

# Getting Started with MadCap Flare

## Part 4: Project Location, Structure



# 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...

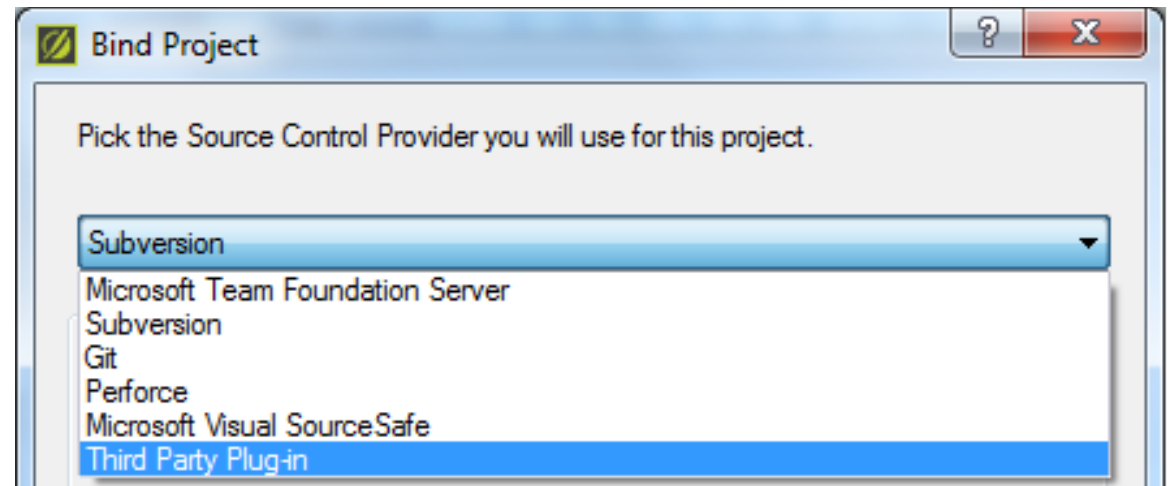
- » The last of four webinars for new Flare users.
- » Options for project location, high- and low-level structure using a previously discussed feature and a new one.
- » The result – projects start under control...
- » ...and, with some care, stay that way.

# Today's Agenda

- » “Enablers” of project location and high-level structure control:
  - Version control.
  - Flare Project Import.
- » Where to locate your projects.
- » High-level structure.
- » Low-level structure.

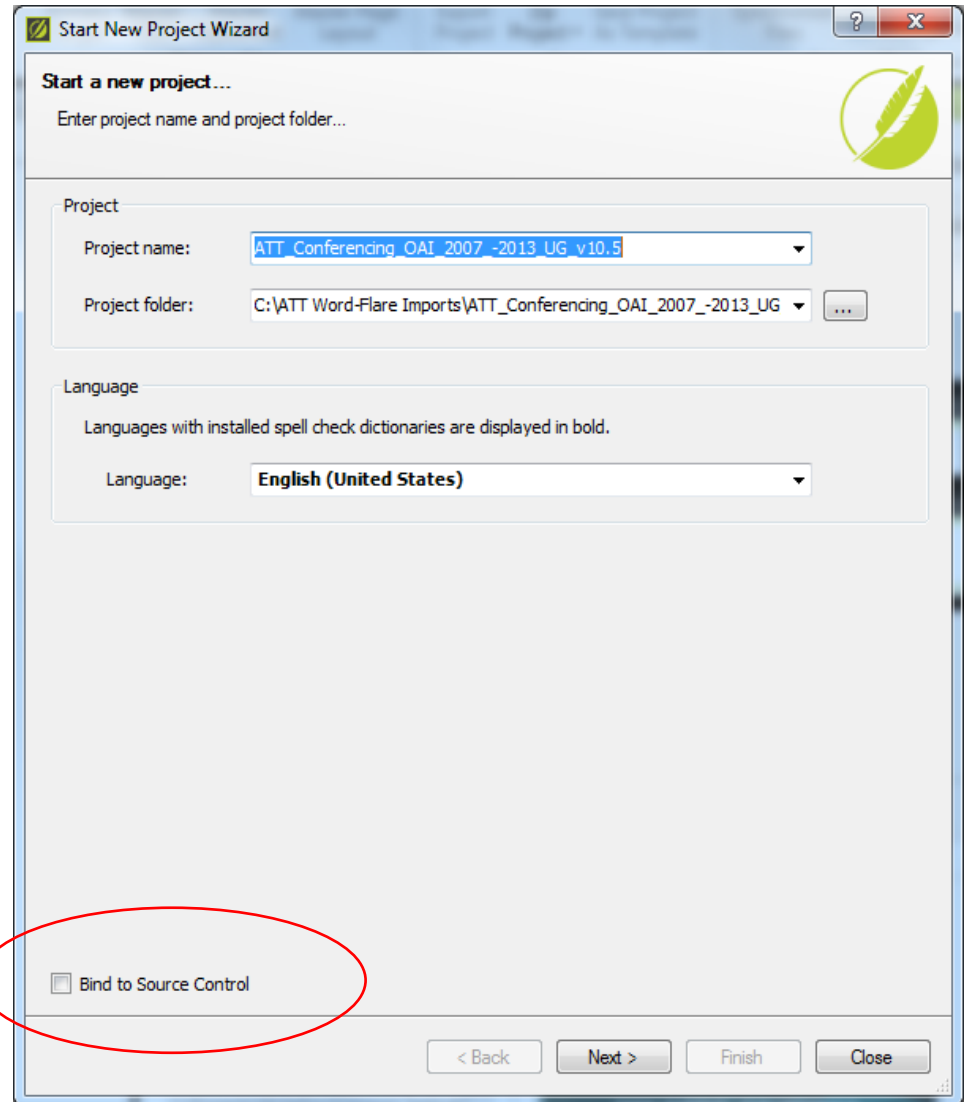
# Version Control

- » Lets you put projects in a central repository and create local copies on authors' PCs.
- » Allows multi-author work, file protection, “diffing”, history and “rollbacks”.
- » Flare supports various tools natively:



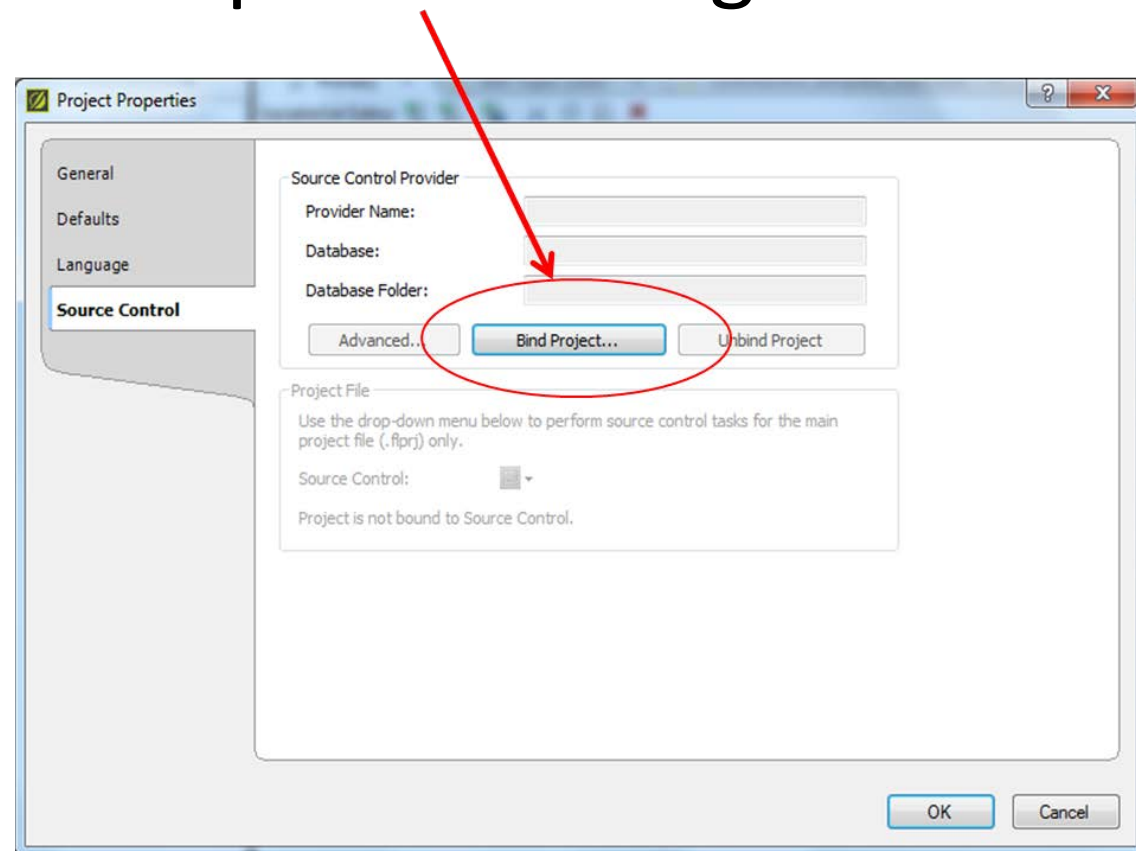
# Version Control

- » Easy to use from the Flare end.
- » Bind (add) the project to version control, either while creating it, via the first screen of the New Project Wizard:

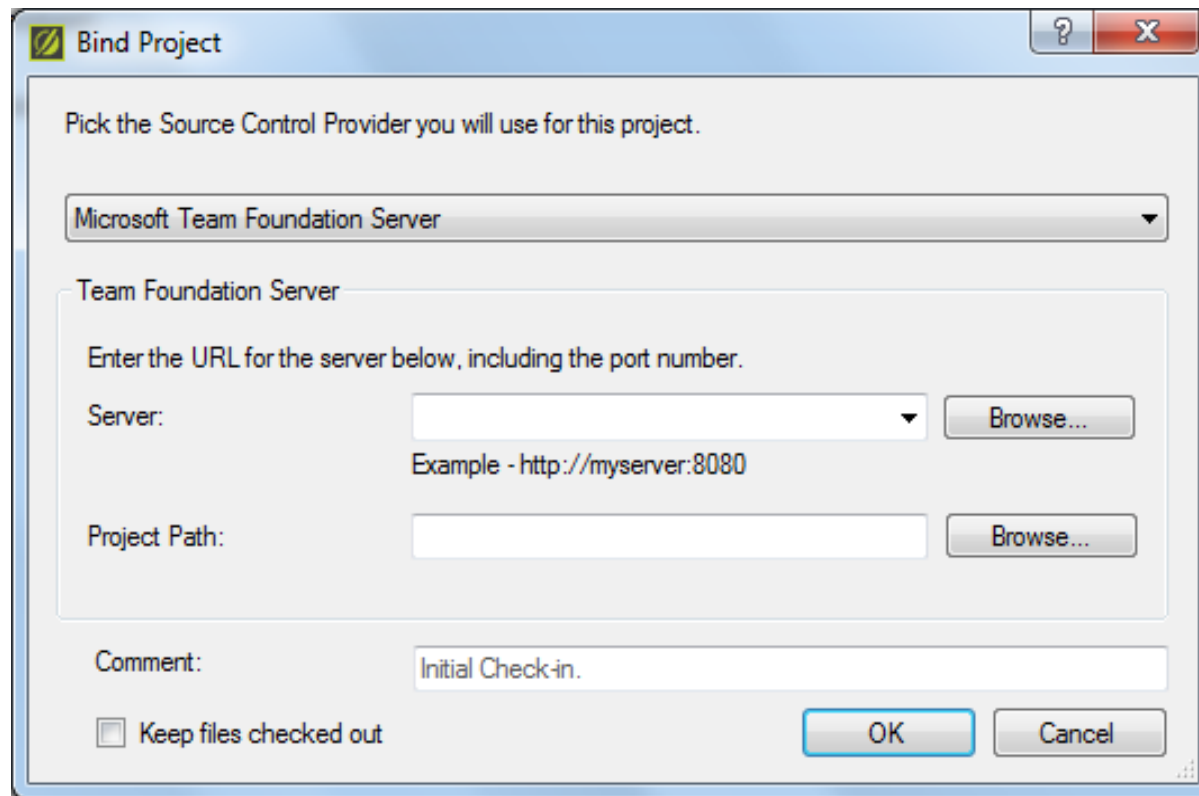


# Version Control

- » Or after creating it, via the Source Control tab of the Project Properties dialog box:
- » Either of which displays...



# Version Control

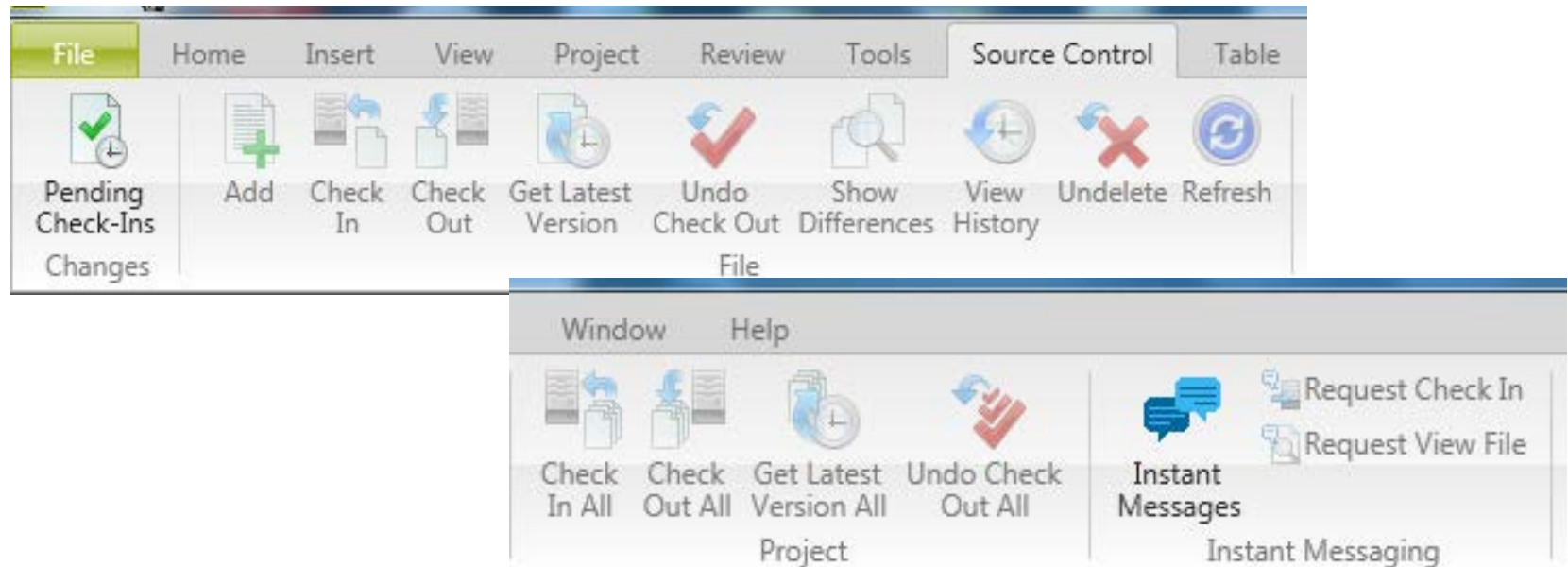


» Your network people will probably do the connection work.



# Version Control

» The result? Source Control ribbon activates.



» Let's review these options...

# Version Control Pros and Cons

## » Pros

- Protects projects by taking them off your C drive.
- Protects content by allowing only one person at a time to edit a topic or resolving conflicts.

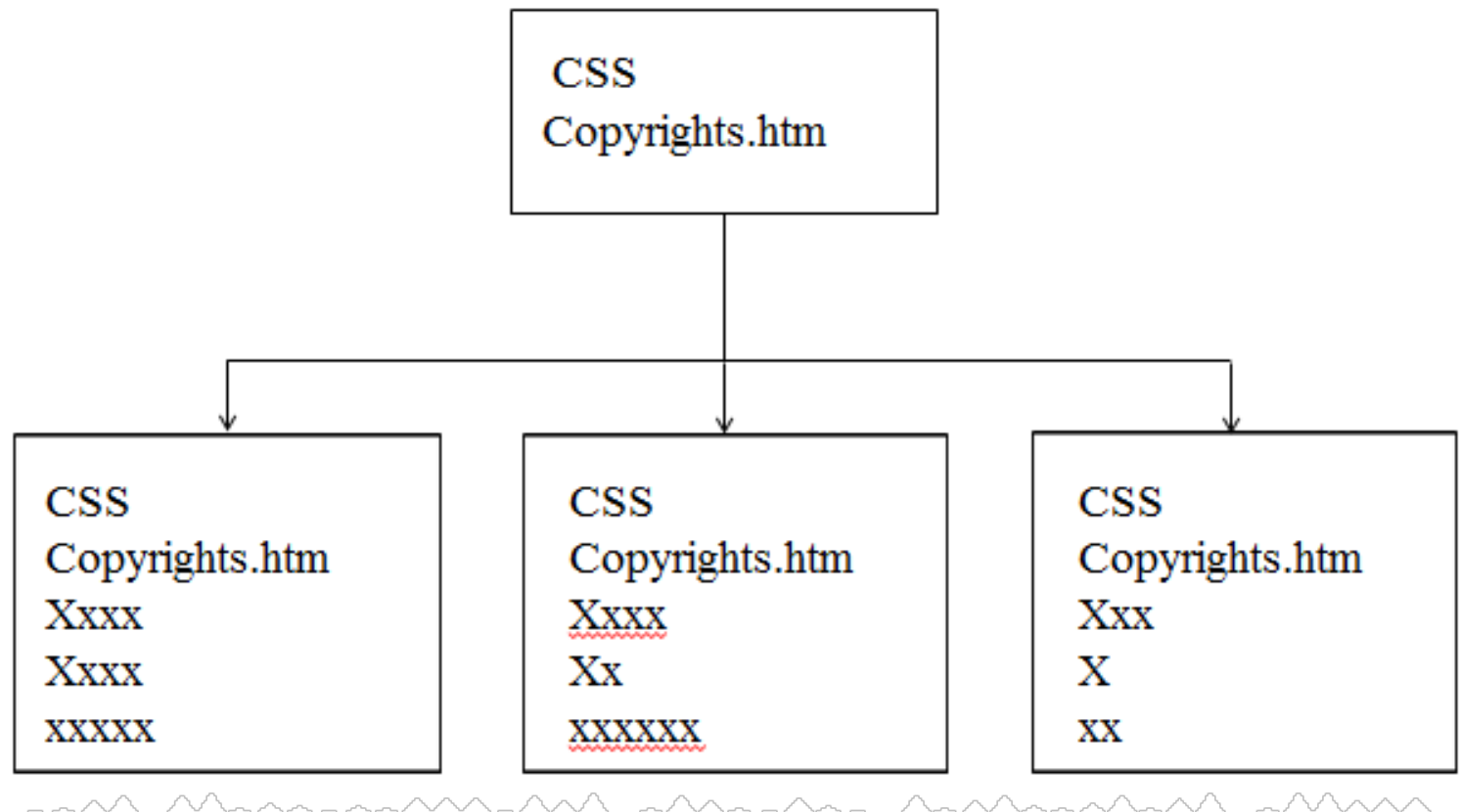
## » Cons

- Setup requires IT involvement, if only briefly.
- Check-in/check-out adds an operational layer – “Gotta go. My ride is waiting...”

# Flare Project Import

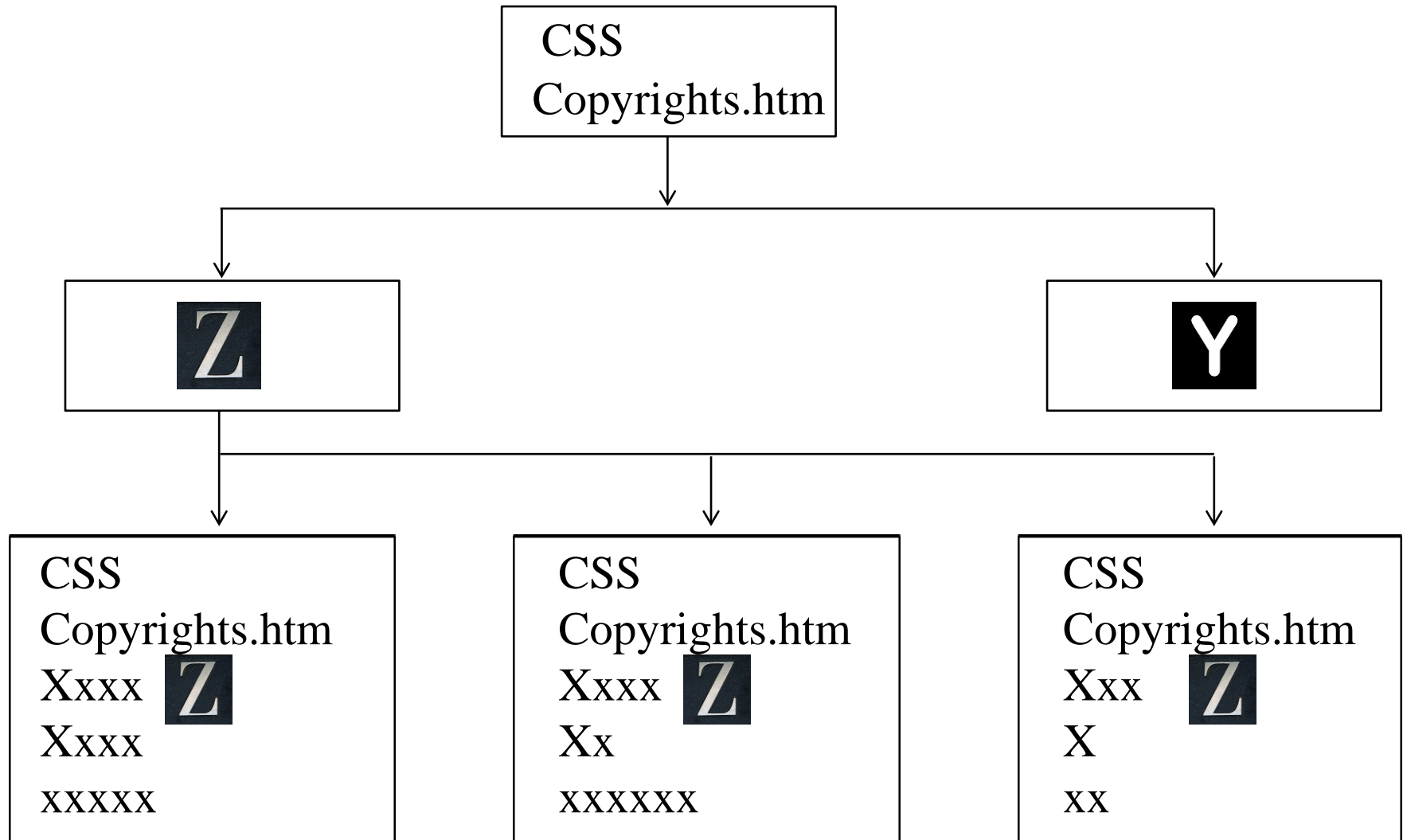
- » Creates a parent > child project structure.
  - Parent contains standard files that child projects must use.
  - Child authors sync their projects to the parent and download standard files from parent.
  - If a child author changes a downloaded file, Flare re-downloads that file from the parent at build time – “invisible” consistency.
    - Ditto if parent author changes a file in the parent.

# Simple Master/Child Structure



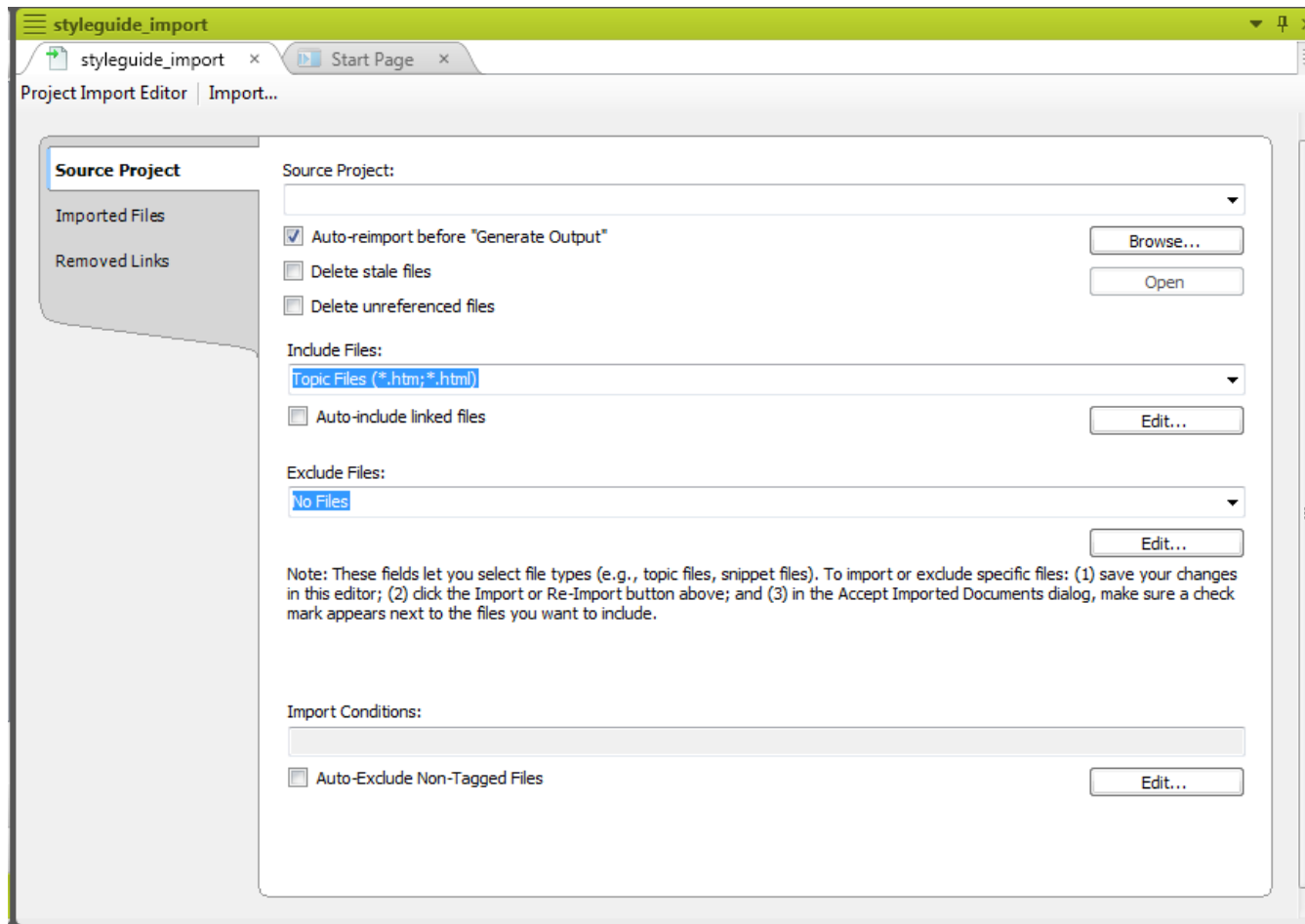
# A More Complex Structure...

---



# Global Project Linking

» Set up via the Flare Project Import feature.



# Global Project Import Notes

- » Name projects to clearly indicate their role in the hierarchy – Widget Help Master, Widget Child A, Widget Child B, etc.
- » Carefully plan which files go in each hierarchy level.
- » Document the structure to avoid “zombie projects”.

# Global Project... Pros and Cons

## » Pros

- Provides “invisible consistency” by enforcing use of master control files in the background.
- Pretty simple to set up and use.
- Can work nicely with a VCS.

## » Cons

- Must be managed to avoid the zombie problem.
- File location in multi-level hierarchies *can* get complex.



# Where to Locate Projects

- » In a version control system.
  - » Offers file locks, diffing, history, rollbacks.
  - » Offers greatest flexibility for multiple authors.
  - » Avoids network traffic delays since the project is on a server but being worked on locally.
  - » Offers greatest security.

# Where to Locate Projects

- » On a shared drive, with authors working on *defined groups of topics* over the network.
  - » Does not offer the benefits of version control.
  - » Same flexibility as version control for multiple authors.
  - » Subject to network delays because the project is being worked on on the shared drive.
  - » Offers security *if* shared drive is backed up.

# Where to Locate Projects

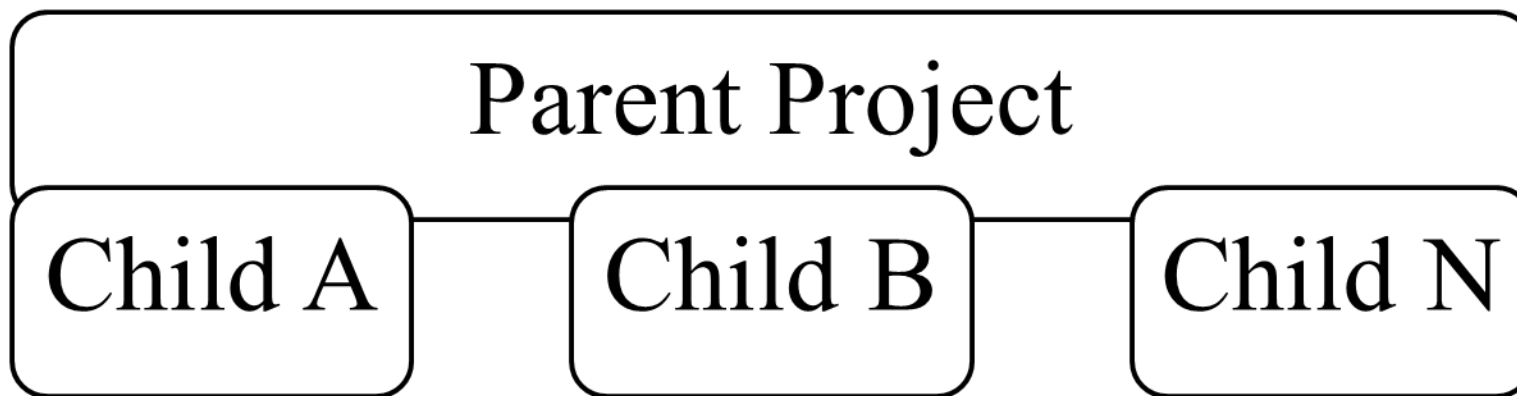
- » On a local PC backed up to a shared drive.
  - » Does not offer the benefits of version control.
  - » No flexibility for multiple authors – project must be broken into separate modules and recombined at output.
  - » No network delays because the project is being worked on locally.
  - » Offers security *if* author remembers to back up to shared drive and *if* shared drive is backed up.

# Where to Locate Projects

- » On a local PC, period.
  - » Does not offer the benefits of version control.
  - » No flexibility for multiple authors – project must be broken into separate modules and recombined at output.
  - » No network delays because the project is being worked on locally.
  - » No security unless author remembers to back up to CD or USB drive.

# High-Level Project Organization

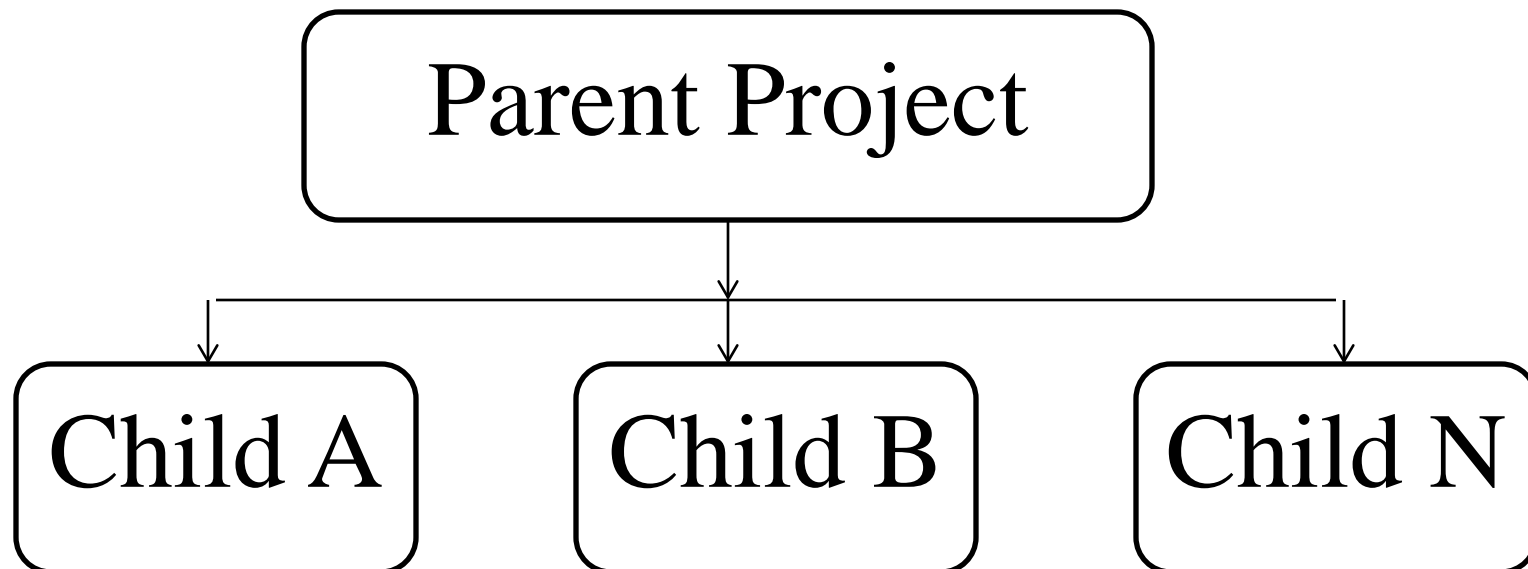
- » Got a lot of shared material? Authors need to search the entire project?



- » Uses conditionality to extract child projects from the parent.

# High-Level Project Organization

- » Not a lot of shared material? Authors don't need to search the entire project?



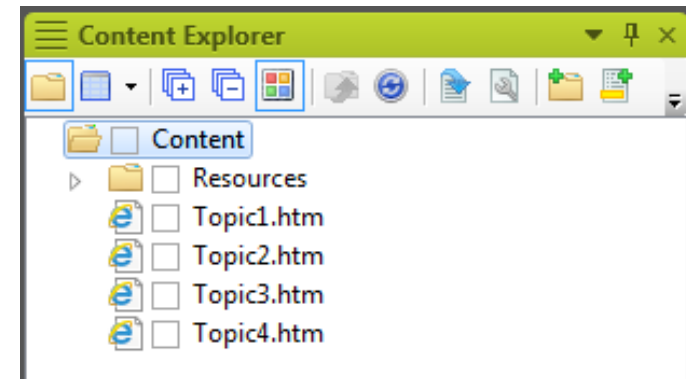
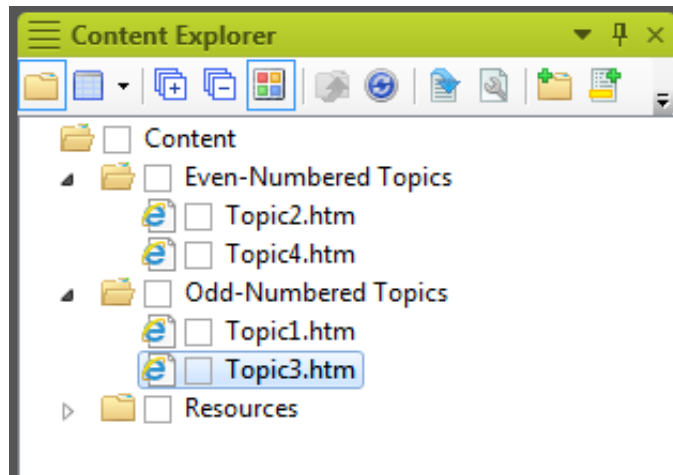
- » Uses Flare Project Linking plus conditionality.

# VCS and Global Project

- » Combining VCS and global project linking can provide the best of both worlds.
  - All the projects are in version control.
  - The working version of the parent project is on a shared drive.
  - The working versions of the child projects are on the authors' C drives.

# Structuring Projects Internally

- » By creating folders and subfolders on the Content Explorer to categorize the topics.
- » This, instead of... this...

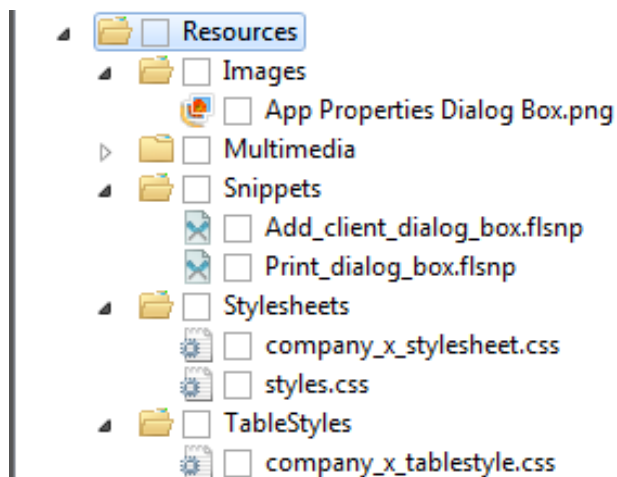
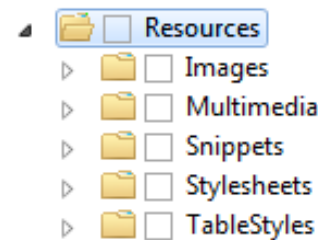




# And In That Resources Folder?

» Content-related control files like:

- Stylesheets.
- Table stylesheets.
- Master pages.
- Page layouts.
- And more...



# Summary

- » This ends the four-part introduction to Flare features and concepts.
- » Thanks for attending, hope it's been useful.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S  
WEBINAR!  
As a webinar attendee, receive **\$100 OFF** our next  
advanced training course. Just \$499 per student!

---

**MadCap Flare Responsive HTML5, Mobile and EPUB Training**  
October 13-14, 2015 (web-based)  
**MadCap Flare Project Management/Team Authoring Training**  
October 15-16, 2015 (web-based)

*\*Offer valid through September 30, 2015.*

*Note: Courses subject to change. Availability based on student registration.*

TO RECEIVE YOUR DISCOUNT, CONTACT:  
[sales@madcapsoftware.com](mailto:sales@madcapsoftware.com) | +1 858.320.0387 opt.1

# MADWORLD

---

*The Premier Technical Communication and Content Strategy Conference*

APRIL 10-12, 2016 | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Full Conference Schedule Now Available

[www.MadWorldConference.com](http://www.MadWorldConference.com)



# Hyper/Word Services Offers...

Training // Consulting // Development

Flare // Advanced Flare (thru MadCap)

ViziApps Mobile Apps // Single Sourcing

Structured Authoring



# Thank you... Questions?



978-657-5464

[nperlin@nperlin.cnc.net](mailto:nperlin@nperlin.cnc.net)

[www.hyperword.com](http://www.hyperword.com)

Twitter: NeilEric

