Getting Started with Micro Content Authoring in MadCap Flare 2019



Matthew Ellison UA Europe

Agenda

- What is Micro Content?
- What can I use it for?
- How can I create Micro Content in Flare 2019?
- How can I use Micro Content to improve Search?
- How can I use Micro Content outside of Flare?



"Micro Content"

Term originally coined by Web usability guru Jakob Nielsen





"Micro Content"

Nielsen's current definition:

"a type of UX copywriting in the form of short text fragments or phrases, often presented with no additional contextual support.

Microcontent usually communicates key messages in a concise form:"

Microcontent: A Few Small Words Have a Mega Impact on Business Hoa Loranger and Jakob Nielsen, January 29, 2017



Nielsen's examples of micro content:

- Page titles
- Page headings (headlines)
- Taglines
- Email subject lines
- Summaries, decks
- Hints, tips, explainers



My preferred definition of Micro Content

"a way of providing quick answers to questions"



Another great definition...

What is micro content? Here's a demonstration:

Micro content is written copy, imagery and/or video content that can be consumed in 10-30 seconds or less.

The end.

[https://www.brafton.com/blog/creation/microcontent-what-is-it-and-why-do-you-need-it/]



Key potential uses for Micro Content in UA

Outside of Flare

Source content for:

- Chatbots
- FAQs
- Virtual Reality (VR) Applications
- Embedded Field-level Help

Within Flare

"Featured Snippets"



Chatbot



FAQs - Phrase



FAQ - Response

Using two-step verification

Two-step verification is an optional feature that adds more security to your account. When you have two-step verification enabled, any attempt to verify your phone number on WhatsApp must be accompanied by the six-digit PIN that you created using this feature.



UA Europe

To enable two-step verification, open WhatsApp > Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.

Virtual and Augmented Reality





Field-level Help





Why use Flare to create this Micro Content?

Single-sourcing:

Re-use Micro Content within Flare's regular "long-form" topics

Rich Content Authoring:

Styles, lists, tables, images, multimedia, variables, responsive layout, etc.



Using Micro Content within Flare

- A very interesting and exciting new opportunity to improve Search Results
- Based on the concept of "Featured Snippets" (a term invented and used by Google)



Some Background on Google's Micro Content

- May 16, 2012
 Google announces Knowledge Graph
- A move from full-text search to more relevant and meaningful results based on an understanding of concepts and relationships
- October 2016
 Knowledge Graph holds > 70 billion facts



Featured Snippet

A summary of an answer to a user's query, displayed at "**position zero**"



Featured Snippet



Three types of Featured Snippet

- Paragraph (82%)
- List (10.8%)
- Table (7.3%)

[Source: STAT Search Analytics]



Some examples of Google's Featured Snippets...





About 661,000,000 results (0.52 seconds)

Place the **egg** in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring to the **boil** then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer for 3-5 minutes, depending on how you like your **egg** cooked. After 3 minutes it will be really soft and after 5 minutes both the white and the yolk with be set.

How to Boil an Egg - Bord Bia

https://www.bordbia.ie/consumer/recipes/eggs/pages/howtoboilanegg.aspx

About this result III Feedback

www.deliaonline.com

People also ask	
How long should you boil an egg for?	~
Can you under boil an egg?	~
How does Delia Smith boil an egg?	~
How do you boil Ehh?	~
	E dh h

Feedback

How to boil an egg perfectly | BBC Good Food

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-boil-egg-perfectly 💌

after r

Learn how long to **boil an egg** for to achieve the perfect consistency, whether you're after runny yolks or ...







People also ask	
Which way up does a SIM card go?	~
Can I put SIM card in old phone?	\sim
How do you open an Apple SIM card slot?	\sim
How do I setup my new SIM card?	~

Feedback



Videos



People also ask	
How do I find field codes in Word?	\sim
Where is the Find and Replace in Word?	~
Can you do find and replace in Word?	\sim
How do you replace all in Word?	~





About 320,000 results (0.35 seconds)

Open the **Roboto** font folder. Select all the fonts. Right-click your mouse, and select "**Install**." This will **install** the fonts to your **Windows** machine. ¹⁰ Aug 2018



How to Install Google Roboto Font on Windows ... - Make Tech Easier https://www.maketecheasier.com/use-google-roboto-font-everywhere/

About this result
Feedback

People also ask	
Is Roboto a web safe font?	\sim
What is the closest font to Roboto?	\sim
How do I add Google fonts to CSS?	~
Is roboto a system font?	~

Feedback

How to Install Google Roboto Font on Windows ... - Make Tech Easier

https://www.maketecheasier.com/use-google-roboto-font-everywhere/ ▼

10 Aug 2018 - Open the **Roboto** font folder. Select all the fonts. Right-click your mouse, and select "Install." This will install the fonts to your **Windows** machine.



Roboto - Google Fonts



About 11,600,000 results (0.50 seconds)

Rank	Animal	Maximum recorded speed (km/h)
1	Bearded dragon	40
2	Green Iguana	35
3	Leatherback sea turtle	35.28
4	Black mamba	23

About this result
Feedback

People also ask	
Which reptile is the most dangerous?	\sim
What is the fastest amphibian?	\sim
What reptile lives the longest?	\sim
What is the largest reptile?	\sim

Feedback



The Fastest Reptiles In The World - WorldAtlas.com

https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/which-are-the-fastest-reptiles-in-the-world.html 💌



About 653,000 results (0.44 seconds)

Usability adviser **Jakob Nielsen** originally referred to **microcontent** as small groups of words that can be skimmed by a person to get a clear idea of the **content** of a Web page. He included article headlines, page titles, subject lines and e-mail headings.

Microcontent - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microcontent

About this result
Feedback

Microcontent: How to Write Headlines, Page ... - Nielsen Norman Group https://www.nngroup.com/.../microcontent-how-to-write-headlines-page-titles-and-sub... 29 Jan 2017 - Definition: Microcontent is a type of UX copywriting in the form of short text fragments or phrases, often presented with no additional contextual ...

Company Name First in Microcontent? Sometimes! - Nielsen Norman ...

https://www.nngroup.com/articles/company-name-first-in-microcontent/ ▼





About 198,000 results (0.56 seconds)

MadWorld 2019 Dublin: October 8-11, 2019 - MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/madworld-2019-dublin/ ▼

The MadWorld technical communication and content strategy conference is your chance ... MadWorld 2019: Dublin, Ireland Register by June 30 to Save \$700.

The MadWorld 2019 Dublin, Ireland Call For ... - MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/call-for-presentations/ *

11 Jan 2019 - What session topics or ideas should I submit for consideration? Your session ideas should offer actionable takeaways and apply across ...

MadWorld 2019 Dublin: Register Now - MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/madworld-2019-dublin/register/
MadWorld 2019 Cancellation Policy: You may cancel your conference and workshop registration for a full refund up to 30 days from the date of purchase.

MadWorld Conferences from MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/ *

MadWorld 2019: San Diego, California. April 14-17, 2019 | Hard Rock Hotel. Register Today for MadWorld 2019. View Details. MadWorld 2019: Dublin, Ireland.

MadWorld 2019 Dublin: Conference Schedule - MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/madworld-2019-dublin/schedule/ Tuesday Welcome Reception. Rooftop Bar and Terrace. 4:30 PM. Technical Support Lounge Closes. MadWorld 2019 icon Register by June 30 to Save \$700.

The MadWorld 2019 Dublin, Ireland Call For ... - MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/conference/call-for.../submit-presentations/ *



Wording is critical...





About 1,100,000,000 results (0.49 seconds)

The image reveals the **black hole** at the center of Messier 87, a massive galaxy in the nearby Virgo galaxy cluster. This **black hole** resides 55 million lightyears from Earth and has a mass 6.5-billion times that of the Sun. 20 hours ago



First Black Hole Photo Revealed: Why It's a Big Deal | Time time.com/5566225/first-black-hole-picture-photo/

) About this result 🛛 💷 Feedback

People also ask	
What is the size of a black hole?	\sim
How big is a black hole in miles?	\sim
How big is the smallest black hole?	\sim
What is the size of a black hole singularity?	\sim

Feedback

How big is a black hole? | Cool Cosmos

coolcosmos.ipac.caltech.edu/ask/232-How-big-is-a-black-hole- *

Black holes come in many sizes and their size depends on how much material is in them (their mass). Some are the remains of a giant star which collapsed.





About 645,000,000 results (0.55 seconds)

It measures 40 billion km across - three million times the **size** of the Earth - and has been described by scientists as "a monster". The **black hole** is 500 million trillion km away and was photographed by a network of eight telescopes across the world. 22 hours ago



First ever black hole image released - BBC News - BBC.com https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47873592

About this result III Feedback

People also ask	
How big is a black hole?	~
How big is the smallest black hole?	~
What is the diameter of black hole?	~
What is the size of a black hole singularity?	~
	Feedback

size of black hole on Twitter

https://twitter.com/search/size+of+black+hole 🔰

Justine Bateman (@JustineBateman) Patrick Keane (@phkeane) Tech2 (@tech2eets)



Google	dimensions of black hole						پ Q		
	All	Images	News	Shopping	Videos	More	Settings	Tools	

About 235,000,000 results (0.60 seconds)

Physical properties		
Class	Approx. mass	Approx. size
Supermassive black hole	10 ⁵ –10 ¹⁰ M _{Sun}	0.001–400 AU
Intermediate-mass black hole	10 ³ M _{Sun}	10 ³ km ≈ R _{Earth}
Stellar black hole	10 M _{Sun}	30 km
Micro black hole	up to M _{Moon}	up to 0.1 mm
Black hole - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bla	ack_hole	
		About this result III Feedback

People also ask	
What is the size of a black hole?	\sim
What is the diameter of a black hole?	\sim
What is the size of a black hole singularity?	\sim
How big is the smallest black hole?	~

Feedback

Black hole - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_hole *

A black hole is a region of spacetime exhibiting such strong gravitational effects that nothing---not



Evolution of Micro Content...





Perspicacious | Definition of Perspicacious by Merriam-Webster

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/perspicacious

Perspicacious definition is - of acute mental vision or discernment : keen. How to use perspicacious in a sentence. Did You Know? Synonym Discussion of ...

PERSPICACIOUS | meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/perspicacious 💌

Although they are far from free of doubt, brain based theories of dreaming are certainly perspicacious in that they can account for global mental processes in







Knowledge Panel

Museum on Mus

Contemporary Art San..

See outside



About 1,180,000 results (0.77 seconds)

MadCap Software

https://www.madcapsoftware.com/ -

The leading software for creating technical documentation including knowledge bases, online Help, and more. You've visited this page 2 times. Last visit: 17/06/18

Search madcapsoftware.com

Q

MadCap Flare

MadCap Flare. Cutting-edge technical authoring and ...

Products

The MadCap Authoring and Management System (AMS ...

About

MadCap Software is leading the documentation industry into the ...

MadCap Software - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MadCap_Software *

MadCap Software is an American computer software firm headquartered in San Diego, California that creates help authoring tools and solutions for technical ...

Products: Help authoring tool technical docum..

People also ask

.

MadCap Flare Videos Watch Madcap Flare videos, including overviews and ...

MadCap Flare Pricing ... Get pricing information on MadCap Flare, the most complete ...

Careers MadCap Software is an exciting place to work. With companies .

MadCap Software, Inc.

S madcap

Directions Website

5.0 **** 2 Google reviews

Software company in San Diego, California

Located in: La Jolla Galleria

Address: 7777 Fay Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

Save

Hours: Closed · Opens 9AM -

Phone: +1 858-320-0387

Suggest an edit

Know this place? Answer quick questions

Send to your phone

Send



About 1,470,000,000 results (0.50 seconds)

Clock Tab

www.clocktab.com/ *

Displays the current Time. Featuring "Time Icon" and customizable Themes. Made by the Creator of Timer Tab.

Online Clock - Online Stopwatch

https://www.online-stopwatch.com/online-clock/ *

A Free Online Clock! Free, Easy To Use LARGE Full Screen Online Clock! This classic clock let's you change the design, and shows your computers time.

Online Alarm Clock

https://onlineclock.net/ *

Online Alarm Clock - Set a FREE internet alarm clock displaying your computer time! Set fun timers, stopwatches, countdowns. See our Meme of the Day!

Clocks | Digital Alarm Clock | Travel Alarm Clock | John Lewis & Partners https://www.johnlewis.com > Home & Garden

Get up and about with a new digital alarm clock. Many models display the weather and outdoor temperature so you're fully prepared by the time you head out.

Clocks - Digital & Analog Clocks, Kitchen Clocks & More | IKEA

https://www.ikea.com/gb/en/products/decoration/clocks/ ▼

Browse our range of clocks online at IKEA, including digital and analog clocks, kitchen clocks & more. Shop online and in-store.

Clocks | Digital, Alarm & Wall Clocks | Argos

https://www.argos.co.uk > Home and garden > Home furnishings > Clocks 💌



Measuring instrument

A clock is an instrument used to measure, keep, and indicate time. The clock is one of the oldest human inventions, meeting the need to measure intervals of time shorter than the natural units: the day, the lunar month, and the year. Devices operating on several physical processes have been used over the millennia. Wikipedia

Inventor: Christiaan Huygens

Clock books











View 10+ more

Clock Dance: A Novel The Bone The history Clocks of clocks and watc...

The history The House of clocks with a Clock and watc in It







About 8,360,000 results (0.52 seconds)

Alsatian may refer to: The Alsace region of France. Alsatians (people), a person from the Alsace region of France or a speaker of the Alsatian language. Alsatian language, the language or dialect of the Alsace region of northeast France. German Shepherd Dog, a breed of dog known as an Alsatian in many countries.



Alsatian - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsatian

About this result III Feedback

People also ask	
Are German Shepherds and Alsatians the same?	~
Where did Alsatian name come from?	~
Is an Alsatian a good family dog?	~
Are Alsatian dogs dangerous?	~
	Feedback

Alsatian - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsatian -

Alsatian may refer to: The Alsace region of France. Alsatians (people), a person from the Alsace region of France or a speaker of the Alsatian language. Alsatian language, the language or dialect of the Alsace region of northeast France. German Shepherd Dog, a breed of dog known as an Alsatian

German Shepherd



The German Shepherd is a breed of medium to large-sized working dog that originated in Germany. In the English language, the breed's officially recognized name is German Shepherd Dog. The breed was officially known as the Alsatian in Britain until 1977 when its name was changed back to German Shepherd. Wikipedia

Life expectancy: 9 – 13 years

Weight: Male: 30-40 kg, Female: 22-32 kg

Temperament: Loyal, Obedient, Curious, Intelligent, Alert, Confident, Watchful, Courageous

Height: Male: 60-65 cm, Female: 55-60 cm

Colors: Black, Red & Black, Black & Tan, Sable, Black & Silver, Grey

Did you know: German Shepherd is the second-most popular dog breed by registrations (129,186) worldwide. wikipedia.org

People also search for







Key principal of Google's Micro Content...



All Micro Content is re-used from existing longform content on the Web



Google says:

- "When we recognize that a query asks a question, we programmatically detect pages that answer the user's question, and display a top result as a featured snippet in the search results"
- The featured snippet includes the page's title and URL



Creating and using Micro Content in Flare



Main steps for working with Micro Content

- 1. Create one or more Micro Content files
- 2. Add Phrases and Responses in the Micro Content Editor
 - You can add Micro Content from the **XML (Topic) Editor**
- 3. Format the Micro Content Result in the **Skin**
- 4. Include Micro Content Results in the **Target**



Create a Micro Content file





Add a Phrase



Optional (but strongly encouraged): Add Alternative Phrase(s)

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Optional (but strongly encouraged): Add Alternative Phrase(s)

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Four ways to create Response



Create/edit dedicated content in Micro Content Editor

Link to existing Topic or Snippet

 Link to Bookmark within existing Topic or Snippet

My preferred method

Create Phrase from XML Editor

 Link to defined extract within existing Topic or Snippet

JA Europe

Create Response in Micro Content Editor

Featured Snippets.flmco*

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An experiment is a procedure carried out to support, refute, or validate a hypothesis. Experiments provide insight into cause-and-effect by demonstrating what outcome occurs when a particular factor is manipulated.

There are three types of experiments you need to know:

 Laboratory / Controlled Experiments. This type of experiment is conducted in a well-controlled environment (not necessarily a laboratory), where accurate measurements are possible.

- Field Experiments.
- Natural Experiments.

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Link Phrase to a topic or snippet



Link Phrase to a topic or snippet

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Search		This response cannot be edited because it is linked to a topic or snippet. You can either
How can I eat an elephant?	‡⇒ @ ▼	
How do I contact Ipswitch?	‡⇒ ⊞ ▼	
How many connections does WS_FTP use?	‡⇒ ⊞ ▼	Testing the connection
Start the Find Utility	‡⇒ ඕ ▼	resting the connection
At insfers/Testing the connection.htm pennent What is microicontent? Not within the spirit of Google's Featured	*→ ₩ ▲ *→ ₩ ▼	It is important to test your connection before using it for real. To test a connection: 1. Switch on. 2. Reverse polarity. 3. Switch off.



My preferred method for creating Phrases and Responses...



Create Micro Content from topic or snippet



Result

Featured Snippets.flmco*

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Response | Medium (default) 🗸 | 📄 🔤 📼 🖛 📄 🗸 📓 🗸 🔹 👘 🖌

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This response cannot be edited because it is linked to a topic or snippet. You can either remove the link or open the topic or snippet to edit the content.

▼ ₽ >

 \wedge

v

The number of connections that WS_FTP uses is determined by:

- the number of additional connections specified in the Site: Transfer options
- · the number of connections allowed by the server

After adding Alternative Phrases



Format the Micro Content Result

HTML5 - 1	Top Navigation	•			New styles f	for	→ ‡
HTML5 Skin E	ditor Preview	Web Medium	Tablet Medium	Mobile Medium	Micro Conte	ent	
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Include Micro Content Results

🗮 HTML5 - Top Naviga	tion	
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Skin	Type: MadCap Search	~
Conditional Text		
Variables	Search Results	
Publickies	Results per page: 10 🜩	
Publishing	Abstract character limit: 300 🖨	
Glossary	Partial word searching 🔒	
Relationship Table	Minimum word size: 3 🜩	
Search	Advanced Search Options	
Advanced	✓ Include importance (recommended) ()	Now Miero Conton
Performance	✓ Include micro content results	ontion in Target
Build Events	☑ Include glossary results	- Editor
Durid Events	Exclude non-words from search ()	
Community	Exclude index entries from search	
Language		

Using Micro Content outside of Flare

Each Phrase-Response combination is stored as an XHTML file within Output

« Output » matth » HTML5 - Top Navigation » MicroContent

 \sim

Name



how-can-i-eat-an-elephant.htm

how-do-i-contact-ipswitch.htm

how-many-connections-does-ws-ftp-use.htm

start-the-find-utility.htm



test.htm





Micro Content output file

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html xmlns:MadCap="http://www.madcapsoftware.com/Schemas/MadCap.xsd" lang="en-gb" xml:lang
="en-gb" data-mc-search-type="Stem" data-mc-help-system-file-name="Default.xml"
data-mc-path-to-help-system="../" data-mc-target-type="WebHelp2" data-mc-runtime-file-type=
"Topic" data-mc-preload-images="false" data-mc-in-preview-mode="false" data-mc-toc-path="">
   <head>
       <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0" />
       <meta charset="utf-8" />
       <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge" />
       <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" /><title>
       Speeding Up Large Transfers (Multipart Transfers) </title><title>How many
       connections does WS FTP use?</title>
       <meta name="phrase" value="How many connections does WS FTP use?" />
       <meta name="phrase" value="Number of connections" />
       <meta name="phrase" value="Connection count" />
       <meta name="feedback" value="true" />
       <meta name="source-type" value="micro-content" />
       <meta name="truncated" value="false" />
       <meta name="linkto" value=
       "../Content/4transfers/multipart transfers.htm#microcontent1" />
       <link href="../Content/Resources/Stylesheets/styles.css" rel="stylesheet" type=</pre>
       "text/css" />
   </head>
   <body>
       The number of connections that WS FTP uses is determined by:
       class="p-Topic-Text-Bulleted" value="1">
              the number
of additional connections specified in the Site: Transfer options
```

How MadCap is currently using Micro Content...



MadCap's current use of Micro Content

- Only for Featured Snippets
- Three types:
 - Quick Steps
 - Mini Landing Pages
 - Related Questions
- Dedicated Snippets used exclusively for Micro Content
- Extensive use of Multimedia and images within Responsive Layouts



Quick Steps



create snippets

Your search for "create snippets" returned 330 result(s).

2

How to create a snippet

- 1. In the XML Editor, highlight the content that you want to turn into a snippet.
- 2. In the Home ribbon, select Create Snippet.
- 3. Give the snippet a name and choose a folder location to store it.
- 4. Click Create.
- 5. Click 🖬 to save your work.

More Details..



Creating New Snippets from Existing Content

Creating New **Snippets** from Existing Content Outputs Supported There are two ways to **create** a snippet. **Create Snippets** From Content If you have already typed content in your topic and want to turn that content into a snippet, you can **create** a snippet out of that existing content using the Home ...

../Snippets/Creating-New-Snippets-from-Content.htm

Mini Landing Page



Your search for "conditions" returned 237 result(s).

~

Conditions A condition is something that you can apply to different areas of your content so that some information displays in some of your outputs but not in others. <u>More Details...</u>

Basic Steps

- 1. Adding Condition Tag Set Files
- 2. Creating Conditions
- 3. Applying Conditions to Content
- 4. Associating Conditions with Targets

Conditio Condition Conditions

Here is some general text for a topic. Replace this with your own content.

Condition Conditioned Text—Character Level

Here is some general text for a topic. Replace this with your own content.

Here is some general text for a topic. Replace this with your own content. THIS INLINE TEXT CONDITIONED FOR PRINT OUTPUT THE is some general text for a topic. Replace this with your own content.

Condition Conditioned Text—Block Level

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Applying Conditions to Content

Learn how to apply condition tags to different content elements. This lets you single-source the content that you create in multiple target outputs.

../Conditions/Applying-Condition-Tags-to-Content.htm

Related Questions



styles

Your search for "styles" returned 598 result(s).

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Styles and CSS Styles are used in Flare projects to control the look and feel of your documentation, and keep the content separate its presentation. Most of the styling is based on Cascading stylesheets (CSS), which is an international standard for formatting web content, developed by the World Wide Web Consortium (or W3C). More Details...

- Where can I learn more about CSS?
- What can CSS do?
- How does page structure relate to CSS?
- What is meant by "cascading"?
- What are some of the most important style terms and concepts?
- What is style inheritance about?
- When should I use regular stylesheets, table stylesheets, or local properties?



HTML5 Skin Styles

HTML5 Skin **Styles** Outputs Supported There are many ways to style your HTML5 skin, whether it be a Side Navigation, Top Navigation, or Tripane skin, or one of the skin components. In addition, if you enable the skin to produce responsive output—meaning that the look of the output can automatically ...

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../Skins/HTML5-Skin-Styles/HTML5-Skin-Styles.htm

Summary

- Micro Content is a key new feature
- Its main application in Flare is "Featured Snippets" that improve Search Results
- Follow Google's approach by re-using long-form content
- Use Analytics to guide your choice of Phrases
- Micro Content can also be used outside of Flare for FAQs and chatbots



Thanks for joining! Final questions?



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