

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.



Opening/Closing all DHTML links: drop-down, expanding, toggler, and glossary

Potential for trouble

None

Why it's cool

Why not include a "Show all" link that opens everything on the page, and automatically changes to "Hide all" when clicked?

How to hack it

- 1 Create a .js javascript file.
- 2 Open the js file and add the following code:

```
function showHideAll() {
var showHideLink = document.getElementById("showHide");
var allSpans = document.getElementsByTagName("span");
var allDivs = document.getElementsByTagName("div");
var allPs = document.getElementsByTagName("p");
var links = document.links;
if (showHideLink.innerText == "Show All")
{
showHideLink.innerText = "Hide All";
for (i=0; i<allSpans.length; i++) { allSpans[i].style.display = "inline"; }
for (i=0; i<allDivs.length; i++) { allDivs[i].style.display = "block"; }
for (i=0; i<allPs.length; i++) { allPs[i].style.display = "block"; }
}
else {
showHideLink.innerText = "Show All";
for(i=0; i<allSpans.length; i++) { if (allSpans[i].className == "MCEExpandingBody")
allSpans[i].style.display = "none"; }
for(i=0; i<allDivs.length; i++) { if (allDivs[i].className == "MCDropDownBody") allDivs[i].style.display
= "none"; }
for(i=0; i<allPs.length; i++) { if (allPs[i].outerHTML.indexOf('MadCap:targetName=') != -1)
allPs[i].style.display = "none"; }
}}
}
```

- 3 Save the js file in your Flare project's "Content" folder.
- 4 Open a topic in the Internal Text Editor (right-click and select **Open with > Internal Text Editor**).

5 Add the following code to the <head> section:

```
<script src="yourjavascriptfilename.js"></script>
```

6 Add the following code to the <body> section in your topic:

```
<a href="javascript:void(0)" onClick="showHideAll()" id="showHide">Show All</a>
```

7 Save the topic.



Auto-expanding DHTML links: drop-down, expanding, toggler, and glossary

Potential for trouble

None

Why it's cool

Your expanding, drop-down, and toggler links will automatically expand when the user prints a help topic.

How to hack it

- 1 Open your stylesheet (css) file in the Internal Text Editor (right-click and select **Open with > Internal Text Editor**).
- 2 Add the following section:

```
@media print {  
span.MCExpandingBody { display: inline !important; }  
div.MCDropDownBody { display: block !important; }  
p { display: block !important; }  
}
```
- 3 Save your stylesheet.

Alternate approach

If you plan to create printed documentation with Flare, this script will cause drop-downs and togglers to display incorrectly in your printed documentation. Here's another approach that fixes this problem:

- 1 Open a topic or masterpage in the Internal Text Editor (right-click and select **Open with > Internal Text Editor**).
- 2 Add the following code before the `</body>` tag in your topic:

```
<script>  
document.write("<style> @media print {");  
document.write("span.MCExpandingBody { display: inline !important; }");  
document.write("div.MCDropDownBody { display: block !important; }");  
document.write("p { display: block !important; }");  
document.write("}");  
document.write("</style>");  
</script>
```

Changing related topics, keyword, or concept link text in a topic (not globally)

Potential for trouble

None, but Flare does prefer that the script be stored in an external js file rather than inside the topic.

Why it's cool

Flare uses CSS to globally set the link text, but you might need to use different link text in some topics. You could even modify this script to include images and formatted text.

How to hack it

- 1 Create a .js javascript file.
- 2 Open the js file and add the following code:

```
function changeMCLinks() {  
var links = document.links;  
for (i=0; i<links.length; i++) {  
if (links[i].className.indexOf("MCRelatedTopics") != -1) links[i].innerText = "See Also";  
if (links[i].className.indexOf("MCKeywordLink") != -1) links[i].innerText = "See Also";  
if (links[i].className.indexOf("MCConceptLink") != -1) links[i].innerText = "See Also";  
}}
```

- 3 Change "See Also" to your link text.
- 4 Save the js file in your Flare project's "Content" folder.
- 5 Open a topic in the Internal Text Editor (right-click and select **Open with > Internal Text Editor**).
- 6 Add the following code to the <head> section:

```
<script src="yourjavascriptfilename.js"></script>
```

- 7 Add the following code before the </body> tag in your topic:

```
<script>changeMCLinks();</script>
```

- 8 Save the topic.

Formatting help controls as buttons

Potential for trouble

None

Why it's cool

Why use boring text links when you can use cool-looking buttons?

How to hack it

- 1 Open your stylesheet.
- 2 Select the conceptLink, keywordLink, or relatedTopics style.
- 3 Modify the style as described below (or as desired):

```
relatedTopics {  
    mc-image-position: none;  
    padding: 3px;  
    text-decoration: none;  
    color: #000000;  
    border: solid 1px #000000;  
    font-weight: bold;  
    border-bottom-width: 3px;  
    border-right-width: 3px;  
    background-color: #dcdcdc;  
}
```