

HACKING MADCAP FLARE



Warning – proceed at your own risk

These hacks work for me, and they should work for you. However, there are no **guarantees**. If you try to use any of these hacks and they cause problems, I'm not responsible in any way. I *will* try to help, though. Email me at scott@clickstart.net.



Creating a browse sequence based on a TOC

Potential for trouble

Very low

Why it's cool

Who wants to waste time creating a browse sequence by hand? This hack makes it easy to create and maintain a browse sequence that exactly matches your TOC.

How to hack it

- 1 Create a copy of your TOC file.
TOC files have a .fltoc extension, and they are usually in the \Project\TOCs folder.
- 2 Move the copy of your TOC file to the Project\Advanced folder.
- 3 Change the file's extension from .fltoc to .flbrs.
The Rename dialog box appears.
- 4 Click Yes.

Changing WebHelp's TOC highlight color

Potential for trouble

Low, but you do have to do it every time you create WebHelp.

Why it's cool

MadCap forgot to include the TOC highlight color in the WebHelp skin editor. With this hack, your TOC doesn't have to use a boring grey highlight. Want to use bright yellow? Neon green? Go for it!

How to hack it

- 1 Determine your highlight color's hex value (for example, bright yellow is #ffff00—those are zeros).
- 2 Generate your WebHelp.
- 3 In your Output folder, open this file in Notepad:
`\targetname\Content\SkinSupport\MadCapToc.js`.
- 4 Search for this line: `gCurrSelection.style.backgroundColor = "#dddddd";`
- 5 Change #dddddd to your color's hex value.

Changing WebHelp's TOC background

Potential for trouble

Low, but you do have to do it every time you create WebHelp.

Why it's cool

Now you can customize the TOC to include your company's logo, a "DRAFT" watermark, a cool gradient image—whatever you want!

How to hack it

- 1 Generate your WebHelp.
- 2 In your Output folder, open this folder: `\targetname\Skin`.
- 3 Copy your image to the folder.
- 4 Open Toc.htm.
- 5 Find the Body style block at the top.
- 6 Add this line, where "pix.gif" is your image's filename.
`background-image: url (pix.gif) ;`

Changing WebHelp's accordion item order

Potential for trouble

Low, but you do have to do it every time you create WebHelp.

Why it's cool

We know everyone prefers search over TOC and index, why not put it first in the list?

How to hack it

- 1 Generate your WebHelp.
- 2 In your Output folder, open this file in Notepad: `\targetname\Data\SkinDefault\Skin.xml`
- 3 Change the following line to the order you want to use:
`Tabs="TOC,BrowseSequences,Index,Search,Favorites"`

