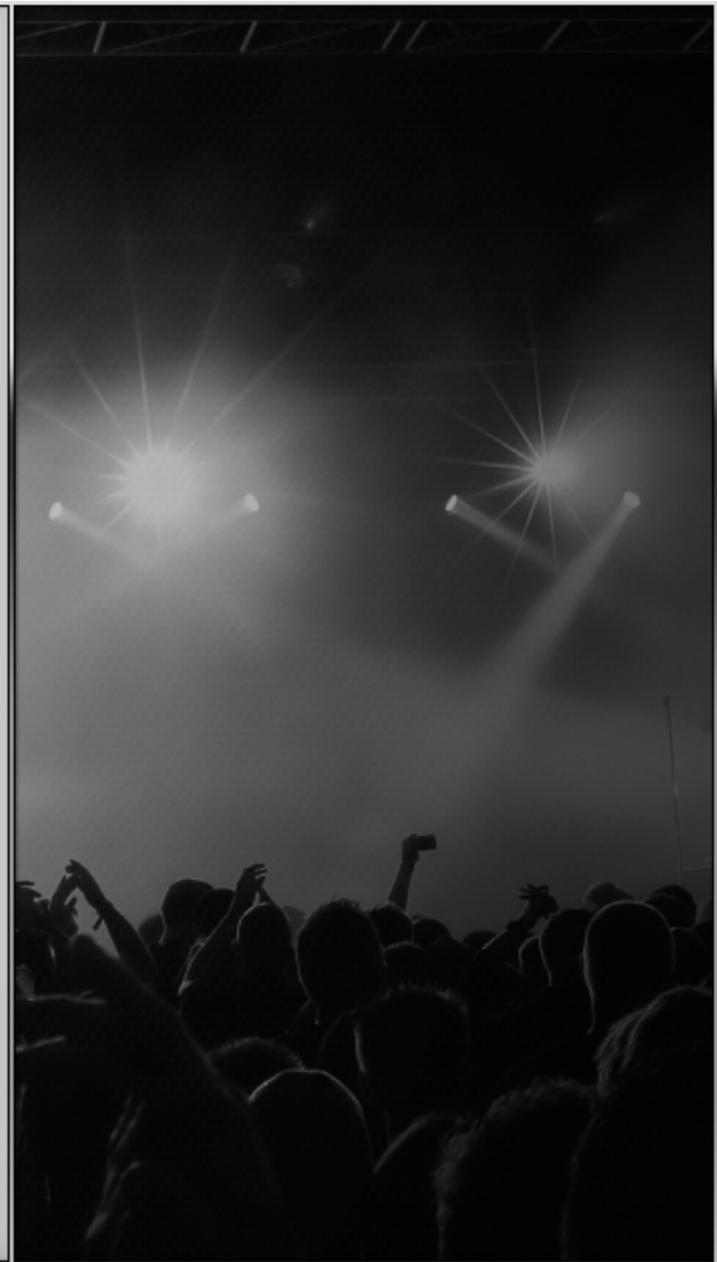


Welcome to

*Down in the
Weeds:
Working With Topics
in Code*

Presented by: Neil Perlin



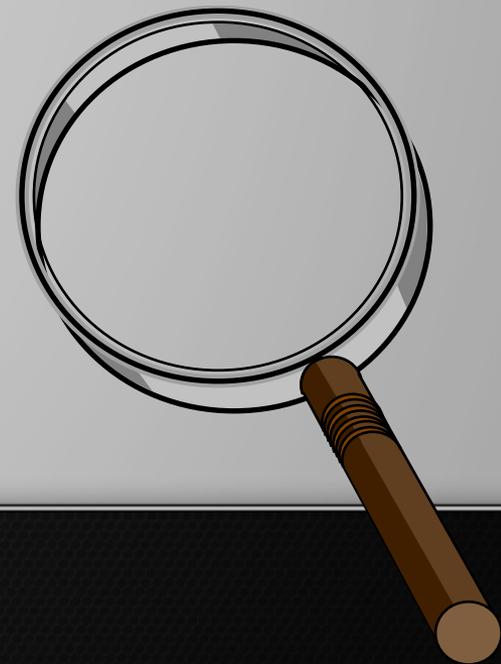
Who Am I?

- Neil Perlin – Hyper/Word Services.
 - Internationally recognized content creation and delivery consultant.
 - Help clients create effective, efficient, flexible content in anything from print to mobile.
 - Certified – Flare, various other tools.
 - Working in code since 1987, HTML since '91.
 - Torture or geeky fun – you decide...

What We'll Cover

- Why work in code
- What you need to know and do
- How to do it with Flare

Why Work In the Code

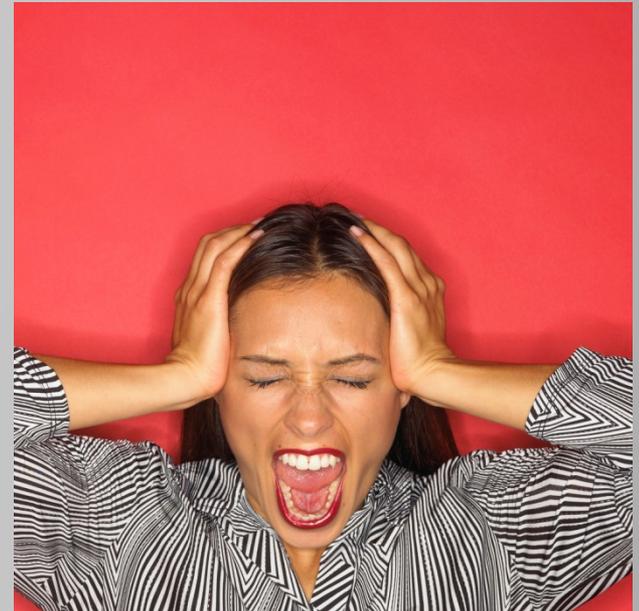


Why...?

- Speed and efficiency on a large scale to:
 - Fix global errors in a project.
 - Fix or clean up messy legacy projects.
- Three examples:
 - A – 1328 topics in 190 hrs. = 7/hr.
 - B – 5000 topics in 480 hrs. = 10.4/hr.
 - C – 915 topics in 140 hrs. = 6.5/hr.

Why...?

- You *can* do this one topic at a time in the GUI.
- But it's hard to keep up that pace without making mistakes or missing things.
- Or just going batty...



Why...?

- Extending your project beyond what Flare supports through the GUI, such as:
 - Reduce your output's footprint by putting all graphics in the cloud and replacing the paths with URLs in the img tags, or
 - Insert custom Javascripts.

Why Not...?

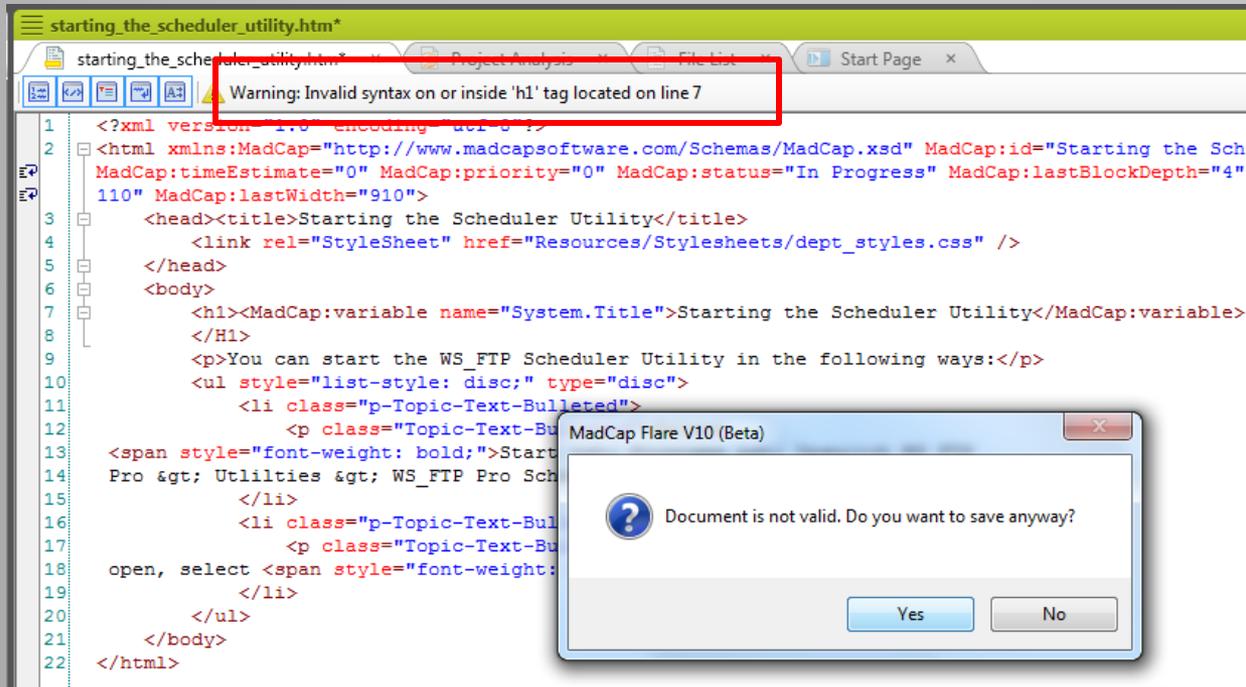
- Need to know HTML, XHTML, CSS well.
- Easy to mess up on a global scale.
 - Say hello to my little friend...
- Consider my all-time record for errors in one build when working in code...
 - 453



Why Not...?

- Flare won't open a syntactically incorrect topic in the WYSIWYG XML editor until you fix the problem.
- Problems aren't always obvious, even in simple cases.
- For example, where's the problem on the next slide?

Invalid Syntax in Topic



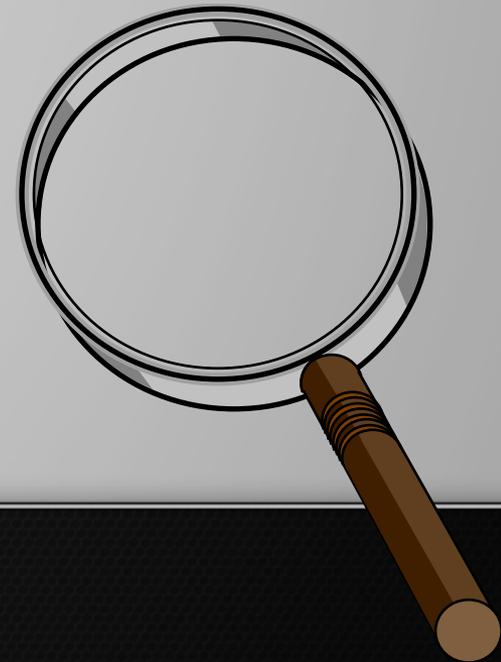
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "starting_the_scheduler_utility.htm*". The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates a warning: "Warning: Invalid syntax on or inside 'h1' tag located on line 7". A red box highlights this warning message. Below the browser window, a code editor displays the XML source code for the page. The code is as follows:

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
2 <html xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd" MadCap:id="Starting the Sched
MadCap:timeEstimate="0" MadCap:priority="0" MadCap:status="In Progress" MadCap:lastBlockDepth="4" M
110" MadCap:lastWidth="910">
3   <head><title>Starting the Scheduler Utility</title>
4     <link rel="StyleSheet" href="Resources/Stylesheets/dept_styles.css" />
5   </head>
6   <body>
7     <h1><MadCap:variable name="System.Title">Starting the Scheduler Utility</MadCap:variable>
8   </H1>
9   <p>You can start the WS_FTP Scheduler Utility in the following ways:</p>
10  <ul style="list-style: disc;" type="disc">
11    <li class="p-Topic-Text-Bulleted">
12      <p class="Topic-Text-Bulleted">
13        <span style="font-weight: bold;">Start
14        Pro &gt; Utilities &gt; WS_FTP Pro Sch
15      </li>
16      <li class="p-Topic-Text-Bulleted">
17        <p class="Topic-Text-Bulleted">
18        open, select <span style="font-weight:
19      </li>
20    </ul>
21  </body>
22 </html>
```

A dialog box titled "MadCap Flare V10 (Beta)" is overlaid on the code editor. The dialog box contains a question mark icon and the text "Document is not valid. Do you want to save anyway?". There are two buttons at the bottom of the dialog box: "Yes" and "No".

- It's *telling you* what the problem is.
- But the problem is really on line 8, not 7 – e.g. error messages aren't always clear.

What You Need to Know



XHTML

The screenshot shows an XML editor window with a warning message at the top: "Warning: Invalid syntax on or inside 'h1' tag located on line 7". The editor displays the following XML code:

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2 <html xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd" MadCap:id="Starting
  the Scheduler Utility" MadCap:timeEstimate="0" MadCap:priority="0" MadCap:status="In
  Progress" MadCap:lastBlockDepth="4" MadCap:lastHeight="152" MadCap:lastWidth="624">
3   <head><title>Starting the Scheduler Utility</title>
4     <link rel="StyleSheet" href="Resources/Stylesheets/styles.css" />
5   </head>
6   <body>
7     <h1><MadCap:variable name="System.Title">Starting the Scheduler Utility</MadCap:
  variable>
8     </H1>
9     <p>You can start the WS_FTP Scheduler Utility in the following ways:</p>
10    <ul style="list-style-type: none;">
11      <li><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; padding-right: 10px;">WS_FTP
12      Pro &gt; Utiliti
13    </span><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; padding-right: 10px;">WS_FTP
14    Pro &gt; Utiliti
15    </span></li>
16    <li><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; padding-right: 10px;">WS_FTP
17    Pro &gt; Utiliti
18    </span><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; padding-right: 10px;">WS_FTP
19    Pro &gt; Utiliti
20    </span></li>
21    </ul>
  </body>
```

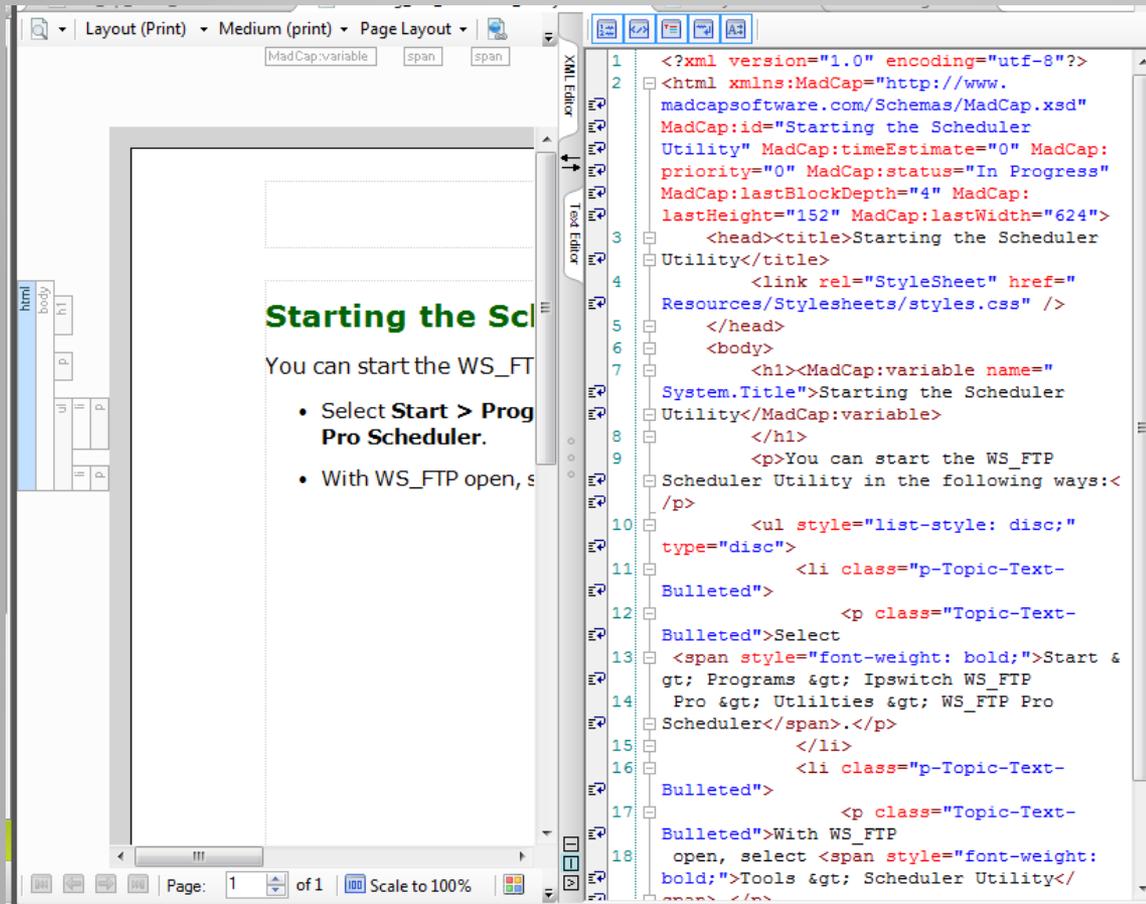
A dialog box titled "MadCap Flare V9" is overlaid on the code, displaying a question mark icon and the text: "Document is not valid. Do you want to save anyway?". The dialog has "Yes" and "No" buttons at the bottom.

CSS

The image shows two overlapping windows. The top window is a 'Stylesheet Editor' in 'Simplified View' mode. It has a menu bar with 'Add Class', 'Add Pseudo Class', 'Rename', and 'Options'. Below the menu bar are three dropdown menus: 'Show All Styles', 'Hide Inherited', and 'Medium: print'. The main area is split into two panes: 'Styles' on the left and 'Properties' on the right. The 'Styles' pane shows a tree view with categories like '(Generic Classes)', '(Generic Pseudo Classes)', '(Identifiers)', '(Complex Selectors)', and a list of HTML elements including 'a', 'abbr', 'acronym', 'address', 'area', 'b', 'big', 'blockquote', 'body', 'br', and 'button'. The 'Properties' pane lists various CSS property categories such as 'Font', 'Background', 'Block', 'Border', 'Box', 'Cell', 'List', 'Table', 'Positioning', 'Extensions', 'Padding', 'Print Support', and 'AutoNumber'. The bottom window is a 'Text Editor' showing CSS code for a paragraph and a list item. The code is as follows:

```
1  /*<meta />*/
2
3  p
4  {
5      font-family: Arial;
6      font-size: 8.0pt;
7      margin-left: 5.75pt;
8      margin-right: 6.5pt;
9      margin-top: 4.0pt;
10     margin-bottom: 0.0pt;
11 }
12
13 li.p
14 {
15     font-family: Arial;
16     font-size: 8.0pt;
17 }
18
19 h1
20 {
```

Flare's Text Editor/Code Viewer



Plus

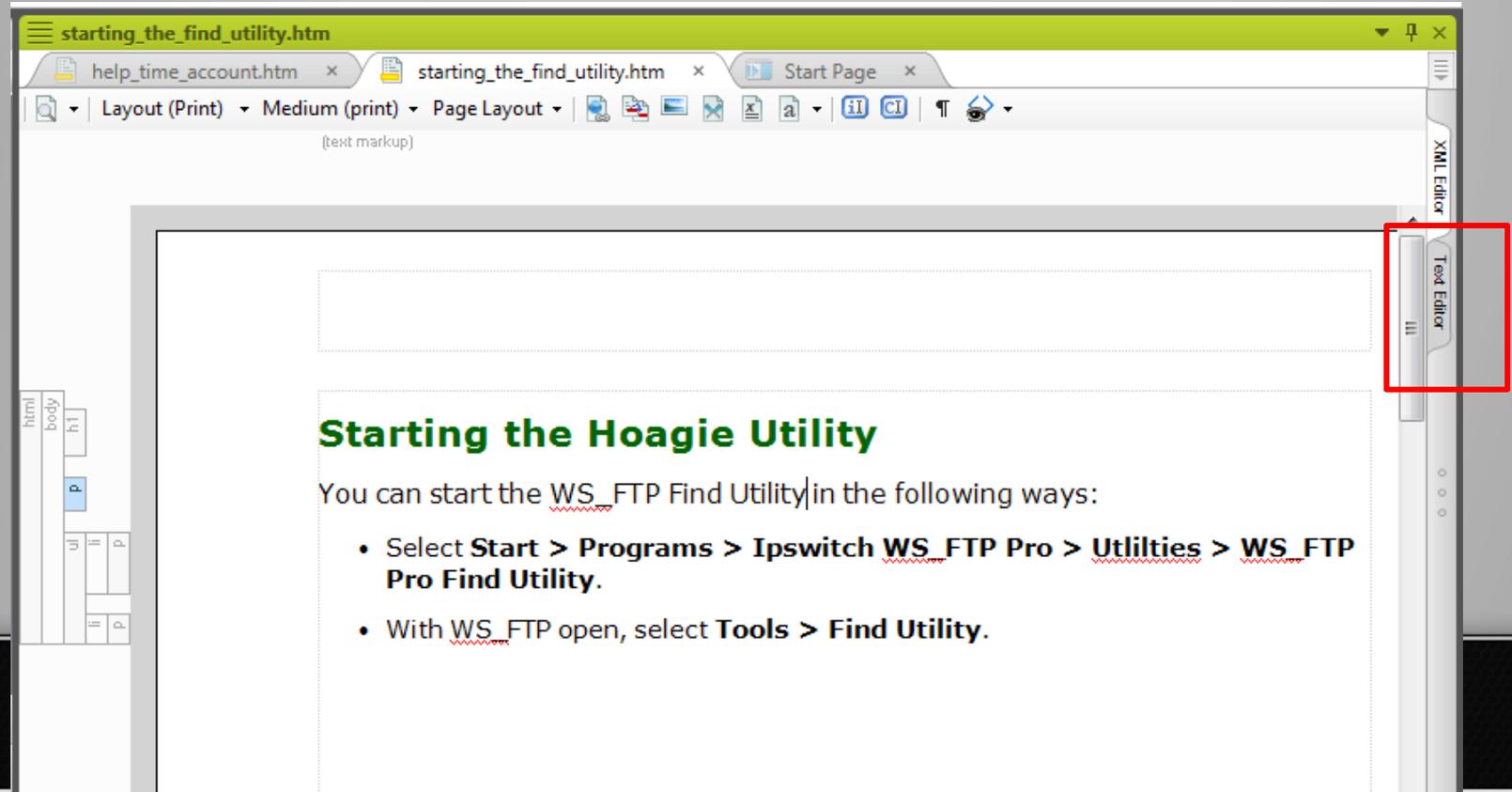
- A lot of patience.
- And a healthy sense of fear.

How To Do It With Flare – the Mechanics



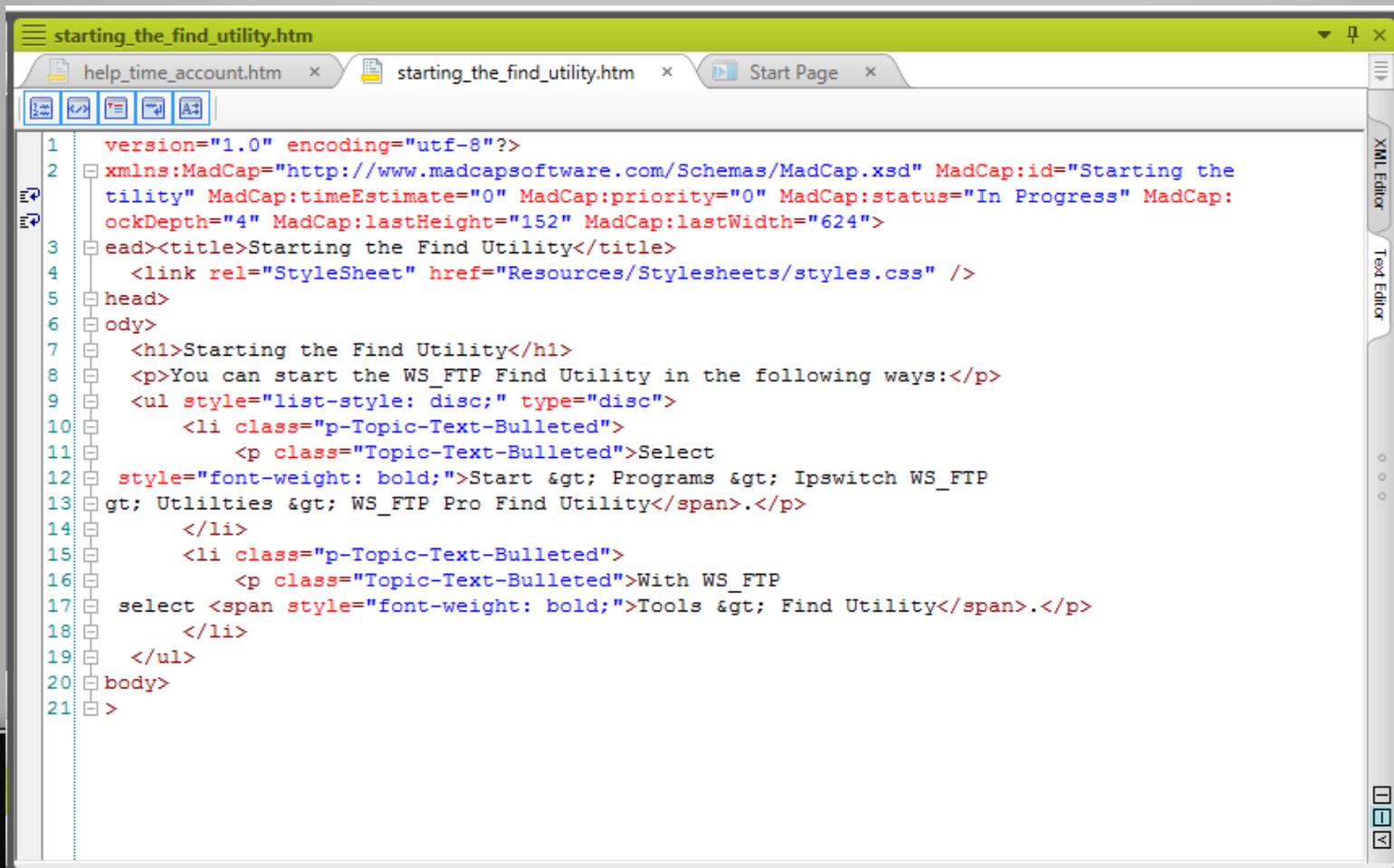
Accessing the Code – Method 1

- Open the desired topic, then click the Text Editor tab to switch to code view.



Method 1 (cont'd)

- You're now in full-screen code view.

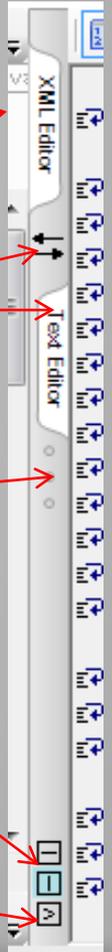


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'starting_the_find_utility.htm'. The browser's address bar shows three tabs: 'help_time_account.htm', 'starting_the_find_utility.htm', and 'Start Page'. The main content area displays the XML code for the page, with a tree view on the left and a vertical toolbar on the right. The code is as follows:

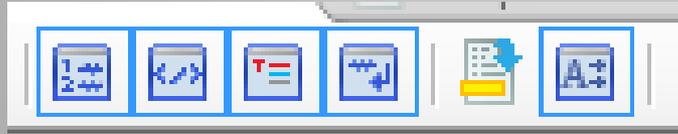
```
1  version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2  xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd" MadCap:id="Starting the
   tility" MadCap:timeEstimate="0" MadCap:priority="0" MadCap:status="In Progress" MadCap:
   ockDepth="4" MadCap:lastHeight="152" MadCap:lastWidth="624">
3  head<title>Starting the Find Utility</title>
   <link rel="StyleSheet" href="Resources/Stylesheets/styles.css" />
4  head>
5  ody>
6  <h1>Starting the Find Utility</h1>
7  <p>You can start the WS_FTP Find Utility in the following ways:</p>
8  <ul style="list-style: disc;" type="disc">
9    <li class="p-Topic-Text-Bulleted">
10     <p class="Topic-Text-Bulleted">Select
11     style="font-weight: bold;">Start &gt; Programs &gt; Ipswitch WS_FTP
12     &gt; Utilities &gt; WS_FTP Pro Find Utility</span>.</p>
13     </li>
14     <li class="p-Topic-Text-Bulleted">
15     <p class="Topic-Text-Bulleted">With WS_FTP
16     select <span style="font-weight: bold;">Tools &gt; Find Utility</span>.</p>
17     </li>
18   </ul>
19 body>
20 >
```

Controlling the Text Editor

- You can use the text editor in full- or split-screen view.
 - Pane tabs.
 - Switch pane positions.
 - Grab handle to change pane width.
 - Switch between vertical, horizontal tiling.
 - Toggle split screen on and off.



Text Editor Toolbar



- Show line numbers – For reference when working in code. Leave on.
- Show outline – To be able to expand/collapse sections of the code. Probably leave on.

Text Editor Toolbar - More

- Show... colors – To apply different colors to parts of the code. Leave on.
 - Comments – Green
 - Style tags (like h1) – brown.
 - Properties (like font-family) – red.
 - Values (like Arial) – blue.
 - Text – black.
- Word Wrap – To turn on word wrap. Leave on.

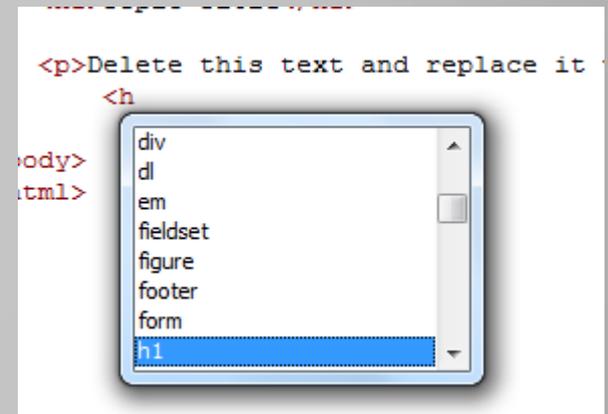
Text Editor Toolbar – Still More

- Open in XML Editor – To return to the XML Editor view from the Text Editor.
 - Only appears if you open the Text Editor by right-clicking topic in Content Explorer and selecting Open With > Internal Text Editor – e.g. you don't have the XML Editor and Text Editor tabs.

Text Editor Toolbar – Finally...

– AutoComplete – To display the autocomplete window that detects when you type tags and offers to complete them for you

- For example, type `<h` and this appears:
- If you click on `<h1>` in the window, Flare finishes the code, like this:



```
<p>Delete this text and replace it  
<h1>*/h1>
```

Accessing the Code – Method 2

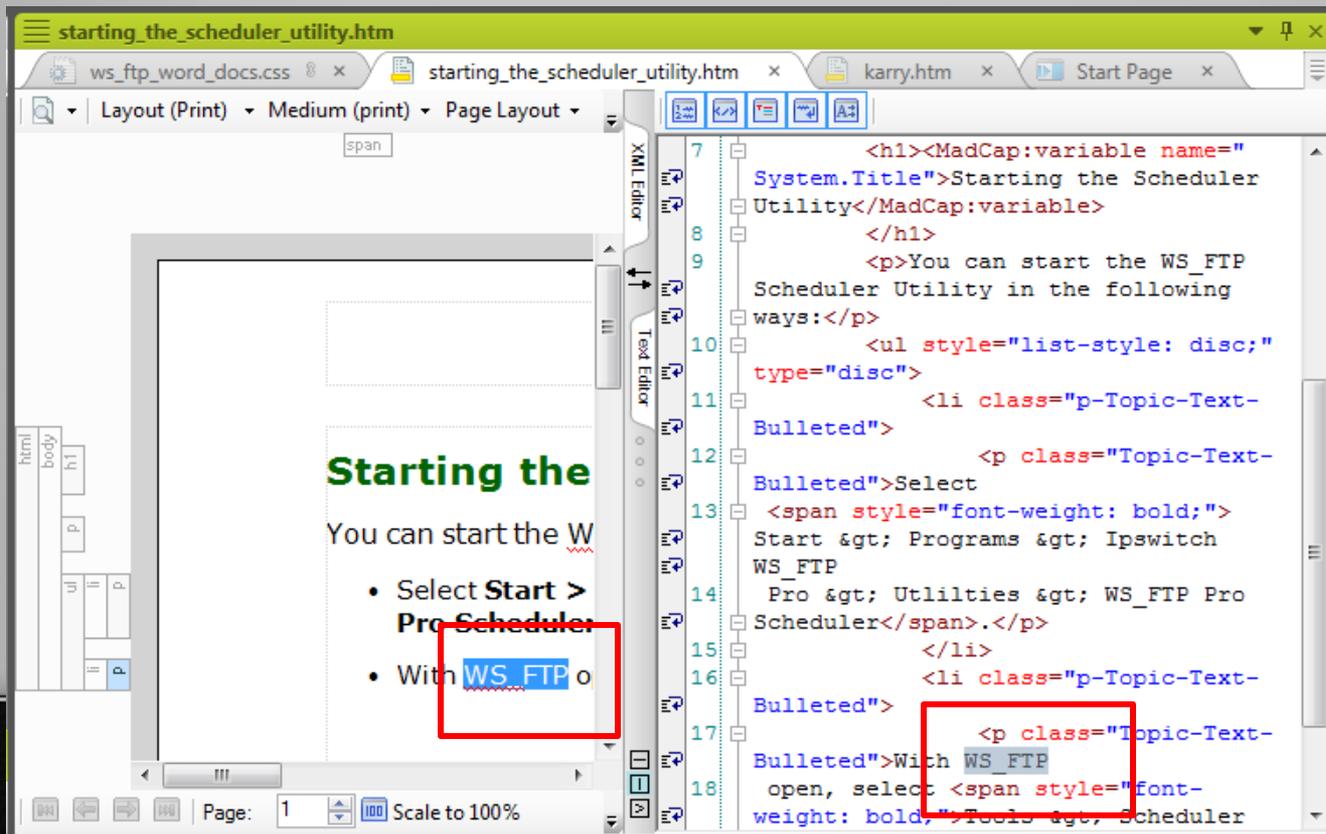
- Right-click the topic in Content Explorer, select Open With > Internal Text Editor.
 - No pane controls this way.
- Do *not* select Notepad:
 - It's not tied to Flare so you'll have to re-import changed files – not hard, just extra work.
 - No line numbers.

Method 2 (cont'd)

- What about external 3rd party editors like Notepad ++, etc?
 - You'll gain GREP, other, capabilities but have the same problems as with Notepad.
 - GREP?
 - A command line utility for searching plain text files for defined strings.
 - Comes out of UNIX.
 - Google “windows editors with grep”.

Helpful Feature #1

- Cross-pane highlight retention.
 - Works in either direction.



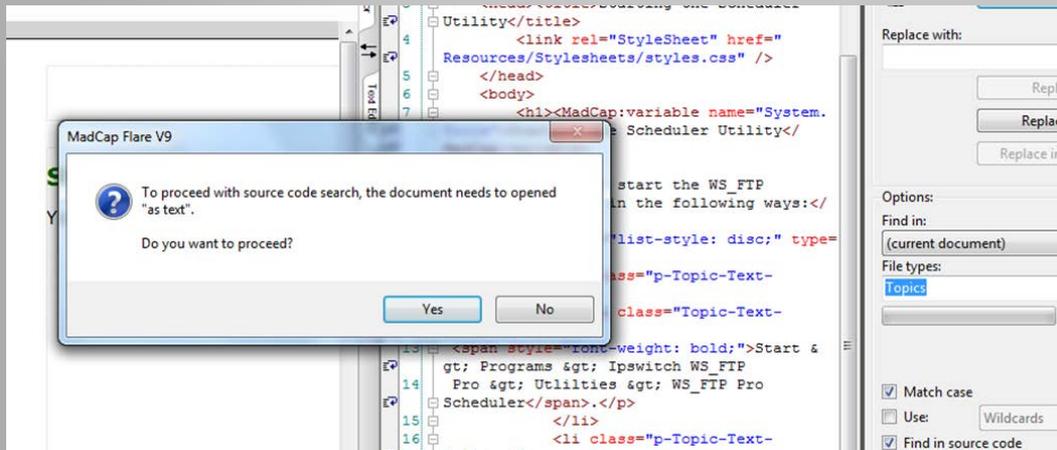
Helpful Feature #2

- Find and Replace pane with Find in Source Code option selected – 9 – 10

The screenshot displays a web editor interface with a code editor on the left and a Find and Replace pane on the right. The code editor shows HTML code for a page titled "Starting the Scheduler Utility". The Find and Replace pane is open, showing the "Find" tab. The "Find what:" field contains "h1". The "Replace with:" field is empty. The "Find in:" dropdown is set to "(current document)". The "File types:" dropdown is set to "Topics". The "Options:" section has "Match case" checked and "Find in source code" checked. The "Find and Replace in Files" pane is also open, showing the "Find" tab. The "Find:" dropdown is set to "Nested". The "Replace with:" dropdown is set to "Synchronize". The "Find in:" dropdown is set to "(whole project)". The "File types:" dropdown is set to "Topics". The "Find Options:" section has "Match case" checked and "Find in source code" checked. The "Result Options:" section has "Find Next", "Find Previous", "Skip File", "Find All", "Replace", and "Replace All" buttons.

Apparent Oddity in #2

- Selecting the “...source code” option and clicking Find Next displays this message:



- Though you’re already in the Text Editor...
- Just click Yes to switch modes.

HUGE Caveat #1

- Think before deleting unwanted start tags globally.
- Otherwise, how will you know what end tags to delete?
 - For example, if you have to delete all of **one** type of `` tag in this code sample...
 - Which only has one type but pretend...

HUGE Caveat #1 (cont'd)

```
9      <h3><span style="font-weight: normal;">The</span>  
    Transfer History tab<span style="font-weight: normal;">  
    of the Information Window displays a list  
10     of successful transfers. </span><span style="font-  
    weight: normal;">This  
11     list can be sorted by clicking on the column headers.</  
    span></h3>
```

- If you delete the desired `<span...>` tags, what `` tags should you then delete?
- You can't delete all your `` tags since you might need some of them.
- Think through the steps carefully, backup before global changes or deletions.

HUGE Caveat #2

- Again, Flare will not open a syntactically incorrect topic in the XML editor until you fix the problem.



HUGE Caveat #3

- Old files, tools are full of surprises:
 - Using ** as a proprietary code delimiter that Flare doesn't recognize.
 - Chunks of legacy code that Flare puts in a div tag and then complains about in the message pod – to fix, delete the div tags.
 - FrontPage 2K added page breaks between start and end tags that break your macros.

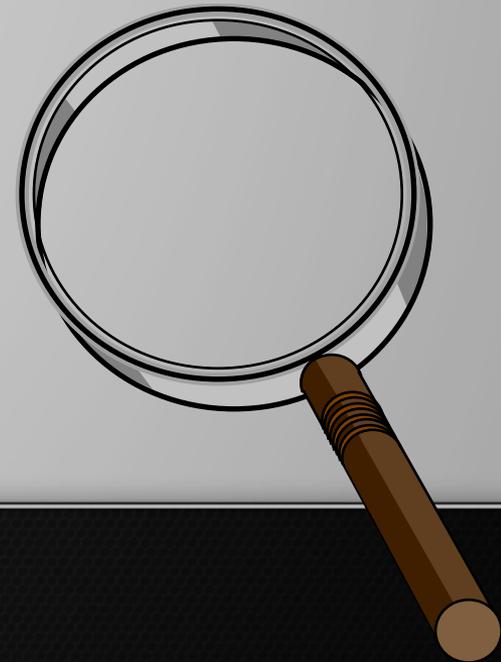
Helpful Feature #3

- Can't open a file in the XML editor and can't spot the problem in the code?
- Flare can do a partial auto-correct:
 - Copy the file and save it in Notepad with an htm extension.
 - Import the file from Notepad into Flare and open it – starts the Convert to XML Wizard.
 - Fixes syntax errors *that it recognizes as syntax errors* to let you open the topic in the XML editor.

Pros and Cons of Feature #3

- Pros:
 - Fixes many syntax problems for you.
- Cons:
 - You have to open one file at a time to use the wizard – e.g. it's slow.

How To Do It With Flare – the Process



Files Already in XHTML...

- ...and contain bad but syntactically OK code, such as local formatting.
 - Back up the files.
 - Open the first topic in the XML editor, find the first instance of bad code, highlight it, and go into the text editor.
 - Deleting a bad code? First decide how to delete its end tag before any deletion.

Files Already in XHTML...

- Editing a bad code but leaving its base code in place – e.g. changing `<p bad...>` to `<p>`? Don't worry about the end tag.
- Delete the end tags as necessary.
- Save and back up.
- Delete or edit the bad code by using Find and Replace with "...source code" option.
- Build and view samples of changed topics.
- Repeat.

Files Not Yet in XHTML...

- ...and contain unusual custom code.
 - Back up the files.
 - Change the file extensions to .htm.
 - Copy or import the files into Flare.
 - Open the first topic in the text editor, look for incorrect, repeated *structural* coding, fix it using Find and Replace with “...source code” option.

Files Not Yet in XHTML...

- Continue until XHTML structural coding is OK.
- Re-open the first topic in the XML editor, find the first instance of other bad code, highlight it, and go into the Text editor.
 - Deleting a bad code? First decide how to delete its end tag before any deletion.
 - Editing a bad code but leaving its base code in place – e.g. changing `<p bad...>` to `<p>`? Don't worry about the end tag.

Files Not Yet in XHTML...

- Delete the end tags if necessary.
- Save and backup.
- Delete or edit the bad code by using Find and Replace with the “...source code” option.
- Build and view samples of changed topics.
- Repeat.

Summary

- You're looking for patterns to use for find and replace.
- In many cases, especially with legacy files, you may not be able to automate the work and instead have to just grind through it.
- If you have the skill, patience, and outlook, it's efficient, challenging, and geekily fun.

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- ViziApps Studio (mobile apps)
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Thank you... Questions?



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