



Flare Tips and Tricks

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Tips and tricks

- Importing content
 - Lists
 - Styles
 - Variables and snippets
 - Condition tags
 - Printed documentation
 - WebHelp
 - Hacks...
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Importing content

- HTML files
- FrameMaker documents
- Word documents

Importing HTML files

Flare does not include an 'Import HTML File' command.

To import an HTML file:

- Copy it to your Content folder.
It will be converted to XHTML when you open it in Flare.

 You can also add folders to your Content folder.

Importing Word and Frame documents

- Easy sync importing
 - Creating new topics
 - Style mapping
-

Working with lists

- Removing list indentation
 - Continuing numbered lists
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Removing list indentation

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
- 2 For bulleted lists, select **ul** (unordered list)
For numbered lists, select **ol** (ordered list)
- 3 Set **padding-left** to 1em
- 4 Set **margin-left** to 0px

Continuing numbered lists

- 1 Position your cursor inside the second group of numbered steps.
- 2 Click **List Actions** in the Formatting toolbar.
- 3 Select **Continue Sequence**.

Styles

- Creating a style
- Using table styles

Creating a style

 This is a note.

To create this 'note' style:

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
- 2 Select the **p** tag.
- 3 Click **Add Class**.
- 4 Type **note** and click **OK**.
The note style appears under the p tag.
- 5 Change **list-style-image** to note.gif.
- 6 Change **color** (if needed).

Table styles

Field	Description	
Name	Your name	Header
Password	Your password	Pattern 1
Secret question	Your password reset question.	Pattern 2
		Pattern 1

Tips and definitions

- Set the text options.
- **Separators** appear after each row/column.
Rulers appear after repeating rows/columns.
- **Padding** is space between a cell's content and border.
Border Spacing is space between cells.

Variables and snippets

- Using a variable for a TOC book or page label
- Using a variable as a link's target
- Overriding variables in a target
- Reusing variables and snippets in projects

Using a variable in a TOC label or link target

In a TOC:

- For the book or page label, type:
`mcvariable:variablesetname.variablename`

In a link:

- 1 Open the Insert hyperlink dialog box.
- 2 Select topic in project, external topic, website, or email
- 3 For the link location, type:
`mcvariable:variablesetname.variablename`

 This trick also works in browse sequences.

Reusing variables and snippets in projects

Variables

- Variable set with 'flvar' extension
- Copy to Project\VariableSets

Snippets

- 'flsnp' extension
- Copy to Resources\Snippets

Overriding variables in a target

- 1 Open the target.
- 2 Select the **Variables** tab.
- 3 Click the variable's definition.
- 4 Type a new definition.

Condition tags

- What's included by default
- Tagging in the TOC vs Content Explorer
- When to include tags

Printed documentation

- Using print-specific styles
- Creating an auto-numbering style
- Adding chapter and section breaks
- Setting margins
- Setting a page numbering format
- Removing heading levels from the TOC

Using print-specific styles

- Used when the user prints a topic
- Can also be used when you create printed documentation.

To change styles for printing:

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
- 2 In **Media**, select **print**.

To use the print medium for printed docs:

- 1 Open your printed documentation target.
- 2 Select the **Advanced** tab.
- 3 Select print for the **Stylesheet Medium**.

Using print-specific styles

Suggested changes

Style Tag	Suggested change
h1	page-break-before: always;
a a:link	color: black;
body	background-color: white; background-image: none; font-family: <i>a serif font</i> font-size: <i>use points</i>
dropDownBody	display: block;

Creating an auto-numbering style

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
- 2 Select a base style and click **Add Class**.
- 3 Type a name for the auto-numbering style.
- 4 Click **OK**.
- 5 In the Show group, select **Property Group**.
- 6 Select the **AutoNumber** property.
- 7 Type or select an auto-numbering format.
- 8 Click **OK**.
- 9 Click **Save**.

Adding chapter breaks

Chapter breaks create new Word/FrameMaker documents.

To add a chapter break:

- 1 Open your TOC.
- 2 Right-click a TOC book or page and select **Properties**.
The Properties dialog box appears.
- 3 Select the **Printed Output** tab.
- 4 Select **Start a new chapter document**.
- 5 Click **OK**.

 Don't forget to enable chapter breaks in your target (**Printed Output** tab>**Multi-Doc Output** option).

Adding section breaks

Section breaks allow you to have section pages and different headers/footers in a document.

To add a section break:

- 1 Open your TOC.
- 2 Right-click a TOC book or page and select **Properties**.
The Properties dialog box appears.
- 3 Select the **Printed Output** tab.
- 4 Select **Start a new section**.
- 5 Click **OK**.

Setting margins and a page number format

- 1 Open or create a master page for printed documentation.
 - 2 Right-click the **bodyProxy**.
 - 3 Click **Printer Page Properties**.
-

Removing heading levels from the TOC

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
 - 2 Select the print medium.
 - 3 Select the heading level.
 - 4 Open the **PrintSupport** group.
 - 5 Set the **mc-heading-level** to 0.
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WebHelp

- Changing the MadCap logo in the toolbar
- Changing the 'About' picture
- Excluding topics from the search
- Adding Google Analytics

Changing the MadCap logo

- 1 Open your skin.
- 2 Select the **Styles** tab.
- 3 Open the **ToolbarItem** style group.
- 4 Select **Logo**.
- 5 Change the **Icon** setting.

Changing the 'About' picture

- 1 Open your skin.
- 2 Select the **WebHelp Setup** tab.
- 3 In the **About Box** group, click **Browse**.
- 4 Select an image and click **OK**.

Excluding topics in the search

- 1 Right-click a topic in the Content Explorer or File List and select **Properties**.
- 2 Select the **Topic Properties** tab.
- 3 Clear the **Include topic when full-text search database is generated** checkbox.
- 4 Click **OK**.

Adding Google Analytics

- 1 Sign up for a Google Analytics account at www.google.com/analytics.
- 2 Open or create a master page.
- 3 Select **Insert>Script**.
- 4 Add the following script:

```
<script src=http://www.google-analytics.com/urchin.js
type=text/javascript">
</script>
<script type="text/javascript">
_uacct = "UA-XXXXXX-X";
urchinTracker();
</script>
```

where xxxxxx-x is your Google Analytics tracking number

Tricks and hacks

- ❑ Opening topics in the text editor
- ❑ Opening topics in other editors

Hacks

- ❑ Creating a browse sequence based on a TOC
- ❑ Changing WebHelp's TOC highlight color
- ❑ Changing WebHelp's TOC background
- ❑ Changing WebHelp's accordion item order

 Hacks will be described in detail in a session handout.

Opening a topic in the text editor

- 1 Right-click a topic in the Content Explorer
- 2 Select **Open With>Internal Text Editor**.
The topic opens as a new tab in the Text Editor.

Opening a topic in another editor

- 1 Right-click a topic in the Content Explorer
- 2 Select **Open With>your HTML editor**.
The topic opens in the HTML editor you selected.

Resources

Forums

forums.madcapsoftware.com

Knowledge base

kb.madcapsoftware.com

Getting Started guide

www.madcapsoftware.com/assets/FlarePrintedManual.pdf

WebHelp skins

forums.madcapsoftware.com/viewtopic.php?t=2697

WebHelp examples

forums.madcapsoftware.com/viewtopic.php?t=1015

Questions?

Send me an e-mail, and I'll be glad to help.



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ClickStart

About ClickStart

ClickStart provides certified training and consulting for:

- MadCap Flare
- Adobe RoboHelp
- Adobe Captivate

We offer public, online, and private (onsite) classes, and group discounts are available. See www.clickstart.net for more information.

If you need help:

- Learning Flare, RoboHelp, or Captivate
- Migrating to Flare from RoboHelp or another product
- Designing stylesheets for online help
- Creating use cases and wireframes/prototypes
- Developing Web-based training
- Adding embedding user assistance or context-sensitive help to an application

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