Leveraging the Power of Relationship Tables in MadCap Flare

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TEAM’s Problem

- ~2500 topics
- 2 audiences (internal and external)
- Multiple integrated software products, each with their own integrated components.
- How can we link all appropriate topics together?
Overview

What are Relationship Tables?

Differences between Relationship Tables and other linking solutions inside Flare

Working with Relationship Tables in Flare

Styling Relationship Tables
Relationship Tables

- DITA
- A way to group and organize related information
- Dynamic and powerful
- Learning curve

**Linking**

**Normal (Default)** – A two way link

**Source Only** – Link to other topics, but no link back.

**Target Only** – Link from other topics, but no link to.

**Collection Types**

**Unordered (Default)** – Links display based on position in row.

**Family** – Links to topics in same cell.
Adjusting Employee Hours

Relationships:
- Payroll Menu
- Processing Payroll
- Adjusting Employee Hours

Related Tasks:
- Adjusting Hours after Pay Check has been issued
- Processing Payroll

Reference Materials:
- Payroll Security
- Payroll Custom Settings

Related Concepts:
- Payroll Menu

Related Tasks:
- Adjusting Hours after Pay Check has been issued

Reference Materials:
- Payroll Security
- Payroll Custom Settings
### Relationship Table Vs. Other Linking Methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>XREF</strong></td>
<td>Dynamic, but inserted only at the topic level. Great for in-text links.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concept Links</strong></td>
<td>Allows you to “tie” topics together, as well as create search filters based on concepts. Great for chunking many topics together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related Links</strong></td>
<td>Similar to a Concept Link, but inserted at the topic level. Is better for one time use, such as on a landing page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Menus</strong></td>
<td>Flare’s help uses a menu proxy as sidebar navigation. Is controlled at the TOC (or Browse Sequence) level. Great for content models that are fairly linear.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relationship Table

**I Scheduling**

Using the Scheduling Report to determine jobs that have allow you to fill the position prior to the may run this report for both the Master and Report to identify jobs where overtime is a report is run prior to the scheduled work reduced or eliminated by assigning different. If it cannot be found, you may want to make a note in the scheduling (click the Dispatch Notes button on the Report). If your company has specific needs to be met before an officer can in the Post Qualification Report for it will identify anyone currently scheduled for not has not met the requirements of the positions to your schedules daily.

**Related Concepts**
- PS: Schedules

**Related Reports**
- Job Post Report
- PS Report: Scheduling Activity
- Open Position Report
- Overtime Warning Report
- Post Qualification Report

**Reference Materials**
- Removing Inactive Employees from Personnel Schedules

Menu

- Search Filter Sets
  - Adding
  - Associating with a Target
- Concepts—Inserting
  - Creating
  - Importing
  - Opening
  - Ordering
- Search Filter Set Example
Outline for Creating Relationship Tables

1. Add Table(s)
2. Insert topics and relationships
3. Insert Proxy
4. Edit Styles
5. Associate with Target
Adding Tables

- Project Organizer > Advanced

- Can add additional rows/columns

- Row/Column Name = Row/Column Type
Relationship Table Proxies

- Insert > Proxy > Relationship Proxy
- Insert in individual topics or master pages
- Can insert multiple proxies
Styling Relationship Tables

• You can set some styles using the Stylesheet Editor, but more advanced styling can be achieved using the text editor.
• Get comfortable using browser developer tools.
• Complex selectors and attribute selectors are your friends!
Complex and Attribute Selectors

```css
div[class^="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"] p[class^="reportHeading_report"]
{
  display: block;
}
```
Some Examples

**Problem:** Can’t change the label on the headings!
**Solution:** Use the Stylesheet editor to edit the mc-label class for the specific heading sub-class.

**Problem:** Can’t edit the style of the links in the table!
**Solution:** Use complex and attribute selectors to change only the links in the table.
Each individual dropdown is actually a relationship proxy, with only the relevant links displayed.
Creating Dropdowns

• Create a MadCap \texttt{relationshipsProxy} stylesheet class for each heading you need
• Enter a dropdown into the Master Page for each class you created
• Enter a Relationships proxy into each of those dropdowns, selecting the applicable stylesheet class
• Use a combination of attribute and complex selectors to set all paragraph elements to display:none for each class

```css
div[class="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"]
{
  display: none;
}
```

• Use a combination of attribute and complex selectors to set the Rel Table heading and item to display:block

```css
div[class="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"] p[class="reportItem_report"]
{
  display: block;
}
div[class="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"] p[class="reportHeading_report"]
{
  display: block;
}
```
Associating with a Target

• Open Target
• Relationship Tables tab
Some Tips

• Have a clear, defined content model
• Don’t trust preview, run local builds
• Read up on CSS positioning
• Take the time to understand how Flare builds out links in a relationship table
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