



LIVE WEBINAR



The Journey from DITA-Based Software to MadCap Flare: A Case Study with CM Labs



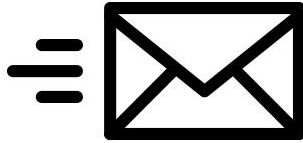
PRESENTED BY:

Vrej Hezaran, Technical Writer | CM Labs

Jennifer Morse, Director, Product Evangelism | MadCap Software, Inc



BEFORE WE GET STARTED...



The webinar will be recorded
and emailed to all registrants



Use the Question Panel in
GoToWebinar to ask questions
throughout the webinar

Who Am I?

- Technical Writer, CM Labs
- Bachelor degree, Comp. Eng. (B.Eng. '04)
McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- Technical writer since 2007



What Does CM Labs Do?

CM Labs is a leading provider of simulations-based solutions.

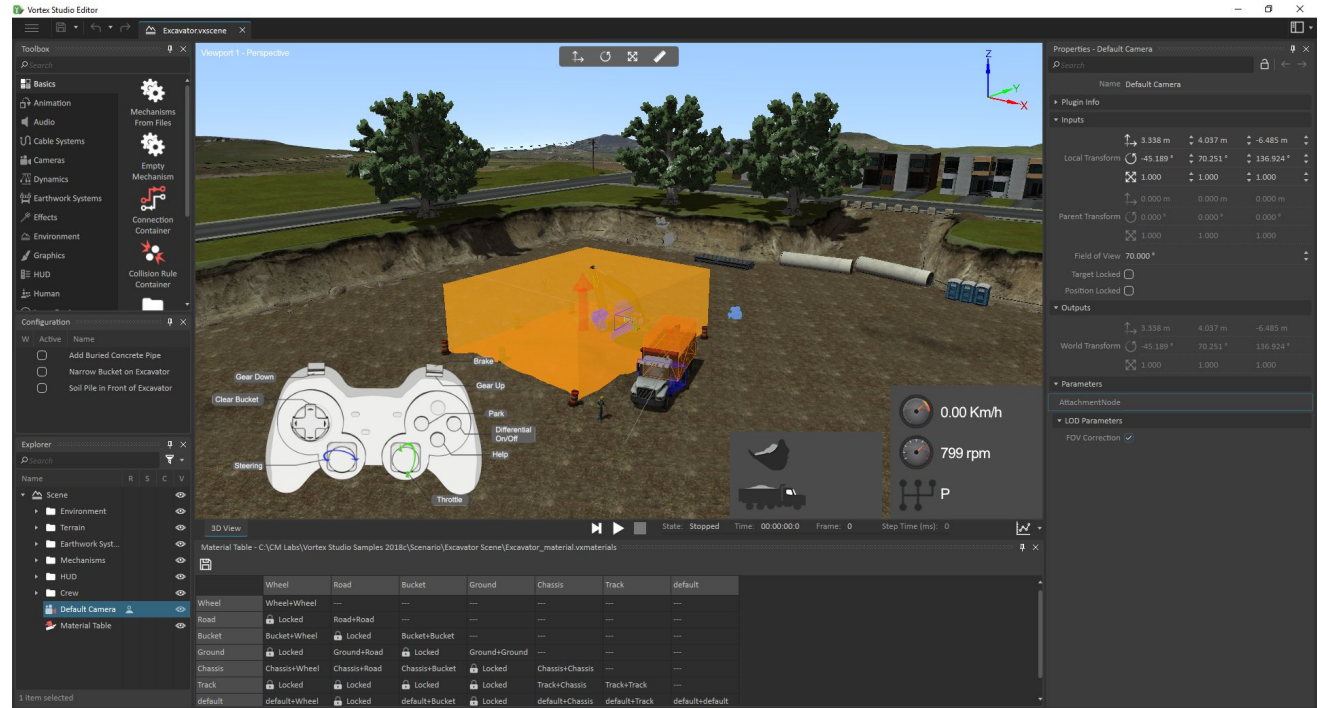
- Automotive, construction, cranes, ports
- Realistic scenes of land, sea environments
- Vortex Studio: real-time simulation platform
- Little to no coding to create complex scenes



Sample image from a Vortex simulation

Vortex Studio

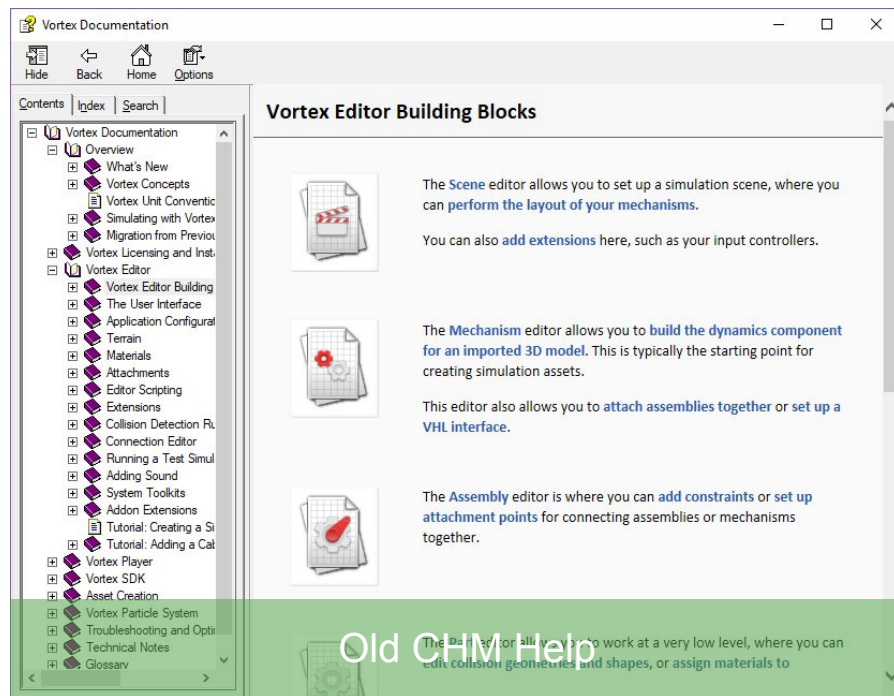
- Physics-based mechanical dynamics engine
- Immersive visualization system
- Professional desktop applications
- Flexible software development kit



The Old Help: CHM

Previous to MadCap Flare, we were generating Microsoft Compiled HTML Help (CHM).

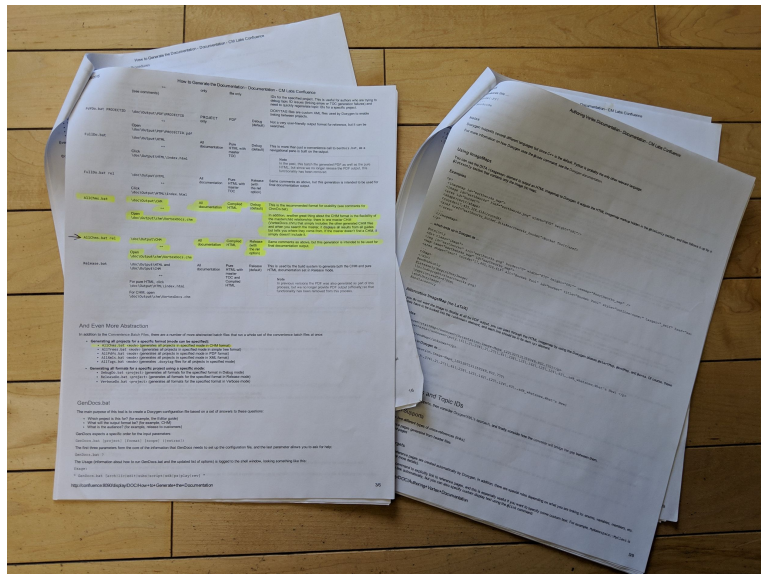
- CHM already dated (lasted updated in 2001)
- Written in DITA XML, using Oxygen XML Editor
- Produced into CHM format using Doxygen documentation generator



Challenges of the Old Process

The old help generation process was difficult in a number of ways.

- Difficult content reuse
- Broken code
- Hard to re-order
- Building was a nightmare
 - Pages of instructions
 - Exact commands
 - Scripts calling scripts calling scripts
 - Time consuming



Why MadCap Flare?

What were the decisions that brought me to champion Flare within CM Labs?

- Output optimized for the web (HTML5)
- Simple to use search with good, quick results
- Easy of use (WYSIWYG, drag and drop)
 - Page preview
 - Text editor
- Quick documentation generation
 - What took >20 minutes is now 1/10th of that time
- Streamlined content reviews



Benefits

Besides the ease of deployment, simple and traceable reviews, and automated command-line generation, people are actually using the documentation!

- Externally
 - Easier to find info (improved search)
 - Tutorials
- Internally
 - Onboarding
 - Reference manual

Looking into the Future

- Continue using Flare to output quality documentation that is quick to produce and easy to review
- Make use of new Flare features as they come
- If the team grows, Flare is easier to train new members



MadCap Flare — vs. — DITA



VIEW COMPARISON GUIDE --→



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Take advantage of our introductory web-based
training course, taught by MAD Certified Instructors.
A \$599 training course value.

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Thanks for listening!

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to ask.

Links of Interest:

- Case Study: CM Labs Simulation
<https://www.madcapsoftware.com/case-study/cm-labs-simulations-uses-madcap-flare.aspx>
- A Guide to Reviewing Documents Using MadCap Flare, MadCap Contributor, JIRA, and Confluence
<https://www.madcapsoftware.com/blog/2017/05/11/guide-reviewing-documents-using-madcap-flare-madcap-contributor-jira-confluence/>
- Why We Jumped from DITA and Doxygen to MadCap Flare
<https://www.madcapsoftware.com/blog/2018/02/08/jumped-dita-doxygen-madcap-flare/>

