



Leveraging the Power of Relationship Tables in MadCap Flare

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TEAM's Problem

- ~2500 topics
- 2 audiences (internal and external)
- Multiple integrated software products, each with their own integrated components.
- How can we link all appropriate topics together?

Overview

What are Relationship Tables?

Differences between Relationship Tables and other linking solutions inside Flare

Working with Relationship Tables in Flare

Styling Relationship Tables



Relationship Tables

- DITA
- A way to group and organize related information
- Dynamic and powerful
- Learning curve

Linking

Normal (Default) – A two way link

Source Only – Link to other topics, but no link back.

Target Only – Link from other topics, but no link to.

Collection Types

Unordered (Default) – Links display based on position in row.

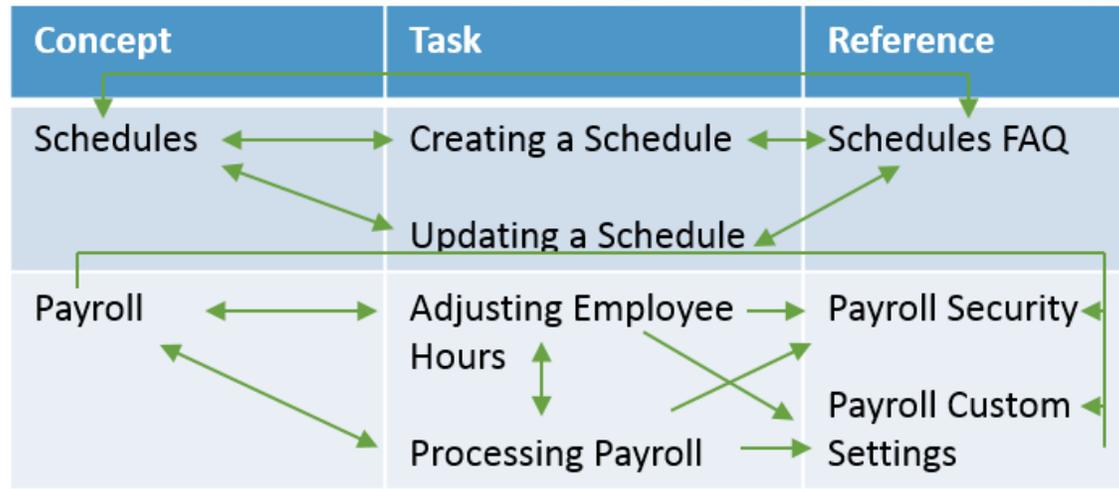
Family – Links to topics in same cell.

Normal
Unordered

Concept	Task	Reference
Schedules	Creating a Schedule	Schedules FAQ
	Updating a Schedule	
Payroll	Adjusting Employee Hours	Payroll Security
	Processing Payroll	Payroll Custom Settings

The diagram illustrates relationships between concepts, tasks, and references. Green arrows show bidirectional links between 'Schedules' and 'Creating a Schedule', 'Schedules' and 'Updating a Schedule', 'Creating a Schedule' and 'Schedules FAQ', 'Updating a Schedule' and 'Schedules FAQ', 'Payroll' and 'Adjusting Employee Hours', 'Adjusting Employee Hours' and 'Payroll Security', 'Processing Payroll' and 'Payroll Custom Settings', and 'Payroll' and 'Payroll Security'. A grey arrow labeled 'Family' points to 'Adjusting Employee Hours' from 'Processing Payroll' within the same cell. A grey arrow labeled 'Target Only' points to 'Payroll Security' from 'Payroll'.

Target Only



Payroll Menu

Related Tasks

[Adjusting Hours after Pay Check has been issued](#)

[Processing Payroll](#)

Reference Materials

[Payroll Security](#)

[Payroll Custom Settings](#)

Processing Payroll

Related Concepts

[Payroll Menu](#)

Related Tasks

[Adjusting Hours after Pay Check has been issued](#)

Reference Materials

[Payroll Security](#)

[Payroll Custom Settings](#)

Adjusting Employee Hours

Related Concepts

[Payroll Menu](#)

Related Tasks

[Processing Payroll](#)

Reference Materials

[Payroll Security](#)

[Payroll Custom Settings](#)

Relationship Table Vs. Other Linking Methods

XREF



Dynamic, but inserted only at the topic level. Great for in-text links.

Concept Links



Allows you to “tie” topics together, as well as create search filters based on concepts. Great for chunking many topics together.

Related Links



Similar to a Concept Link, but inserted at the topic level. Is better for one time use, such as on a landing page.

Menus



Flare’s help uses a menu proxy as sidebar navigation. Is controlled at the TOC (or Browse Sequence) level. Great for content models that are fairly linear.

Relationship Table

Scheduling

ing Report to determine Jobs that have allow you to fill the position prior to the may run this report for both the Master and

[Report](#) to identify Jobs where overtime is s report is run prior to the scheduled work reduced or eliminated by assigning different t cannot be found, you may want to make a nd you may also want to make a note in the eduling (click the Dispatch Notes button on

[Report](#) if your company has specific which need to be met before an officer can in the Post Qualification Report for t will identify anyone currently scheduled for at has NOT met the requirements of the

es to your schedules daily.

Related Concepts

[PS: Schedules](#)

Related Reports

[Job Post Report](#)

[PS Report: Scheduling Activity](#)

[Open Position Report](#)

[Overtime Warning Report](#)

[Post Qualification Report](#)

Reference Materials

[Removing Inactive Employees from Personnel Schedules](#)

Menu

cs, you can create pts that you have

that you have added

ate a search filter. The

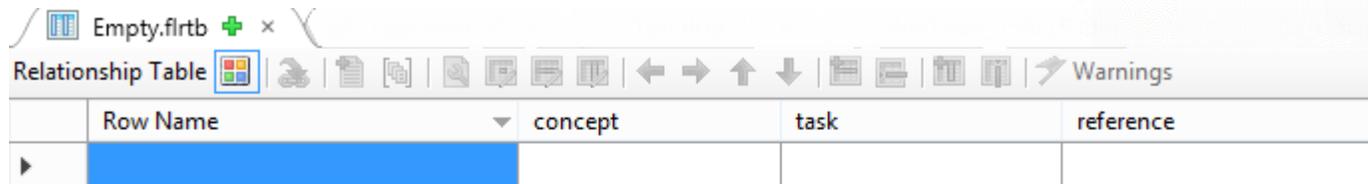
- Search Filter Sets
 - Adding
 - Associating with a Target
 - Concepts—Inserting
- Creating**
 - Importing
 - Opening
 - Ordering
- Search Filter Set Example

Outline for Creating Relationship Tables

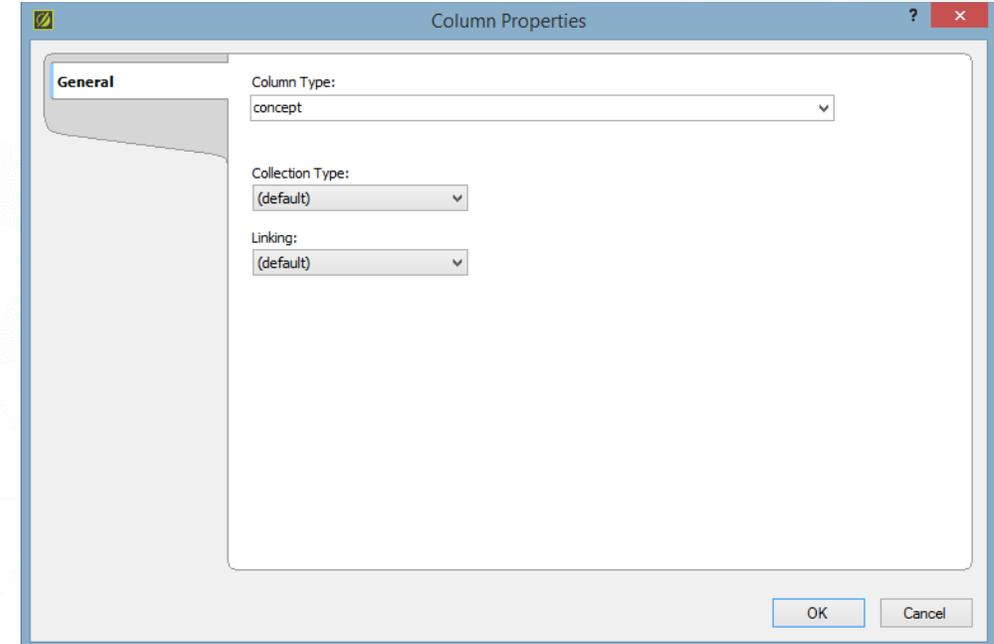
1. Add Table(s)
2. Insert topics and relationships
3. Insert Proxy
4. Edit Styles
5. Associate with Target

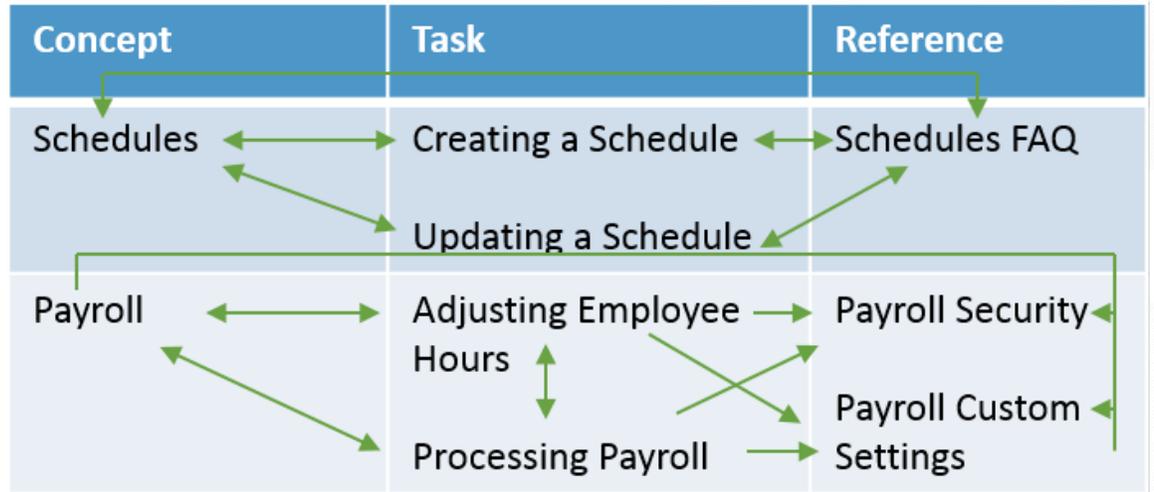
Adding Tables

- Project Organizer > Advanced



- Can add additional rows/columns
- Row/Column Name = Row/Column Type



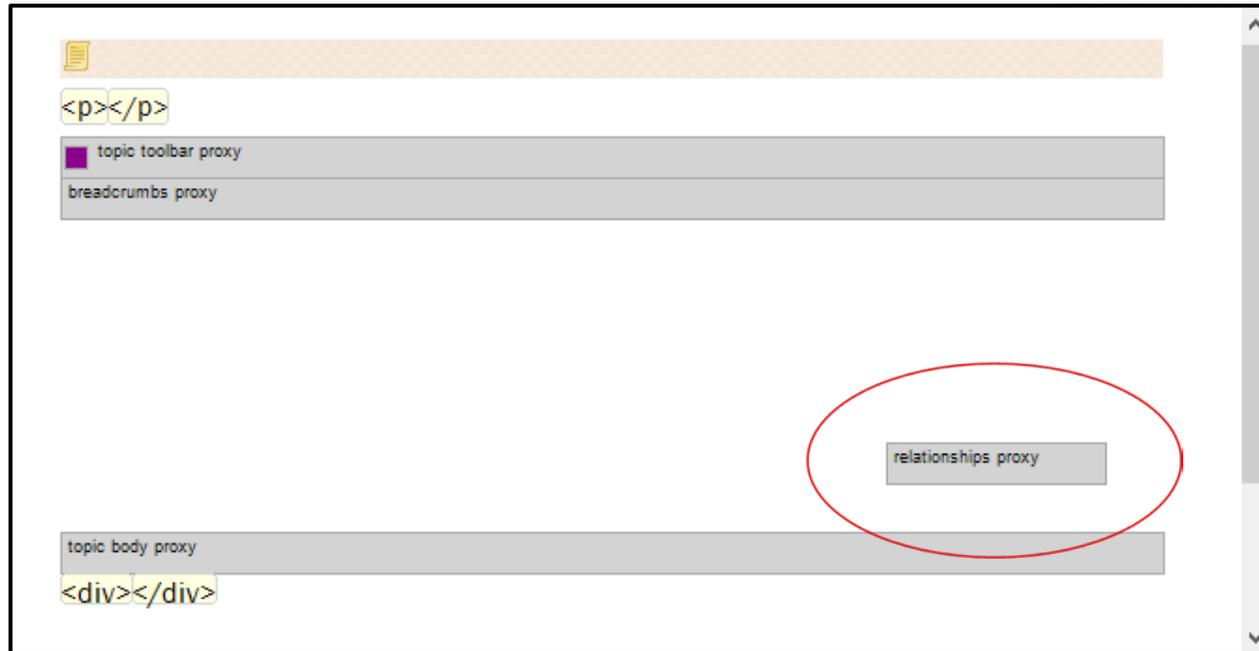


Row Name	concept	task	reference
Schedules	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PS2/C...	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PS2/Tas... <input type="checkbox"/> WT_PS2/Tas...	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PS2/Referen...
Payroll	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PAY/P...	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PAY/PA... <input type="checkbox"/> WT_PAY/PA...	<input type="checkbox"/> WT_PAY/PAY_C... <input type="checkbox"/> WT_PAY/PAY_C...

↑ Family ↑ Target Only

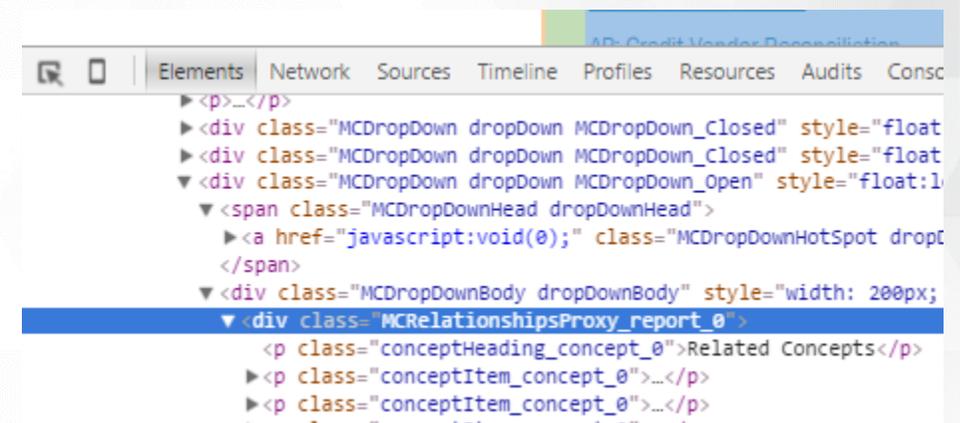
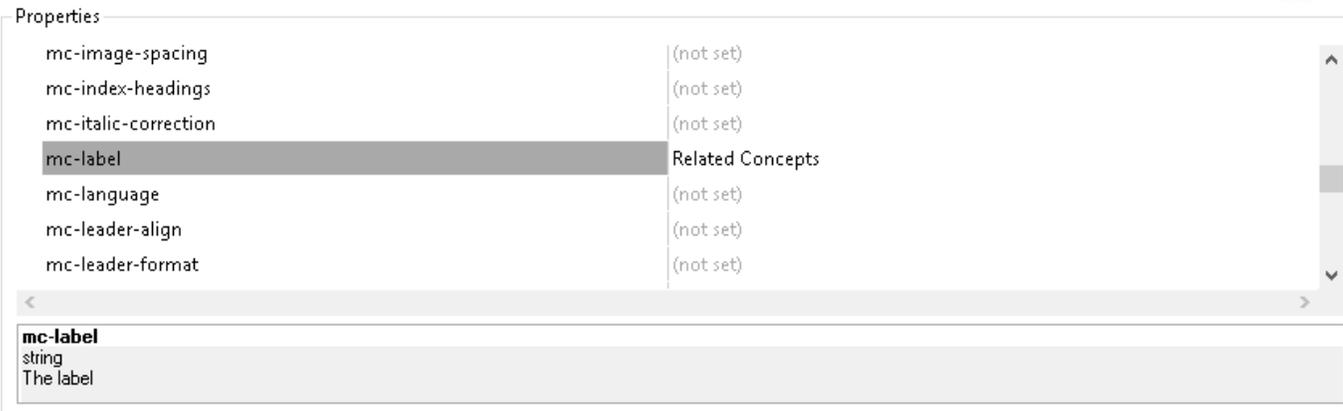
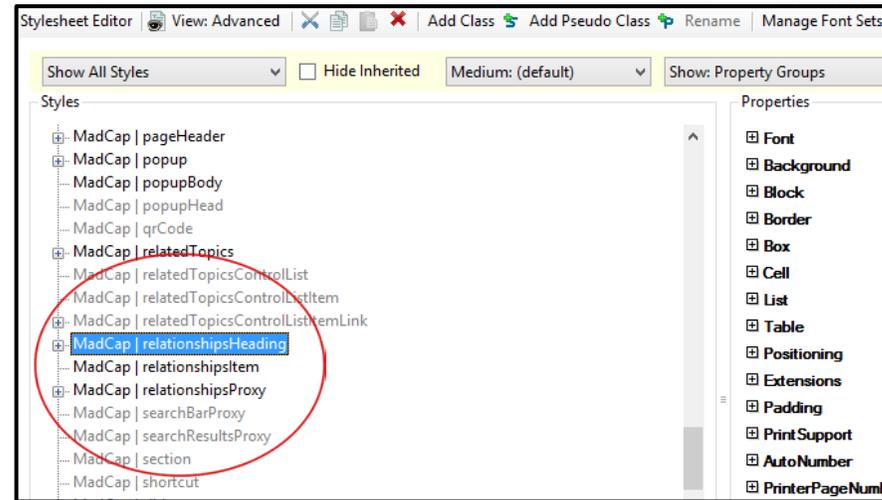
Relationship Table Proxies

- Insert > Proxy > Relationship Proxy
- Insert in individual topics or master pages
- Can insert multiple proxies



Styling Relationship Tables

- You can set some styles using the Stylesheet Editor, but more advanced styling can be achieved using the text editor.
- Get comfortable using browser developer tools.
- Complex selectors and attribute selectors are your friends!



Complex and Attribute Selectors

Attribute Selector

Complex Selector

Attribute Selector

```
div[class^="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"] p[class^="reportHeading_report"]  
{  
  display: block;  
}
```

Some Examples

Problem: Can't change the label on the headings!

Solution: Use the Stylesheet editor to edit the mc-label class for the specific heading sub-class.

```
mc-image-spacing
mc-index-headings
mc-italic-correction
mc-label
mc-language
mc-leader-align
```

```
(not set)
(not set)
(not set)
Related Concepts
(not set)
(not set)
```

Problem: Can't edit the style of the links in the table!

Solution: Use complex and attribute selectors to change only the links in the table.

```
div[class^="MCRelationshipsProxy"] a
{
color: red;
}
```

Dropdowns

No Dropdowns

Related Concepts

[Payroll Menu](#)

Related Tasks

[Adjusting Hours after Pay Check has been issued](#)

Reference Materials

[Payroll Security](#)

[Payroll Custom Settings](#)

Dropdowns

▼ Concepts ▶ Tasks ▼ Reports ▶ References

Related Concepts	Related Reports
Canada Holiday Pay	ARP Formats
Payroll Custom Settings	ARP Formats
Tax Filing Interface Custom Settings	401K Report 5x
Pay Defaults	PAY: 941 Report

Each individual dropdown is actually a relationship proxy, with only the relevant links displayed.

Creating Dropdowns

- Create a MadCap|relationshipsProxy stylesheet class for each heading you need
- Enter a dropdown into the Master Page for each class you created
- Enter a Relationships proxy into each of those dropdowns, selecting the applicable stylesheet class
- Use a combination of attribute and complex selectors to set all paragraph elements to display:none for each class

```
div[class^="MCRelationshipProxy_report"] p
{
  display: none;
}
```

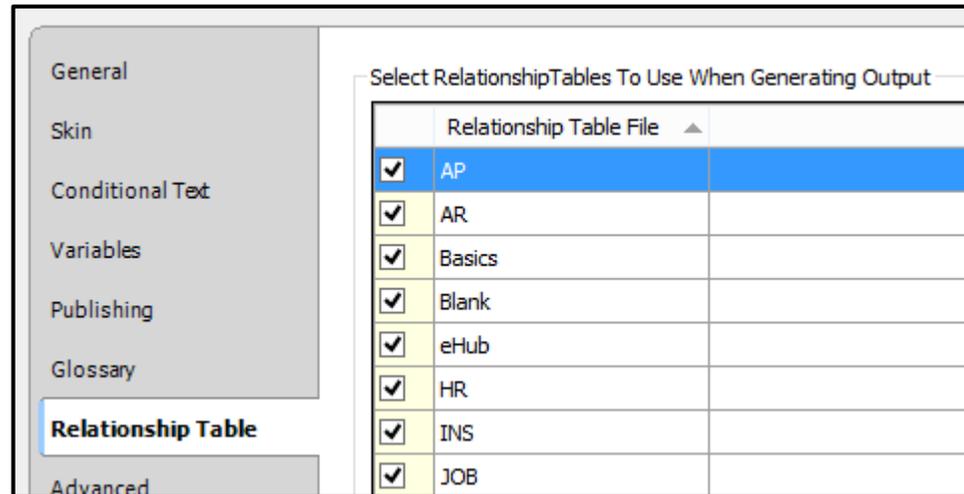
- Use a combination of attribute and complex selectors to set the Rel Table heading and item to display:block

```
div[class^="MCRelationshipProxy_report"] p[class^="reportItem_report"]
{
  display:block;
}
```

```
div[class^="MCRelationshipsProxy_report"] p[class^="reportHeading_report"]
{
  display: block;
}
```

Associating with a Target

- Open Target
- Relationship Tables tab



Some Tips

- Have a clear, defined content model
- Don't trust preview, run local builds
- Read up on CSS positioning
- Take the time to understand how Flare builds out links in a relationship table

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Questions?

