Generating Quality Print Output from Flare or Blaze

Matthew Ellison
matthew@ellisonconsulting.com

What are MadCap Flare and Blaze?

Flare:
- Authoring tool for creating online Help and printed documentation
- XHTML editor
- XML-based project files
- Strong single-sourcing features (conditions, snippets, targets, medium-based styles)

Blaze:
- Same, but without the online Help targets
Generating Quality Print Output from Flare or Blaze

Possible workflows

Word 2003/7  FrameMaker
RoboHelp
HHP
XHTML
HTML
Flare Master Project
Content Maintenance

FrameMaker
Word 2003/7
Acrobat
CHM
WebHelp
MCHelp

Today’s focus

Flare or Blaze

Copyright © 2009
Matthew Ellison Consulting Ltd
The sample project

- User assistance for Windows Paint

What we’ll cover in this double session

- Session 1
  - Adding TOC, index, and glossary
  - Creating a custom TOC for print
  - Setting up and generating a PDF target
  - Creating and applying conditions
  - Customizing styles for print output

- Session 2
  - Setting up auto-numbering for headings
  - Setting up and inserting cross-references
  - Setting up page layouts
  - Configuring chapter and section breaks
Adding TOC, index, and glossary

- You have to create topics for your TOC, index and glossary
- Why do I have to do this?
  - Because Flare/Blaze does not automatically create print versions of your TOC, index and glossary
  - So that you can control the presentation of these items

To add TOC, index, and glossary

1. Create three new topics
2. Insert the appropriate **Proxy** into each topic:
   - TOC
   - Index
   - Glossary
3. [Use the styles p.TOC1, p.TOC2, etc. to control the formatting of the TOC]
Creating a custom TOC for print

Why would I want to do this?
- More flexibility
- May need different hierarchy and sequence of topics
- May want to exclude specific topics (TOC defines what is included in print)

Master TOC
- Paint Overview
- Common Tasks
- Creating Pictures
  - Drawing a straight line
  - Drawing a curved line
  - Drawing a freeform line
  - Drawing a rectangle or square
  - Drawing an ellipse or circle
- Working with color
- Halo Viewer

Print TOC
- Title Page
- Table of Contents
- Getting Started
  - Pain Overview
  - Setting the default foreground and background
  - Painting with a brush
  - Drawing a straight line
  - Filling an area or object with color
  - Drawing a curved line
  - Creating more advanced pictures

To create a custom TOC for print

1. Create a new TOC by copying and pasting the master TOC

2. Edit the new TOC as required:
   - Delete items not required for print
   - Add required new headings
   - Reorder items

3. [Select this new TOC in print targets]

Hands-on Practice
Setting up and generating a PDF target

- A **Target** is a specific output
- Key settings for PDF target:
  - Basic:
    - Output type (PDF)
    - Master TOC
    - Output File (name)
  - [Conditional Text]
  - Printed Output:
    - Use TOC depth for heading levels
    - Inject headings for unlinked books in TOC

To set up and generate a PDF target

1. Add a new target to the project
2. Set up the required target settings (see previous slide)
3. Generate the target

**Hands-on Practice**
Creating and applying conditions

- Why would I want to do this?
  - Some text within topics may not be appropriate for print output
  - You may wish to exclude some screenshots from print output
  - You may wish to exclude hyperlink text
  - You may wish to add print-specific text within topics

It is useful to be able to apply conditions to:

- Inline text
- Individual paragraphs
- Groups of paragraphs
- Images (can be excluded throughout project)
- Topics (to ensure hyperlinks and cross-references are removed)
- Folders (all topics within folder inherit condition)
### To create and apply conditions

1. Add conditions to the Default condition tag set:
   - ScreenOnly
   - PrintOnly
2. Apply the ScreenOnly condition to the “Common Tasks” topic
3. List the dependencies for the Common Tasks topic
4. Remove the hyperlinks to the “Common Tasks” topic

---

### To create and apply conditions

5. Create a “Print Only” folder and apply the PrintOnly condition to it
6. Move these topics into the “Print Only” folder:
   - Table of Contents, Index, and Glossary
   - Title Page
7. Apply the PrintOnly condition to the “Paint Main Screen” image

---

**Hands-on Practice**
Customizing styles for print output

- Why would I want to do this?
  - You may wish to use different fonts, colors, and layouts for print output
  - You may wish to transform cross-references to include page or section numbers

**Painting with a brush**

Painting with a brush enables you to add solid strokes of color.

To paint with a brush:
1. In the toolbox, click Brush.
2. Below the toolbox, click a brush shape.
3. To paint, **drag** the pointer over the image.

### 1.3.1 Painting with a brush

Painting with a brush enables you to add solid strokes of color.

To paint with a brush:
1. In the toolbox, click Brush.
2. Below the toolbox, click a brush shape.
3. To paint, drag the pointer over the image.

---

Medium-specific styles

**Flare’s Stylesheet Editor**

**Stylesheet viewed in text editor**
## Default font size mappings for print

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flare/Blaze Size</th>
<th>Default Print Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>9.5pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>11pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>12pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110%</td>
<td>13pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10px</td>
<td>7.5pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12px</td>
<td>9pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14px</td>
<td>10.5pt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Some suggested print style settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Suggested Settings and Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>body</td>
<td>color: black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>font-size: 11pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>font-family: <em>a serif font</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These settings are inherited by all other elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h1</td>
<td>page-break-before: always</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h1-h6</td>
<td>font-family: <em>a sans-serif font</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>font-size: pt values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a (links)</td>
<td>color: black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>text-decoration: none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copyright © 2009
Matthew Ellison Consulting Ltd
To customize styles for print output

1. Open styles.css in the Simplified Stylesheet Editor
2. Set the Medium to print
3. Change the body element to Times New Roman, 11pt
4. Change all headings to black
5. If time, indent all list items by 42pt

Remember to set the medium back to default when you have finished

Hands-on Practice

Questions?

Matthew Ellison
matthew@ellisonconsulting.com
What we’ll cover in part 2

- Setting up auto-numbering for headings
- Setting up and inserting cross-references
- Setting up page layouts
- Configuring chapter and section breaks
Setting up auto-numbering for headings

- Why would you want to do this?
  - Auto-numbering is useful for cross-reference purposes in printed documentation

See section 2.3 (Painting with a brush)

Auto-number format

- Flare/Blaze has a special CSS property:
  - `mc-auto-number-format`
- Set the value to a combination of text and special commands
Examples of auto-number formats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Auto-number format</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>h1</td>
<td>{chapnum}</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h2</td>
<td>CH:{chapnum}.{n+}.{ =0}</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h3</td>
<td>CH:{chapnum}.{n}.{n}</td>
<td>1.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. figurecaption</td>
<td>CF:Figure {chapnum}-{n+}:</td>
<td>Figure 1-1:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To set up auto-numbering for headings

1. Open styles.css in the Simplified Stylesheet Editor

2. Set the auto-number formats
   - h1: Chapter {chapnum}:
   - h2: CH:{chapnum}.{n+}

Remember to insert a space at the end of each of these formats

Hands-on Practice
Setting up and inserting cross-references

- What are cross-references?
  - Links that can be presented differently using medium-specific styles

Screen-based Help: See style sheets
Print-based PDF: See style sheets on page 32

- Always use cross-references instead of regular hyperlinks if you want to be able to transform the links for print

Useful cross-reference format commands

- \{paratext\} The title of the target topic
- \{paranum\} The auto-number text of the target topic
- \{pageref\} The “context-sensitive” page reference of the target topic
- \{b\}\{/b\} \{i\}\{/i\} Formatting
Some sample cross-reference formats

- **See “({paratext})” {pageref}**
  - See “Drawing a straight line” on page 4

- **Section {paranum} ({paratext}) {pageref}**
  - Section 1.3.2 (Drawing a straight line) above

- **See {i}{paratext}{/i} ({paranum})**
  - See *Drawing a straight line* (1.3.2)

To set up and insert cross-references

1. Change the MadCap | xref style to the required format for the **default** and **print** media
2. Insert a cross-reference within “Drawing a curved line” to “Drawing a straight line”
3. In the XML Editor, change the Medium to **print**
4. Update Cross-References to see the correct format within the XML Editor
Setting up page layouts

- Why do I need to do this?
  - Page layouts enable you to specify page settings such as paper size and margins
  - You can specify different page settings for left, right, first, and title pages

Anatomy of a page layout
Tips for setting up page layouts

- Set the page size and page margins in **Page Properties**
- Body frames are placeholders for topic content
- You can edit Header and Footer frames (press F2)
- Use variables for page numbers and running headings
- Position and anchor frames so that they are independent of page size

To set up page layouts

1. Add a page layout to the project (import an existing page layout)
2. Change the left margin setting of the normal page
3. Add the page number to the footer
4. Create a new first page by duplicating and editing the normal page
5. Set as **Project Page Layout**
Configuring chapter and section breaks

- Why would I want to do this?
  - Enables you to use chapter and section numbering
  - Chapter breaks enable you to specify different first and title page formats
  - Chapter breaks enable you to select different Page Layouts for specific chapters
  - Chapter breaks enable you to force new chapters to start on an odd page
- Add chapter and section breaks to the print TOC

To add and configure chapter breaks

1. Open the print TOC
2. Edit the Properties of the first chapter break item:
   - Select **Start a new Chapter**
   - Select **Page Type** for first page in chapter
   - Set the required **Page Number** format
3. Edit the properties of all other chapter break items
Final questions?

Matthew Ellison
matthew@ellisonconsulting.com