

Advanced Skinless HTML5 Design with MadCap Flare

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In this presentation, I will demonstrate how to design and develop “skinless” HTML5 targets. We will examine skinless HTML5 designs, discuss best practices for skins and skinless designs, and explore advanced design options when using skinless HTML5 TopNav targets.

Options

- Clean XHTML
- Skinless HTML5
- Hidden HTML5 TopNav

Clean XHTML

Normally used to embed content into an application or site such as Salesforce, a wiki, or an LMS.

Benefits

Can be integrated with a CMS/LMS.
Can be embedded into a website or web-based application.

Limitations

Very extreme approach. Doesn't use the Foundation framework or include any of the following Flare features:

- Breadcrumbs
- Drop-down, expanding, and toggler links
- Menu (header menu and in-topic menu proxy)
- Search
- Skin
- Toolbar

Skinless HTML5

Often used to completely customize the layout, such as embedding the content into a website.

Benefits

- Can be embedded into a website or web-based application.
- Links to the Foundation framework.
- Supports all of Flare's features.

Limitations

- Extreme approach—completely “do it yourself.”
- Doesn't provide any responsive features.

Skinless or “Hidden” HTML5 TopNav

Uses a TopNav skin, but the header/banner and its content (logo, menu, and search) are either hidden or extensively modified using JS and CSS.

Benefits

- Uses Foundation, including the responsive features (unless they’re also hidden/disabled).
- Supports all of Flare’s features.
- Can format the skin elements using the topics’ stylesheet.

Limitations

- Still includes the header, even if it’s empty or not used.
- Must use MadCap’s built-in style classes/IDs, which could change.
- Requires at least an intermediate knowledge of CSS.

Element formatting

TopNav logo (not included in skinless targets)

div.logo-wrapper
a.logo

TopNav menu (not included in skinless targets)

div.navigation-wrapper
ul.navigation
li.has-children
ul.sub-menu
li.tree-node-leaf

a.selected

Menu proxy (in-topic)

ul.menu.mc-component
li.has-children
ul.sub-menu
li.tree-node-leaf

a.selected

Search proxy

div.nav-search-wrapper
div.nav-search-row
form.search
div.search-bar
input.search-field
div.search-filter-wrapper
div.search-submit-wrapper

Toolbar proxy

div.buttons.mc-component
 div.button-group-container-left
 button.button.*name-of-button* (e.g. previous-topic-button)

Examples

Bomgar

www.bomgar.com/docs

CloudShell

help.quali.com

OverDrive

help.overdrive.com/customer/en/portal/articles

Power Reviews

help.powerreviews.com

Sage

desktophelp.sage.co.uk/sage200/sage200standard

SMART

support.smarttech.com/en/software/smart-notebook/smart-notebook-17

Solace

docs.solace.com

Vodafone

onenet.vodafone.com/latest/de/en/content/topics/manager/all/manager-getting-started

Flare Showcase

www.madcapsoftware.com/customers/customer-showcase

Sample project

I have created a sample project to demonstrate sample skinless designs. You can download it at:
goo.gl/gTGgvt

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 2018: The Definitive Guide*, *CSS to the Point*, and *HTML5 to the Point*. For more information about Scott's books see www.lulu.com/clickstart.

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