

Best Practices for Adapting MadCap Flare's Design Templates

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MadCap Flare's design templates provide great starting points for setting up and designing HTML5 targets. In this session, Scott will share best practices for selecting, applying, and modifying a design template to a real-world project. During the session, he will demonstrate starting a new project using a template and applying a template to an existing project. In addition, he will share best practices and tips/tricks for adapting templates, including changing colors, images, font families, sizes, and colors, and other common modifications.

Overview

Why use a template?

Design

- professionally designed
- easier to modify than create
- easier to swap templates

Organization

- setup based on best practices

Content

- Employee Handbook Policies & Procedures
- Medical Office P&Ps

Where are the templates?

- <https://www.madcapsoftware.com/downloads/madcap-flare-project-templates>
- Built-in
- DIY ("do it yourself")

What's in a template?

- sample topics
- "home" topic
- "landing" topic
- images
- stylesheet(s)
- master page(s)
- page layout(s)
- condition tag set
- sample glossary
- skins
- sample targets
- sample TOC
- variable set

Applying a template to a new project

Find and select a template

See what's built-in

- Open Flare
- Open the New Project wizard (**File > New Project > New Project**)

See what's new

- <https://www.madcapsoftware.com/downloads/madcap-flare-project-templates>
- Download flprjzip
- Double-click, unzip, open

Applying a template to an existing project

- Find and select a template
- Decide what you want
- Decide what you don't want
- Filename matching

What do I need to keep?

Topics

- one topic (at least)
- sample "home" topic
- sample "landing" topic

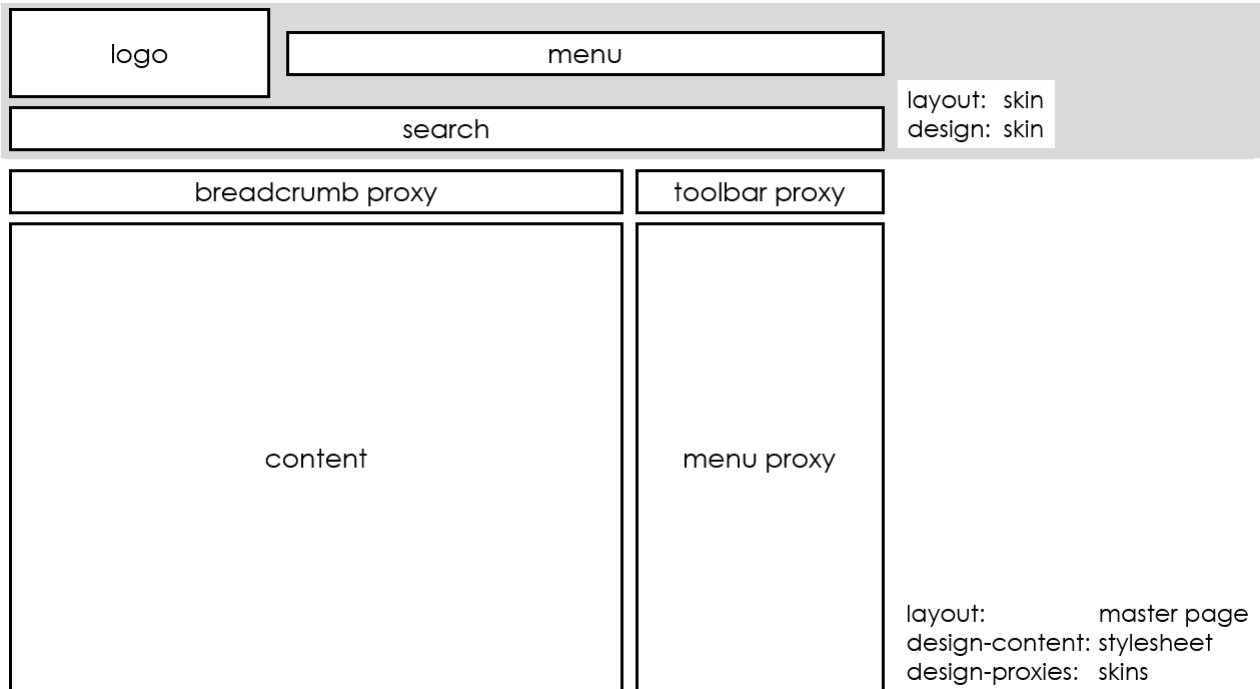
Design files

- images
- stylesheets
- master page(s)
- page layout(s)
- skins

Tip: Unused files report

Modifying a template

Design files 101



Top-down approach

- skin
- master page
- proxies and their skins
- stylesheet

Workflow

- Modify template
- Use/Apply template
- Add missing styles/design elements
- Adjust design

How to change home page

- Home.htm
- StylesForHomePage.css
- HomePage.flmsp
- Images

How to change landing page

- sample landing topic

How to change topics

- sample topic

Tip: “Style samples” topic

How to change colors

- Skin(s)
- Stylesheet(s)

Tip: Find-replace

How to change images

- Skin
- Masterpage
- Topics

Tips:

- **View > Link Viewer**
- Assets (often used in skin)

How to change font (family, sizes, colors)

- Stylesheet
- Skin (family should be set to default)

Tip: CSS variables

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 25+ 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: 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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