MADCAP FLARE FOR PROGRAMMERS

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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
 1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
 2 <html xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd"
 3        MadCap:lastBlockDepth="2"
 4        MadCap:lastHeight="111"
 5        MadCap:lastWidth="1142">
 6     <head>
 7         <title>Sample Topic Title</title>
 8     </head>
 9     <body>
10         <h1>Sample Topic</h1>
11         <p>This is sample text.</p>
12     </body>
13 </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
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2 <CatapultToc
3    Version="1">
4    <TocEntry
5       Title="Sample Topic"
6       Link="/Content/sample-topic.htm" />
7 </CatapultToc>
```

Example 5.2 – XML for a TOC with a variety of node types

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2 <CatapultToc
3   Version="1">
4   <TocEntry
5     Title="Topic"
6     Link="/Content/Topic.htm"></TocEntry>
7   <TocEntry
8     Title="OtherTOC"
9     Link="/Project/TOCs/OtherTOC.fltoc"></TocEntry>
10   <TocEntry
11    Title="HTML5Target"
12    Link="../../../Example/Example.flprj#HTML5"
13    AbsoluteLink="file:///C:/Example/Example.flprj#HTML5"></TocEntry>
14   <TocEntry
15    Title="No link" />
16 </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"
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)

  https://www.visualstudio.com/en-us/products/visual-studio-express-vs.aspx

- 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/

Book Page at XML Press
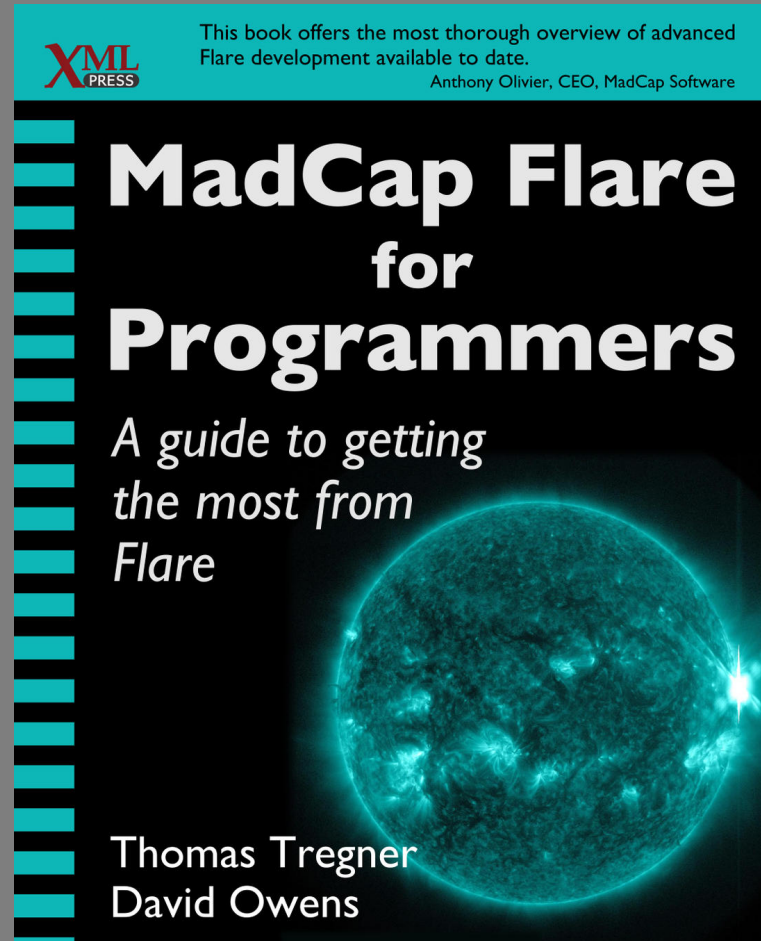
http://xmlpress.net/2015/06/18/madcap-flare-for-programmers/

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