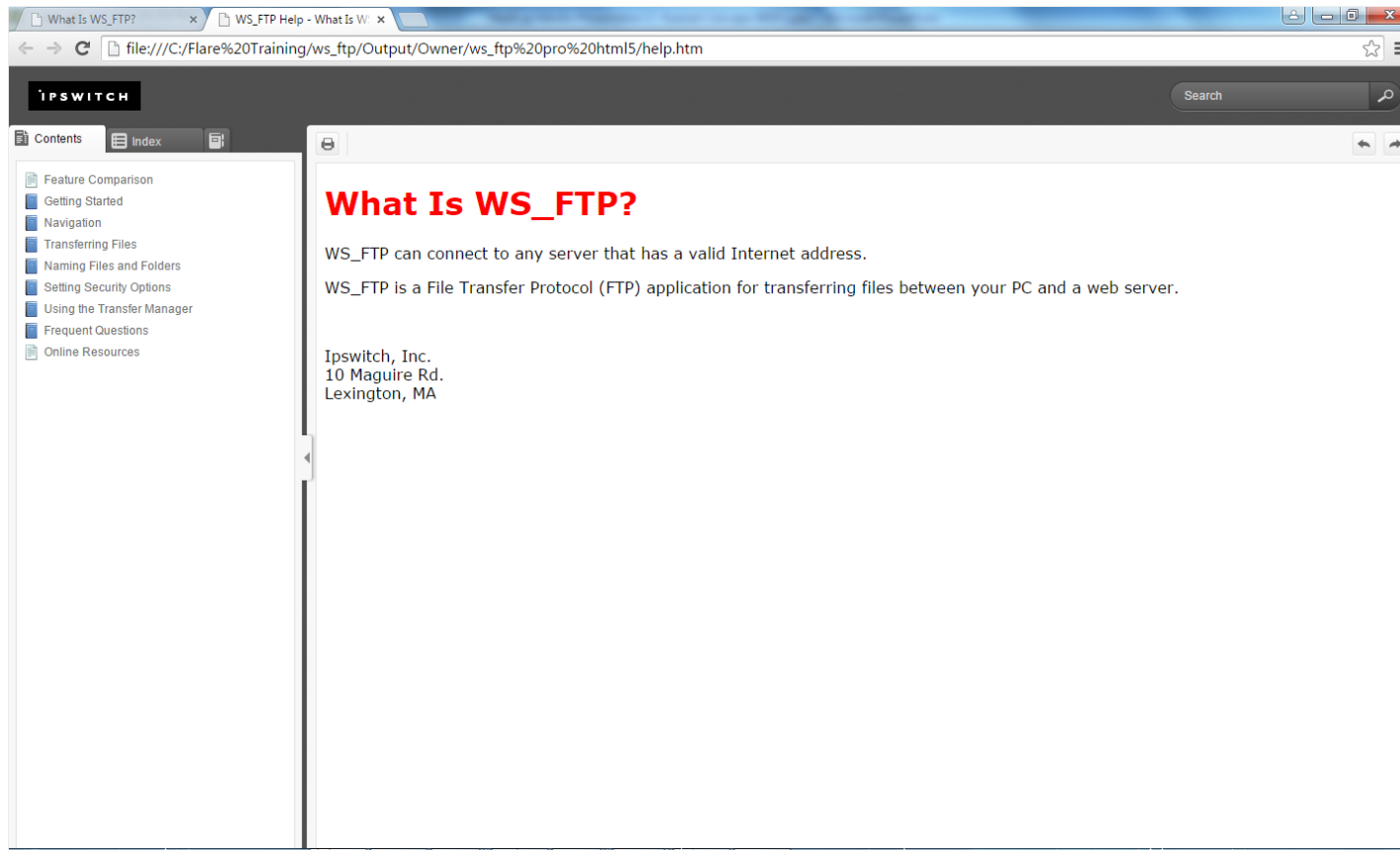


# Skins

- » 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

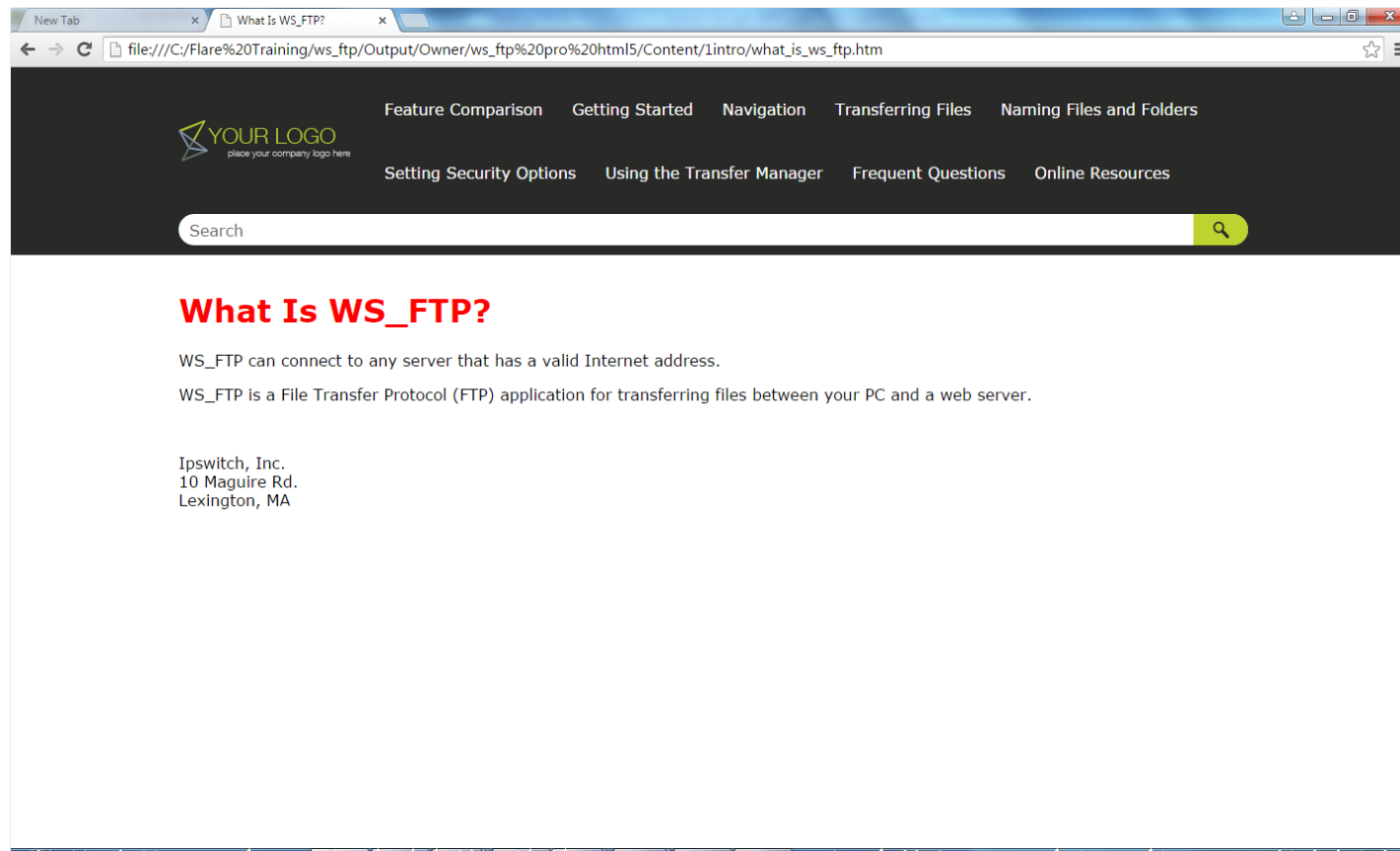
» The traditional “tri-pane” skin.





# 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

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ViziApps Mobile Apps // Single Sourcing

Structured Authoring



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# Thank you... Questions?



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