



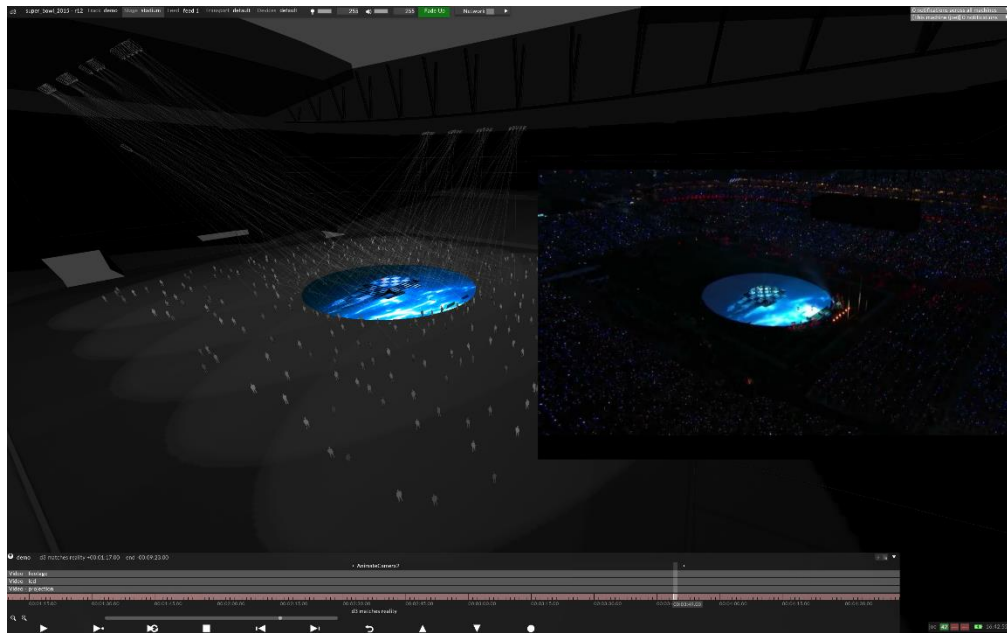
Creating Mega Menus in Madcap Flare

PRESENTED BY

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WHO AM I?

- Associate Product Manager at Disguise.
- We manufacture a real time media server.
- We use Flare for authoring our help site.
- I've been using Flare for around 5 years.
- Based in the UK.
- My work project – help.disguise.one



Superbowl 2015



WHAT WE'LL COVER

- What are Mega Menus?
- Why are they useful?
- How we can go about creating them in Flare.

WHAT ARE MEGA MENUS?

- Large format navigation menus.
- Often found on extremely large & complex sites such as e-commerce.
- An improved UX over smaller sub-navigation menus.
- Flexible containers that can mix other media, such as images, alongside the menu items.

REAL WORLD EXAMPLE - AMAZON

The screenshot displays the Amazon.co.uk homepage. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Amazon logo, a search bar, and links for Amazon Prime (30-day free trial), Hello/Sign in, Your Account, Try Prime, Your Lists, and the Basket. Below the navigation bar, a large banner features the Alexa logo and images of Echo Show, Echo Spot, and Echo Plus smart speakers with their respective prices (£219.99, £119.99, and £139.99). A cookie consent message is visible below the banner. The main content area is divided into several promotional tiles: Prime Video (thousands of movies & TV shows included with Prime, start your 30-day free trial), £15 and under (bargain finds in Fashion, Home Décor, Electronics and more, shop now), Women's fashion (dresses, jackets, bags & more, shop this month's picks), and Sign in for your best experience (sign in securely). A tile for Amazon Basics (Products for Everyday Living) is also visible at the bottom right.

amazon.co.uk
Try Prime

All ▾

Amazon Prime | 30-day free trial

Deliver to Brighton BN2

Shop by Department ▾

Your Amazon.co.uk

Today's Deals

Gift Cards & Top Up

Sell

Help

Hello, Sign in Your Account ▾

Try Prime ▾

Your Lists ▾

Basket

22° 18°

echo show
£219.99

alex

amazon echo
£89.99

echo spot
£119.99

echo plus
£139.99

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Prime Video

Thousands of movies & TV shows included with Prime

[Start your 30-day free trial](#)

£15 and under

Bargain finds in Fashion, Home Décor, Electronics and more

[Shop now](#)

Women's fashion

Dresses, jackets, bags & more

[Shop this month's picks](#)

Sign in for your best experience

[Sign in securely](#)

amazonbasics
Products for Everyday Living

REAL WORLD EXAMPLE - COLUMBIA

30 Days FREE RETURNS.

Login

Register

Store Locator



MEN

WOMEN

KIDS

ACTIVITY

EXPLORE COLUMBIA

CLEARANCE

Search Products



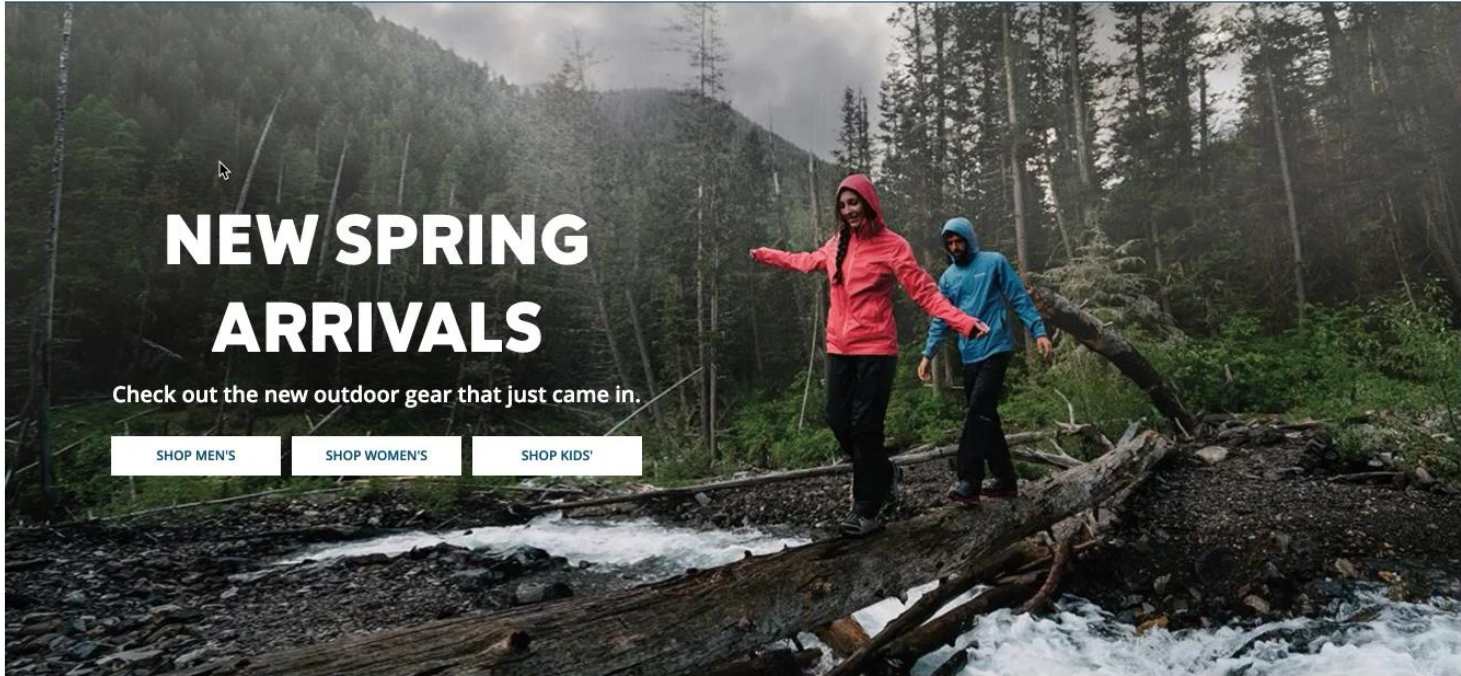
NEW SPRING ARRIVALS

Check out the new outdoor gear that just came in.

SHOP MEN'S

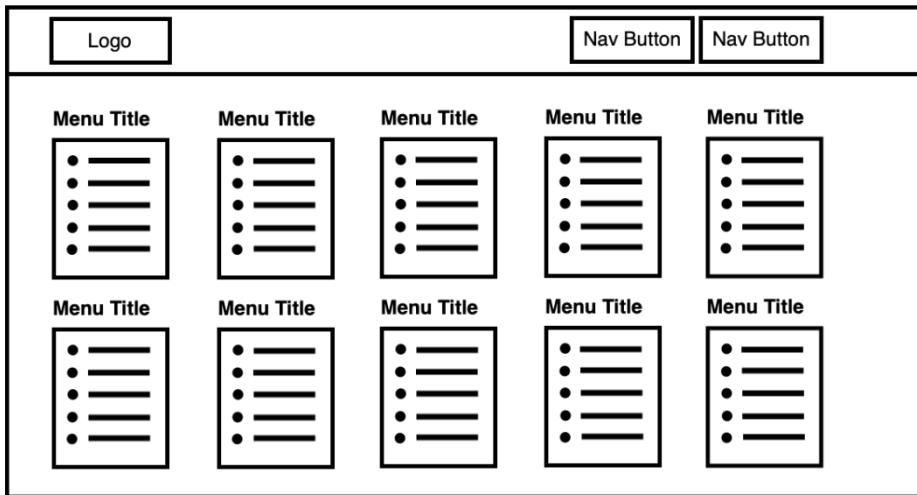
SHOP WOMEN'S

SHOP KIDS'



CREATING MEGA MENUS IN FLARE

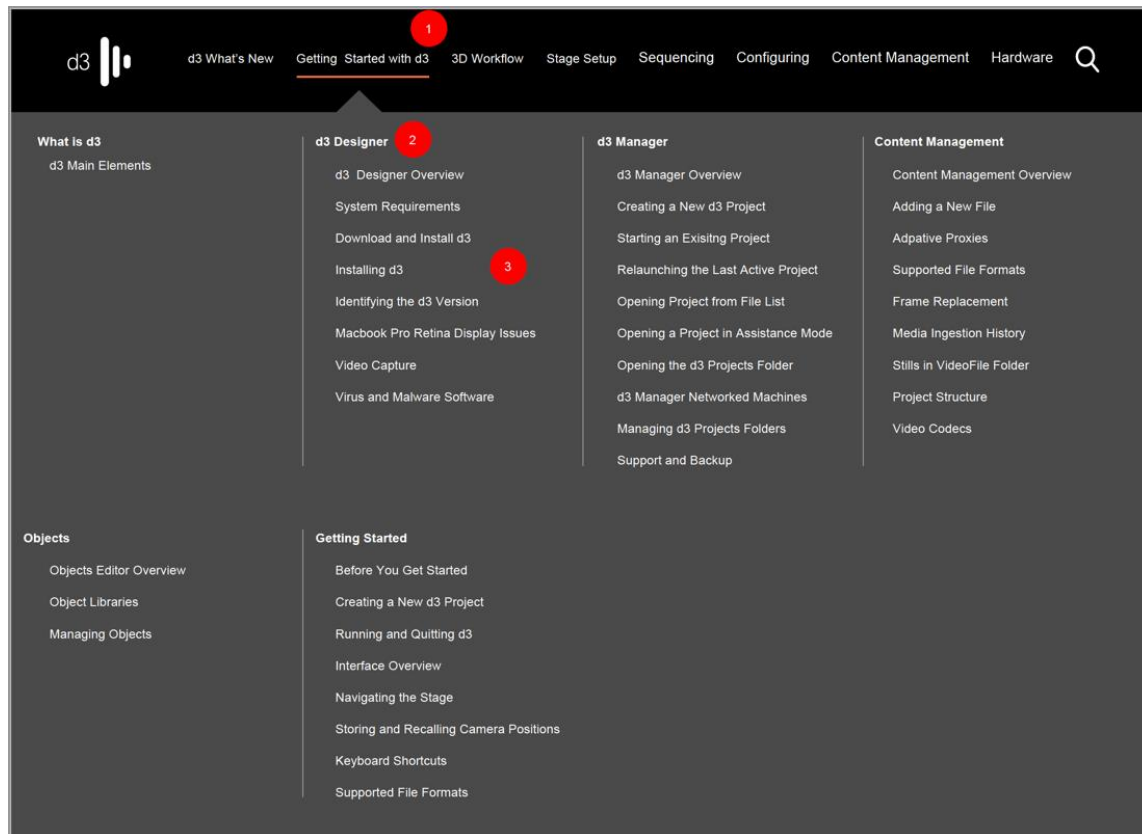
- Flare already has a lot of the components that you need!
 - Master page
 - Stylesheet
 - Snippets
 - Menu proxies
 - TOC's
 - Text editor
- Except, your design!
- (And a script)



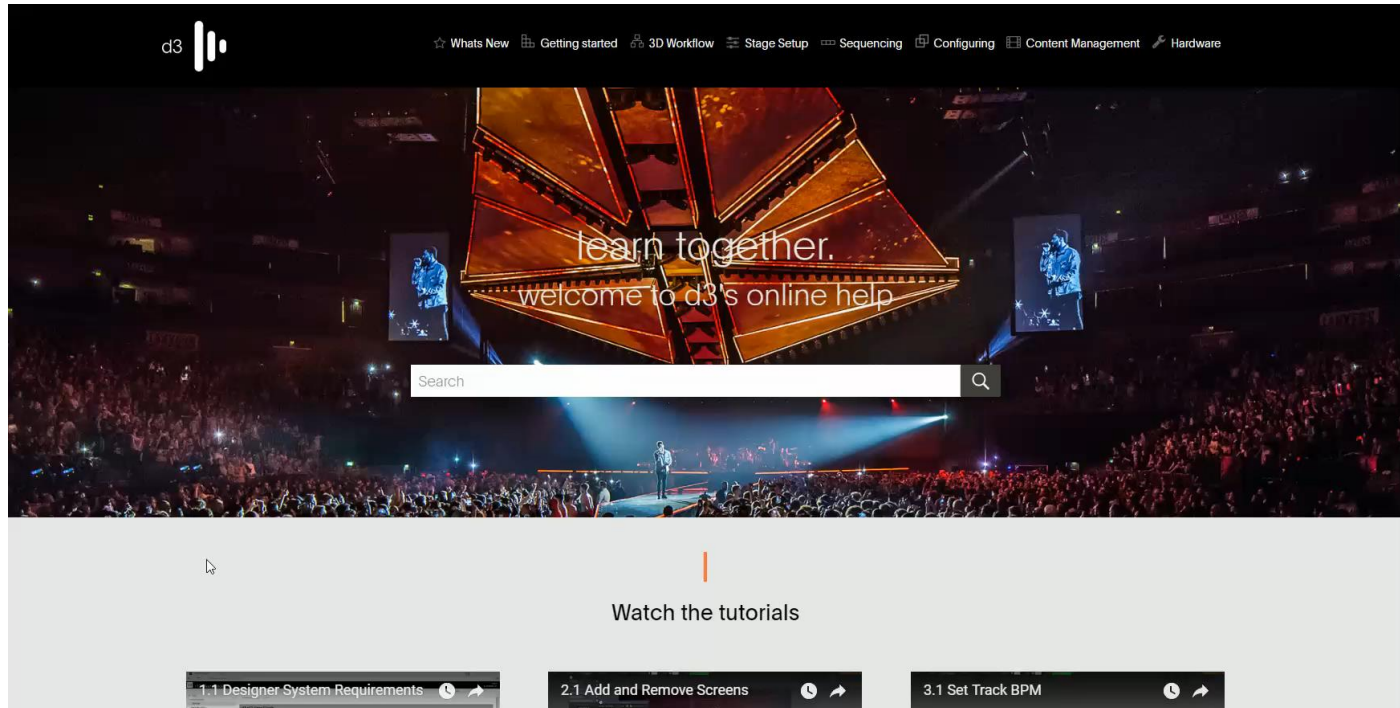
THE ELEMENTS YOU NEED

- **Master page** – Used to contain the custom navigation.
- **Stylesheet** – Styles all elements of the nav & containers.
- **Snippets** – Used for reducing the code chunks.
- **Menu proxies** – Used to create the actual ‘Mini menus’.
- **Skins** – Used to do the base styling of the ‘Mini menus’.
- **TOC’s** – Used to define what the ‘Mini menus’ contain.
- **Script** – Used to make the magic happen!
- **Text editor** – Used to edit the source code.

FIRST WORKING VERSION



FIRST WORKING VERSION



FIRST WORKING VERSION - LESSONS

- It was a total hack!
- What was thought to be an easy job, actually wasn't.
- We modified the top nav skin with our own additions and it wasn't so reliable.
- The concept was good, but the implementation was not so good.

FLARE EXAMPLE OVERVIEW

- Hide the Flare Top Nav
- Create the main navigation in a snippet
 - Style the navigation
- Embed the navigation in your master page
- Create the hidden menu containers
 - Style the containers
- Create the mini menus (menu proxies)
 - Style them
 - Add them to the containers
 - Make TOC's for them
 - Assign the TOC's to them
- Create a script & add it to the master page

HIDE THE FLARE TOP NAV

- To hide your top nav skin, this can be done either in the skin editor, or by adding the following style to your stylesheet. The stylesheet method allows you to hide it for only certain pages.
- Set this in the stylesforhomepage.css. Set it on the first line so it is the first thing to execute when the page loads.

```
.title-bar-container  
{  
  
    display: none;  
  
}
```

CREATE YOUR NAVIGATION SNIPPET

- This *can* be done in your master page with raw code, but putting the code into snippets is more manageable.
- Enter the following code into your snippet.

```
<div class="my-nav">  
  <div class="nav-item-wrap">  
    <div class="menuitem" data-container="megacontainer1">Menu 1</div>  
    <div class="menuitem" data-container="megacontainer2">Menu 2</div>  
    <div class="menuitem" data-container="megacontainer3">Menu 3</div>  
    <div class="menuitem" data-container="megacontainer4">Menu 4</div>  
  </div>  
</div>
```

CREATE STYLES FOR THE NAVIGATION

- We need to create the corresponding styles for the navigation snippet. These will position the navigation and give it some form.

```
div.my-nav
{
display: block;
background-color: red;
width: 100vw;
height: 100px;
padding-left: 20%;
padding-right: 20%;
}
```

```
div.nav-item-wrap
{
float: right;
display: inline-block;
}
```

```
.menuitem
{
display: inline-block;
color: white;
background-color: blue;
padding-left: 35px;
padding-right: 35px;
margin-right: -4px;
margin-top: 10.6%;
height: 45px;
border-style: solid;
border-width: 1px 1px 0px
1px;
border-color: transparent;
}
```

```
.menuitem:hover
{
border-color: grey;
background-color: grey;
}
```

CREATE YOUR CONTAINER SNIPPETS

- The container snippets are the overall menu container that will be hidden on the page, and displayed when the user hovers over the navigation menu item.
- They consist of a wrapper div, a menu heading, and a div that contains a menu proxy.

```
<div class="megacontainer1 megacontainer">
  <div class="menu">
    <p class="menuheading">Menu Heading 1</p>
    ....Menu Proxy....
  </div>

  .....
  <div class="menu">
    <p class="menuheading">Menu Heading 4</p>
    ..Menu Proxy..
  </div>
</div>
```

-

CREATE CONTAINER STYLES

- Just as with the navigation, the containers need some styling. This sets the size, colour, and some other basic properties. Most importantly, we hide the container by default.

```
.megacontainer1,  
.megacontainer2,  
.megacontainer3,  
.megacontainer4  
{  
background-color: grey;  
height: 30vh;  
width: 100vw;  
border-style: solid;  
border-width: 1px 0px 1px 0px;  
border-color: grey;  
padding-left: 15%;  
padding-right: 15%;  
display: none;  
justify-content: center;  
position: absolute;  
}
```

CREATE ANY ADDITIONAL STYLES

- We have some menu headings in this example, so we need a style for those.
- The menu proxies are also wrapped in their own divs, and we will give them some styles to help control their size & position.

```
.menu  
{  
width: 20%;  
margin-left: 10px;  
margin-right: 10px;  
min-height: fit-content;  
}
```

```
p.menuheading  
{  
display: inline;  
color: white;  
font-weight: bolder;  
font-size: 14pt;  
}
```

CREATE YOUR MENU SKIN

- Our hidden containers will have menu proxies inside. These menu proxies will get their base styling from a standard flare menu skin.
- Create this by going to **Project > Skins > New Skin > HTML5 component - Menu**
- Give the skin some basic styling such as a solid background, so it's easy to identify in the output.
- You should select this skin in the menu proxy editor for each proxy in your container snippets.
- **TIP!** Any properties that cannot be assigned in the skin, can be added to your stylesheet instead.

ADD CONTENT TO THE MASTERPAGE

- In this example, we are adding the megamenu to the home page, so we will insert the content in the homepage.flmsp file. If we want to use the menu elsewhere in the project, it would also need adding to the other masterpages.
- Add references to your snippets in before the Madcap body proxy.

<body>

<div id="contentBody" class="off-canvas-main">

<MadCap:snippetBlock src="../Snippets/Navigation.fl SNP" />

<MadCap:snippetBlock src="../Snippets/MegaContainer1.fl SNP" />

<MadCap:snippetBlock src="../Snippets/MegaContainer2.fl SNP" />

<MadCap:snippetBlock src="../Snippets/MegaContainer3.fl SNP" />

<MadCap:snippetBlock src="../Snippets/MegaContainer4.fl SNP" />

<MadCap:bodyProxy />

...(other content & footer)....

</body>

THE JAVASCRIPT

- The script displays the hidden containers when the mouse enters the menu item divs, and hides the container when the mouse exists either the div or its corresponding menu item in the navigation.

```
$(document).ready(function() {  
    //makes a megamenu object appear when hovering over the corresponding menu item in the nav  
  
    //Selects any item with a class of "menu item" and defines the function for when the mouse enters that HTML element  
    $('.menuitem').mouseenter(function(){  
        var containerClass = $(this).data('container');  
        //Selects a html element with a class of "megacontainer" and hides it.  
        $('.megacontainer').hide();  
        $('.' + containerClass).css('display','flex');  
    });  
  
    $('.megacontainer').mouseenter(function(){  
        $(this).css('display','flex');  
    });  
  
    //makes the megamenu disappear when the mouse leaves either the menu item or the megamenu  
  
    $('.menuitem, .megacontainer').mouseleave(function() {  
        $('.megacontainer').hide();  
    });  
})
```

ADD THE JAVASCRIPT

- The javascript file needs to be added to the resources folder of the project (ideally in its own folder).
- It then needs to be referenced from the master page by adding the following code to the head tags of the masterpage.

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="../../Scripts/Megamenu.js">
```

BASIC CONCLUSION

- Custom navigation, embedded in the master page.
- Hidden, single level containers with Mini menus inside.
- The container appears when hovering over the corresponding navigation item.
- The container disappears when the mouse leaves either the container or the menu button in the nav.
- Not fully responsive.
- Tablet & Mobile still use the Flare Top Nav skin.



FLARE EXAMPLE – MULTI LEVEL

- Switch to Flare project & give demo

MULTI LEVEL CONCLUSION

- Custom navigation, embedded in the master page.
- Hidden, dual level containers with Mini menus inside.
- The container appears when hovering over the corresponding navigation item.
- The container disappears when the mouse leaves either the container or the menu button in the nav.
- Not fully responsive.
- Tablet & Mobile still use the Flare Top Nav skin.



FLARE EXAMPLE - ADVANCED

- Switch to Flare project & give demo

ADVANCED CONCLUSION

- Custom navigation, embedded in both home & topics master page.
- Hidden, single level, overlay container.
- Fully responsive, using CSS Flex box.
- Top Nav skin is hidden in all mediums.
- Further CSS tweaks are needed to make the menu work outside of the home page topic.

CONCLUSION

- You CAN build totally custom menus in Flare.
- The menu proxy is your friend!
- Try and style as much in the proxy as possible.
- Remember that this functionality, isn't directly supported by Madcap, it's your code.
- Testing needs to be done across browsers.

THINGS TO BE AWARE OF

- Editing in the text editor is required.
- Utilize snippets to reduce the code down to easy to manage chunks.
- Styles can be in any stylesheet, but a dedicated sheet as used in the Advanced project is probably most efficient.
- Top Nav skin actually does more than just the navigation!
- Flares XML editor doesn't suit this kind of customization very well.
- The bigger the menu, the more TOC's you end up with.

Q&A

Thank you for attending the talk!

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