MADCAP FLARE FOR PROGRAMMERS

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Introductions

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Introductions

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Why this book?
Who is this book for?

- Programmers
- “Technical” Technical Writers
- Managers
Developing with XML
What can you manipulate programmatically?

- Flare Topic XML
- Relationship to CSS
- Standard Element Tags
- MadCap Element Tags
- Links, Cross References, and Bookmarks
- Conditions and Variables
- Snippets
- Proxies
Anatomy of a Flare Topic
Example 4.2 – XML for a simple Flare topic

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<html xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd"
     MadCap:lastBlockDepth="2"
     MadCap:lastHeight="111"
     MadCap:lastWidth="1142">
  <head>
    <title>Sample Topic Title</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Sample Topic</h1>
    <p>This is sample text.</p>
  </body>
</html>
```
Contents of a Flare Topic

• XHTML Element Tags
• MadCap Element Tags
• Links, Cross References, Bookmarks
• Snippets
• Conditions
• Variables
• Proxies
Modifying Topics Programmatically
Example – Programmatic Find and Replace
Anatomy of a Flare TOC
Example 5.1 – XML for a TOC with a single link

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<CatapultToc
    Version="1">
    <TocEntry
        Title="Sample Topic"
        Link="/Content/sample-topic.htm" />
</CatapultToc>
```
Example 5.2 – XML for a TOC with a variety of node types

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<CatapultToc>
  <TocEntry>
    <Title>Topic</Title>
    <Link>/Content/Topic.htm</Link>
  </TocEntry>
  <TocEntry>
    <Title>OtherTOC</Title>
    <Link>/Project/TOCs/OtherTOC.fltoc</Link>
  </TocEntry>
  <TocEntry>
    <Title>HTML5Target</Title>
    <Link>../../Example/Example.flprj#HTML5</Link>
    <AbsoluteLink>file:///C:/Example/Example.flprj#HTML5</AbsoluteLink>
  </TocEntry>
  <TocEntry>
    <Title>No link</Title>
  </TocEntry>
</CatapultToc>
```
Manipulating TOCs
Example – Appending Strings to Each Entry in a TOC
Example 5.10 – XSLT that appends “_topic” to each entry in a TOC

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"
    xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform"
    xmlns:msxsl="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xslt"
    exclude-result-prefixes="msxsl">

    <xsl:output method="xml" indent="yes"/>

    <xsl:template match="*|node()">
        <xsl:copy>
            <xsl:apply-templates select="*|node()"/>
        </xsl:copy>
    </xsl:template>

    <xsl:template match="@Title">
        <xsl:attribute name="Title">
            <xsl:value-of select="concat(.,'_topic')"/>
        </xsl:attribute>
    </xsl:template>

</xsl:stylesheet>
```
Glossaries and Indexes
JavaScript in Flare
Document Automation and Batch
Potential Operations for Batch Files

• Scheduling post-build processing tasks
• Scheduling parallel builds for outputs with multiple subsystem
• Automating source control actions
• Post-processing PDF output
• Copying the output or the source to an archive
• Copying a different version of a stylesheet into the output
• Copying external files into the project folder structure
• Adjusting the skin CSS beyond what is possible in the Skin Editor
Batch File Example – Run madbuild.exe
Example 8.1 – Batch file to run madbuild.exe

rem set these for your project
rem set the target down below
set prjfldr="C:\flare-projects\example"
set prjnm="example.flprj"
set flarefldr="C:\Program Files (x86)\MadCap Software\MadCap Flare V10\Flare.app"
set flarefldr="C:\Program Files (x86)\MadCap Software\MadCap Flare V10\Flare.app"
cd "%flarefldr%"
rem set target here and add other lines as necessary
madbuild.exe -project "%prjfldr%\%prjnm%" -target "build-for-import.fltar"
Flare Plug-ins
Plug-in Example – Paste in Code Samples
• Visual Studio Express (Community)  

• Flare for Programmers  
  http://tregner.com/flare-blog/

• LinkedIn Group  
  https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=86373

• Forums  
  https://forums.madcapsoftware.com/

• Resources  
  http://www.madcapsoftware.com/resources/
XML Press ([xmlpress.net](http://xmlpress.net)) was founded in 2008 to publish practical and concise books and ebooks for technical writers, managers, content strategists, and content marketers, anyone who supports the development and distribution of technical content.
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