W2U
Write2Users

Multi-platform Output from MadCap Flare
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MadCap Flare's greatest strength is its ability to efficiently create numerous (17!) output types and even multiple outputs of the same format, such as multiple PDFs. In this presentation, I will discuss best practices for creating multi-platform output with Flare.

Overview

- Setting up a Flare project for multi-platform output
- Organizing content
- Formatting content differently for different targets
- Single sourcing and selecting content for each target
- Building and publishing multiple targets

Setting up a Flare project for multi-platform output

- Develop a file naming convention: prefixes, capitals, spaces
- Use a project template (or create your own)
- Store shared content in a global project
- Expect changes

Organizing content

- Create an outline
- If possible, organize the Content Explorer based on your outline
- Group content by status, modules, and/or user groups
- Create and apply file tags
- Don't forget the File List and Quick Launch bar

Formatting content differently for different targets

- Design the online targets first
- Use the "print" medium to specify differences in print
- Consider whether "print" means PDFs viewed online or printed
- Use the tablet and mobile mediums if needed
- If needed, create new skins, master pages, and page layouts by duplicated existing files

Single sourcing and selecting content for each target

- Plan condition tags using a matrix
- Keep it simple
- Apply condition tags in the Content Explorer

Building and publishing multiple targets

- Create new targets by duplicating existing targets
- Create publishing destinations
- Use and schedule a batch target

About the presenter

Scott DeLoach is the Founder of Click**Start**, where he provides training and consulting for MadCap Flare, embedded user assistance, JavaScript/jQuery, CSS, and HTML5. He has been developing browser-based help systems for 20+ years, and he has received four Best in Show awards for his work from STC.

Scott is a certified Flare and Doc-to-Help instructor, and he is the author of *MadCap Flare 2017: The Book*, *CSS to the Point*, *HTML5 to the Point*, and *Word 2013 to the Point*. For more information about Scott's books see www.lulu.com/clickstart.

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