



MADCAP CONTRIBUTOR 9 r3

What's New

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Introduction

Contributor 9 r3 release notes can be found [here](#).

Following are the new features available in Contributor 9 r3.

For more information about each feature discussed in this manual, open the online Help and refer to the "What's New" topic. Links are provided in some feature descriptions, taking you to topics that contain additional information and steps.



NOTE These are all features that were added to MadCap Flare in the past and have been inherited by this new release of Contributor.



"Alternate Text for Links" on page 5

- New field available for links



"Command Line Activation" on page 7

- Activate (or deactivate) Contributor from the command line
- Helpful for companies using imaged machines and not able to activate Contributor from the user interface
- Available only for customers with enterprise floating licenses



"Definition Lists and List Enhancements" on page 11

- Create definition lists from the interface
- Paragraph tags inside all list items
- Improved list shortcuts
- And more...

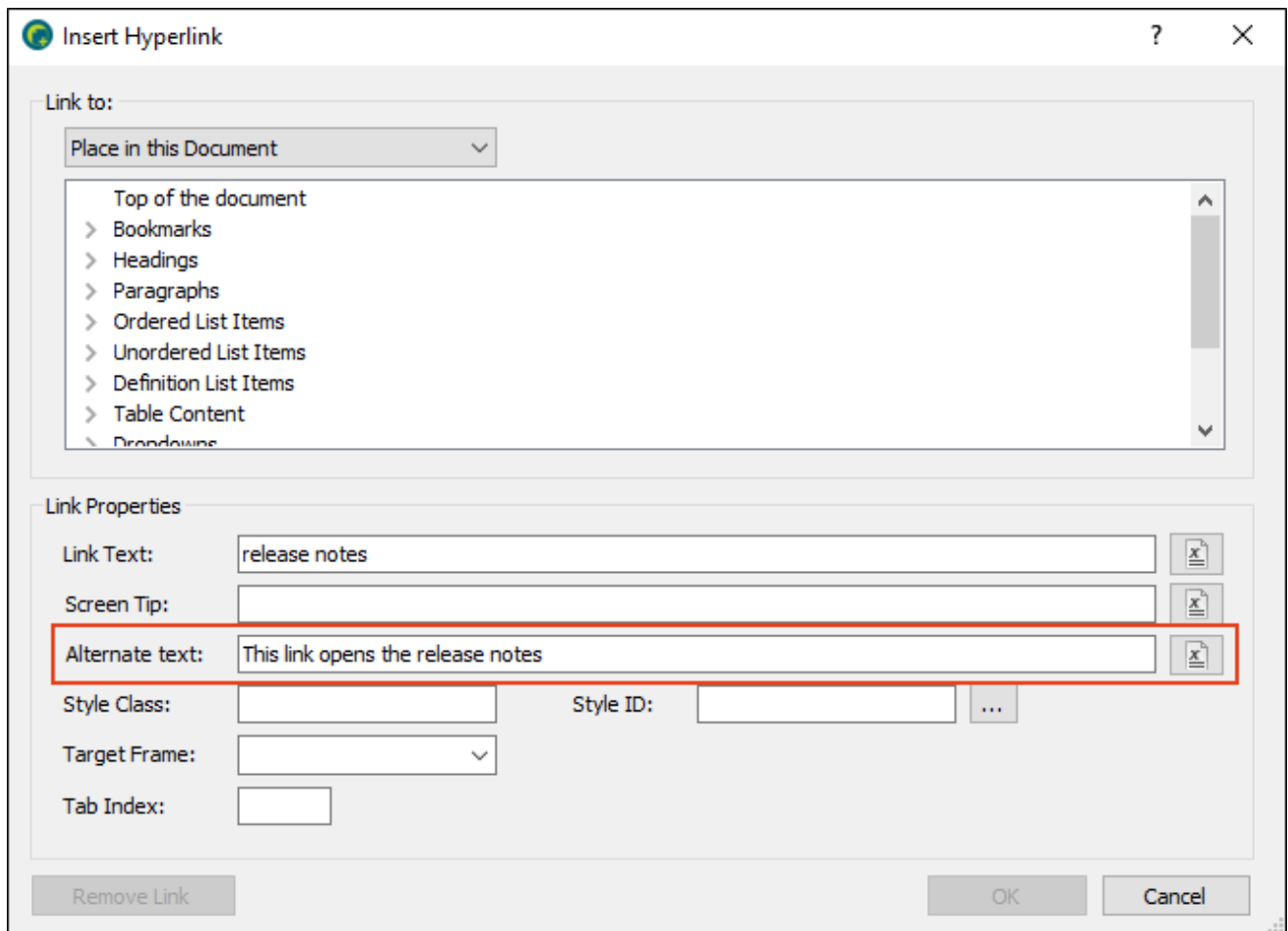


"Start Page Redesign" on page 35

- New banners display expiration dates for different license types
- Links to take action on expiring license
- Options on left allow for more space to work

Alternate Text for Links

An alternate text field is available when creating or editing a variety of links (e.g., hyperlinks, cross-references). Providing text in this field helps to increase accessibility for users who are unable to view an element.




Following are the types of links for which you can apply alternate text:

- Inserting Cross-References
- Inserting Image Hyperlinks
- Inserting Text Hyperlinks

Command Line Activation

Contributor allows you to activate (or deactivate) the application from the command line. This can be helpful for companies using imaged machines and are not able to activate Contributor from the user interface.

 **IMPORTANT** This feature is available only for customers with enterprise floating licenses.

I How to Use Command Line Activation

1. Open a text editor, such as Notepad++, create a new file named "license.json." Save the file at the root level of the Contributor.app folder in Program Files where you installed Contributor.

☆ **EXAMPLE** If you installed Contributor at C:\Program Files **(this is just an example; your files might be installed in a different folder, such as Program Files x86)**, you would save the JSON file like this:

```
C:\Program Files\MadCap Software\MadCap Contributor
9\Contributor.app\license.json
```

2. Within the JSON file, enter the following. Have your IT department help you complete the file's parameters if necessary.

Parameters

- **LicenseKey (Required)** The purchased license key, which must be an enterprise floating key. You should have this key in the email that you received from MadCap Software when you purchased Contributor.
- **EmailAddress (Required)** The email address to use with activation.
- **FirstName (Optional)** The first name of the person activating.
- **LastName (Optional)** The last name of the person activating
- **UseProxy (Optional)** A true or false flag to indicate if you're using proxy settings.
- **Proxy (Optional)** Proxy settings to use, if needed, to access the Internet. All settings are required if the proxy is set.
 - **Address** The proxy address.
 - **Port** The proxy port.
 - **UseAuthentication** A true or false flag to indicate if you are using authentication with proxy.
 - **Username** The user account for proxy.
 - **Password** The user password for proxy.

Format

```
{
  "LicenseKey": "xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-ec712-448b8-9e11b-a18b3-4cedb", //required
  "EmailAddress": "email@me.com", //required
  "FirstName": "MadCap", //optional
  "LastName": "Simon", //optional
  "UseProxy": false, //optional
  "Proxy": {
    "Address": "",
    "Port": 0,
    "UseAuthentication": false,
    "Username": "",
    "Password": ""
  } //optional
}
```


3. After the completed JSON file is saved to the Contributor.app folder, open the command prompt on your computer.
4. Navigate to the location where the JSON file is saved.

☆ **EXAMPLE** Type the following in the command prompt and press **ENTER**:

```
cd\Program Files\MadCap Software\MadCap Contributor
9\Contributor.app
```

5. Type any of the following commands and press **ENTER**:
 - contributor -activate
 - contributor -deactivate

☆ **EXAMPLE** If you want to activate Contributor to work in it:



```
C:\Program Files\MadCap Software\MadCap Contributor 9 \Contributor.app>contributor -activate
```

Definition Lists and List Enhancements

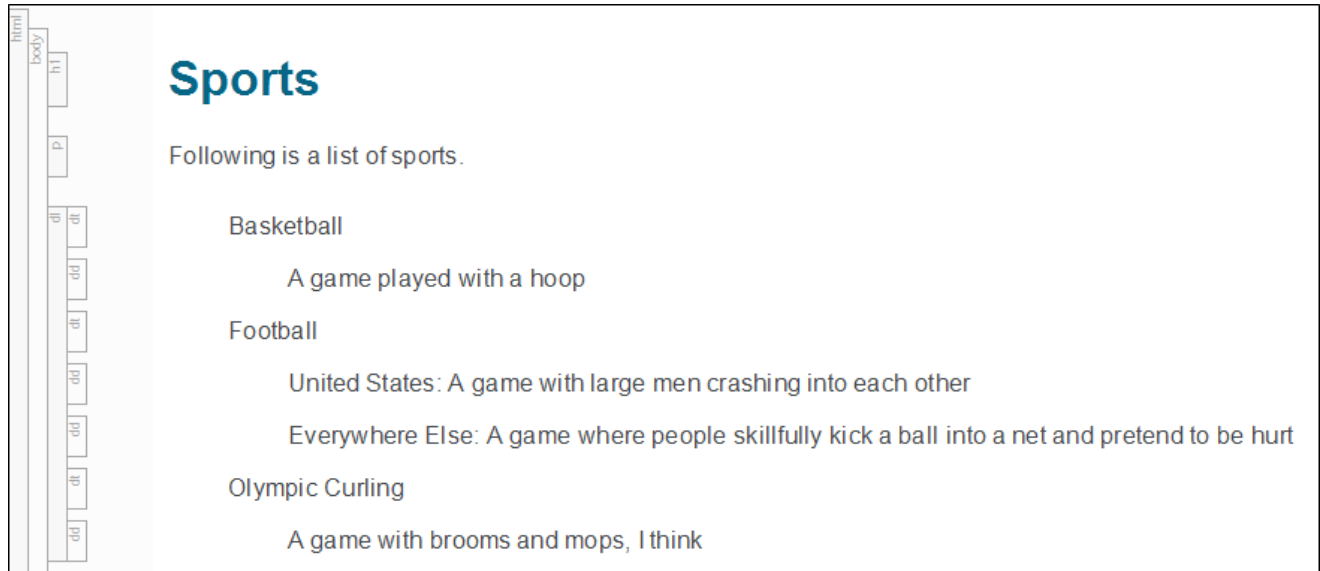
Although Contributor has always supported definition lists, in previous versions you needed to use the Internal Text Editor to create them. Now, Contributor provides user interface options and shortcuts to help you create definition lists much more easily. There have also been many other enhancements to lists in general, making them easier to create and manage.

This chapter discusses the following:

Definition Lists	12
Other List Enhancements	19

I Definition Lists

A definition list is used to create a group of terms and definitions. It is also sometimes referred to as a description list, and although it is called a "list," it does not have bullets or numbers. Instead, it is similar to a table that doesn't have borders (although it can have borders, shading, etc. if you edit the necessary styles).



The screenshot shows a web editor interface with a sidebar on the left containing various HTML tags like 'h1', 'p', 'ul', 'ol', 'li', 'table', 'tr', 'td', 'th', 'thead', 'tbody', 'thead', 'tbody', 'thead', 'tbody', 'thead', 'tbody', 'thead', 'tbody', 'thead', 'tbody'. The main content area displays a definition list titled 'Sports'. The list includes three items: 'Basketball' with the definition 'A game played with a hoop', 'Football' with two definitions: 'United States: A game with large men crashing into each other' and 'Everywhere Else: A game where people skillfully kick a ball into a net and pretend to be hurt', and 'Olympic Curling' with the definition 'A game with brooms and mops, I think'.

Sports

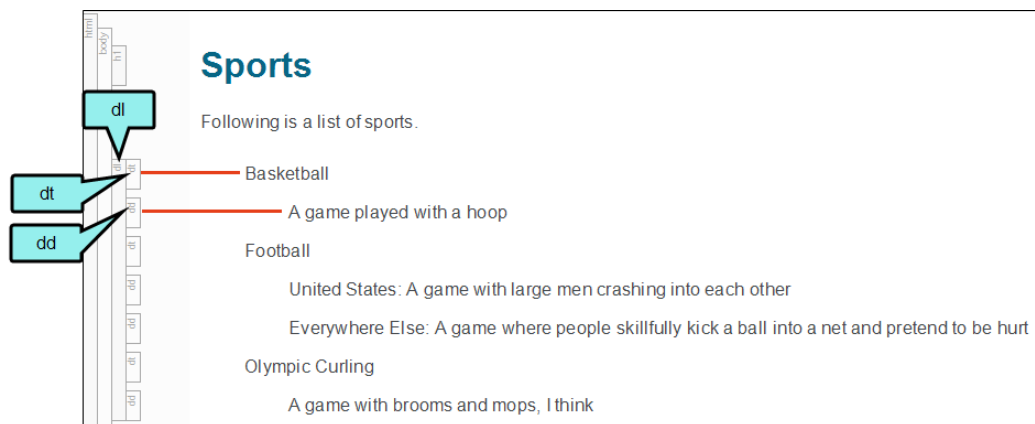
Following is a list of sports.

- Basketball**
A game played with a hoop
- Football**
 - United States: A game with large men crashing into each other
 - Everywhere Else: A game where people skillfully kick a ball into a net and pretend to be hurt
- Olympic Curling**
A game with brooms and mops, I think

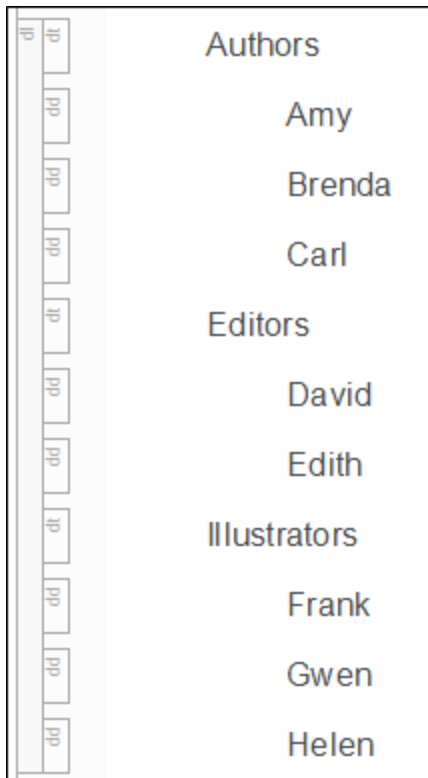
Definition List Tags and Styles

A definition list contains the following tags, which use corresponding styles to control their look.

- **dl** This refers to a *definition list*, which is the container holding the individual terms and definitions.
- **dt** This refers to a *term in a definition list*.
- **dd** This refers to a *definition in a definition list*.



☆ **EXAMPLE** You might create a definition list that initially looks like this:



Then you add these definition list styles to your stylesheet:

```
dl
{
  width: 520px;
  padding: 0;
  border-bottom: solid 1px #000000;
}

dl dt,
dt
{
  clear: left;
  float: left;
  width: 100px;
  margin: 0;
  padding: 5px;
}
```



```
border-top: solid 1px #000000;
font-weight: bold;
}

dl dd,
dd
{
margin: 0;
padding: 5px;
border-top: solid 1px #b9bec1;
margin-left: 100px;
}

dt + dd
{
border-top: solid 1px #000000;
}
```

As a result, the definition list (and others that you create in the project) will look like this instead:

Authors	Amy
	Brenda
	Carl
Editors	David
	Edith
Illustrators	Frank
	Gwen
	Helen

Definition Lists and Context


By using definition list tags—as opposed to different markup, such as headings and regular paragraphs—you are providing context for the content. In other words, not only do end users recognize they are looking at a list of definitions and terms, but this kind of semantic markup allows meta data to be associated with it. Therefore, that information can more easily be extracted automatically.

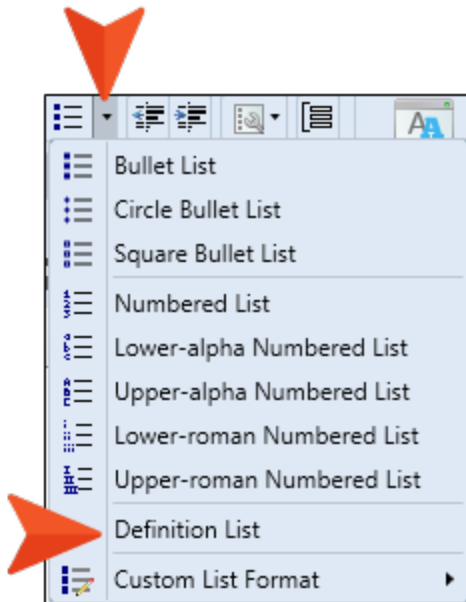
Snippets and Definition Lists

One of the benefits of creating a definition list instead of using a table has to do with snippets. While creating snippets for parts of a table can be quite difficult, if not impossible, producing snippets from parts of a definition list is easy.

Therefore, when you see a definition list in a document, it might be made up of one or more snippets.

How to Create a Definition List

1. Place your cursor in the XML Editor where you want to begin the list.
2. From the **Home** ribbon, click the down arrow in the list button , and select **Definition List**.

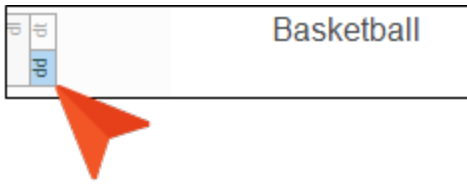


The structure bars to the left indicate that you have a `<dl>` (list) tag and a `<dt>` (term) tag within it.



3. Type the term and press **ENTER**.

Now you see another structure bar representing a `<dd>` (definition) tag.




4. Type the definition and press **ENTER**.

Another `<dd>` tag is created, in case you want to add another definition line for the term.



5. Do one of the following:

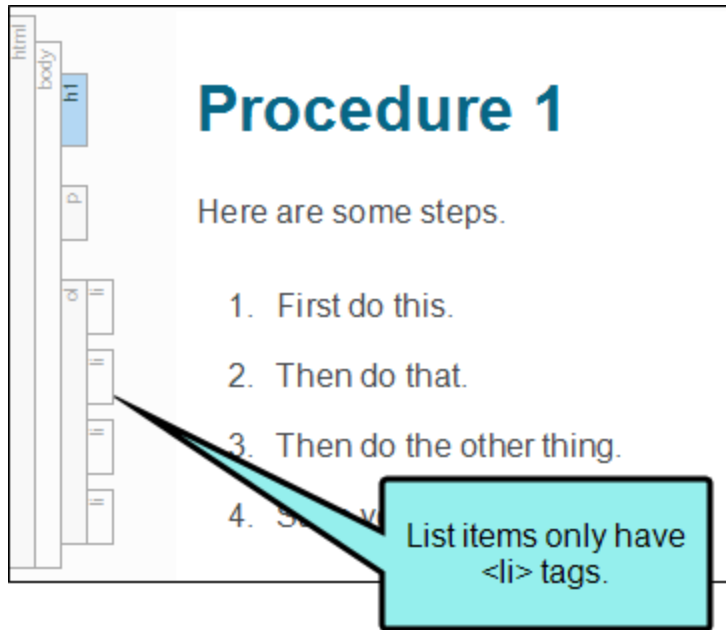
- **Add Another Definition** Type the definition, then press **ENTER**.
- **Add Another Term** Press **ENTER** (which changes the line from a `<dd>` tag to a `<dt>` tag), then type the term.
- **Exit Definition List** Press **ENTER** twice (which places the cursor on a new `<p>` tag).

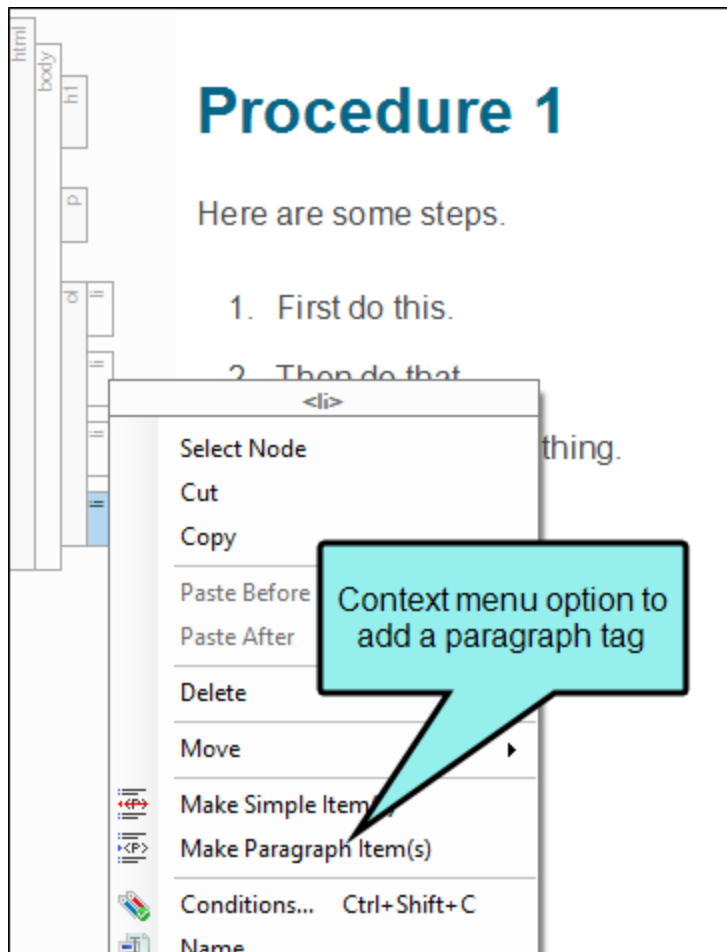
6. Click  to save your work.

I Other List Enhancements

Paragraph Tags Inside All List Items

Previously, all bulleted and numbered list items started out as simple items (i.e., containing only an `` tag). You could add paragraph items (i.e., `<p>` tags within `` tags), but you need to do this manually for each list item.





The diagram shows an HTML DOM tree on the left with the following structure: `html` (root), `body` (child of `html`), `h1` (child of `body`), `p` (child of `body`), `ol` (child of `body`), and four `li` (children of `ol`). The first `li` contains a `p` tag. A callout box points to this `p` tag with the text: "Paragraph tag added to just one list item".

Procedure 1

Here are some steps.

1. First do this.
2. Then do that.
3. Then do the other thing.
4. See how.

Now, the default behavior for bulleted and numbered lists is to automatically add a `<p>` tag inside each `` tag.

The diagram shows an HTML DOM tree on the left with the following structure: `html` (root), `body` (child of `html`), `h1` (child of `body`), `p` (child of `body`), `ol` (child of `body`), and four `li` (children of `ol`). Each `li` contains a `p` tag. A callout box points to the `p` tag in the third `li` with the text: "All list items have `<p>` tags."

Procedure 1

Here are some steps.

1. First do this.
2. Then do that.
3. Then do the other thing.
4. See how.

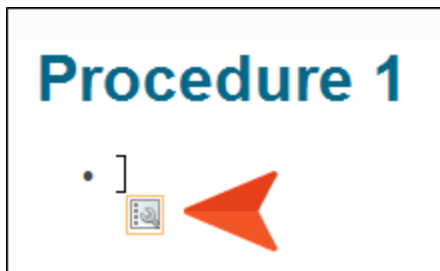
This is a useful approach if you tend to add a lot of information between list items, such as images, notes, or just paragraphs.

If you are a long-time Contributor user, one of the main changes you will notice is that pressing ENTER at the end of a list item that has a <p> tag does not result in an empty line where you can immediately enter additional content between steps. Instead, the new line has a new number or bullet. When your cursor is on an empty list item (or at the beginning of a line that contains text), just press **BACKSPACE** to remove the number or bullet and enter content between list items.

Although adding paragraph tags is the default behavior, you can still manually set individual list items to the simple format (i.e., an tag with no <p> tag).

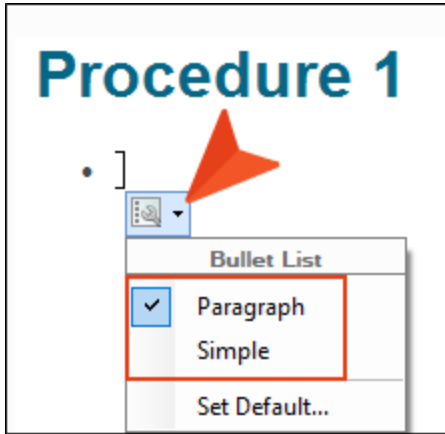
Floating Icon and Options

When creating a new list, you will see a floating icon below the first item. After clicking this icon, you can select options from a context menu to set paragraph or simple items, merge lists, or access default settings.



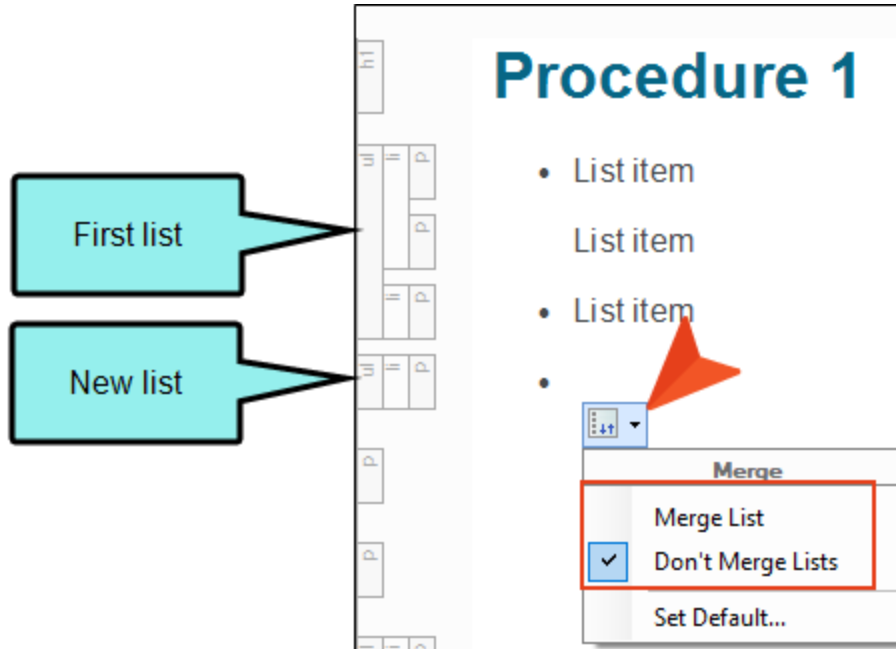
Paragraph and Simple Items

If the new list is not next to another list of the same type, options display that let you choose to add a <p> tag inside the list tag (if one does not already exist), or remove a <p> tag, making it a simple item.



Merging Lists

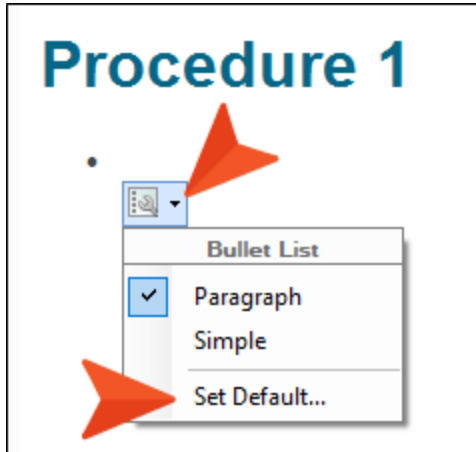
If you create a new list next to another one of the same time (e.g., two bulleted lists, two numbered lists), a floating icon displays. You can click the down arrow to display options for merging the lists together or to keep them separate.



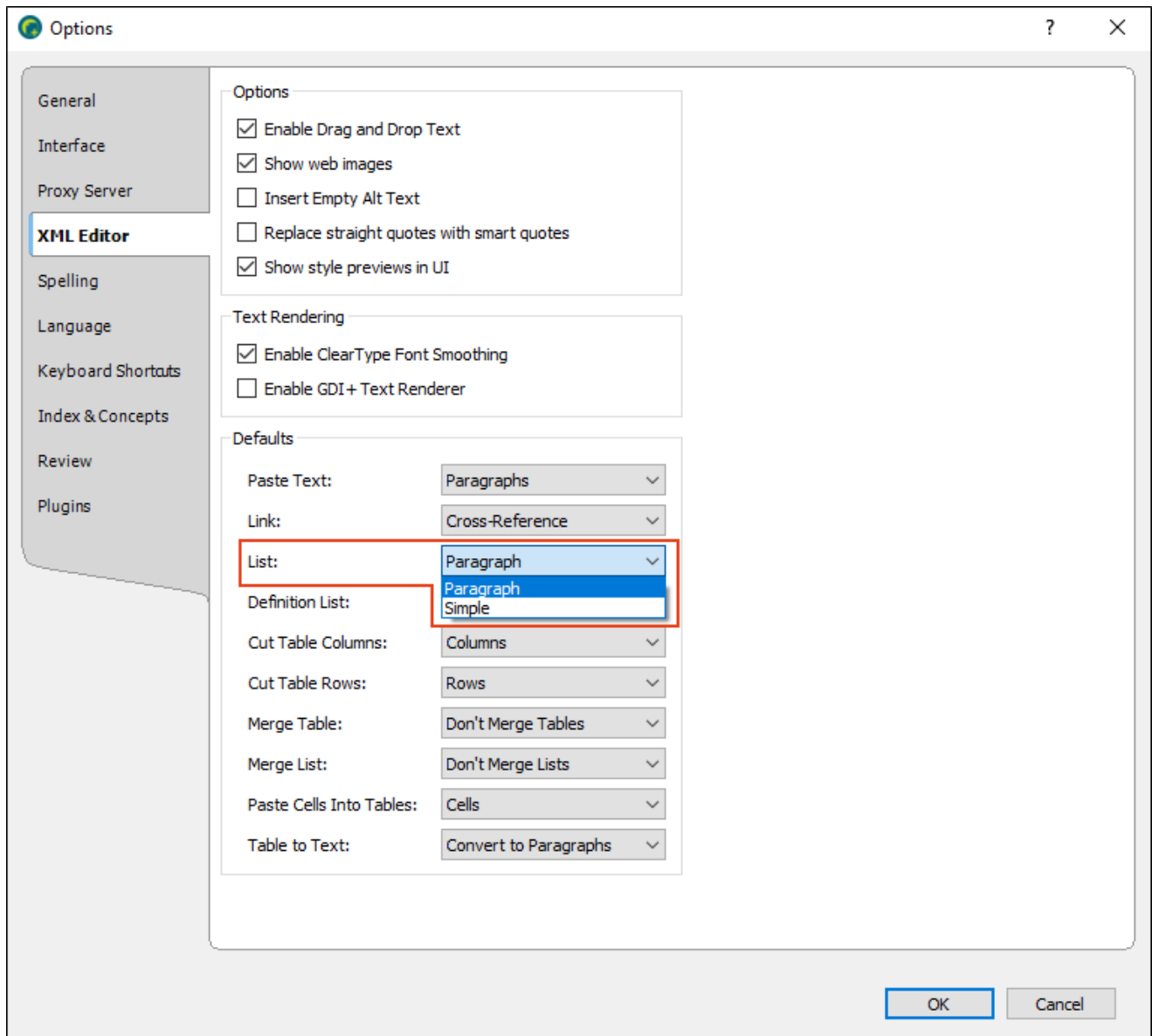
NOTE If you have a bulleted list next to a numbered list, you can merge them together after right-clicking the **ul** or **ol** structure bar and selecting **Merge With Previous List** or **Merge With Next List**. However, if you have a bulleted or numbered list next to a definition list, you cannot merge those together.

Default Settings

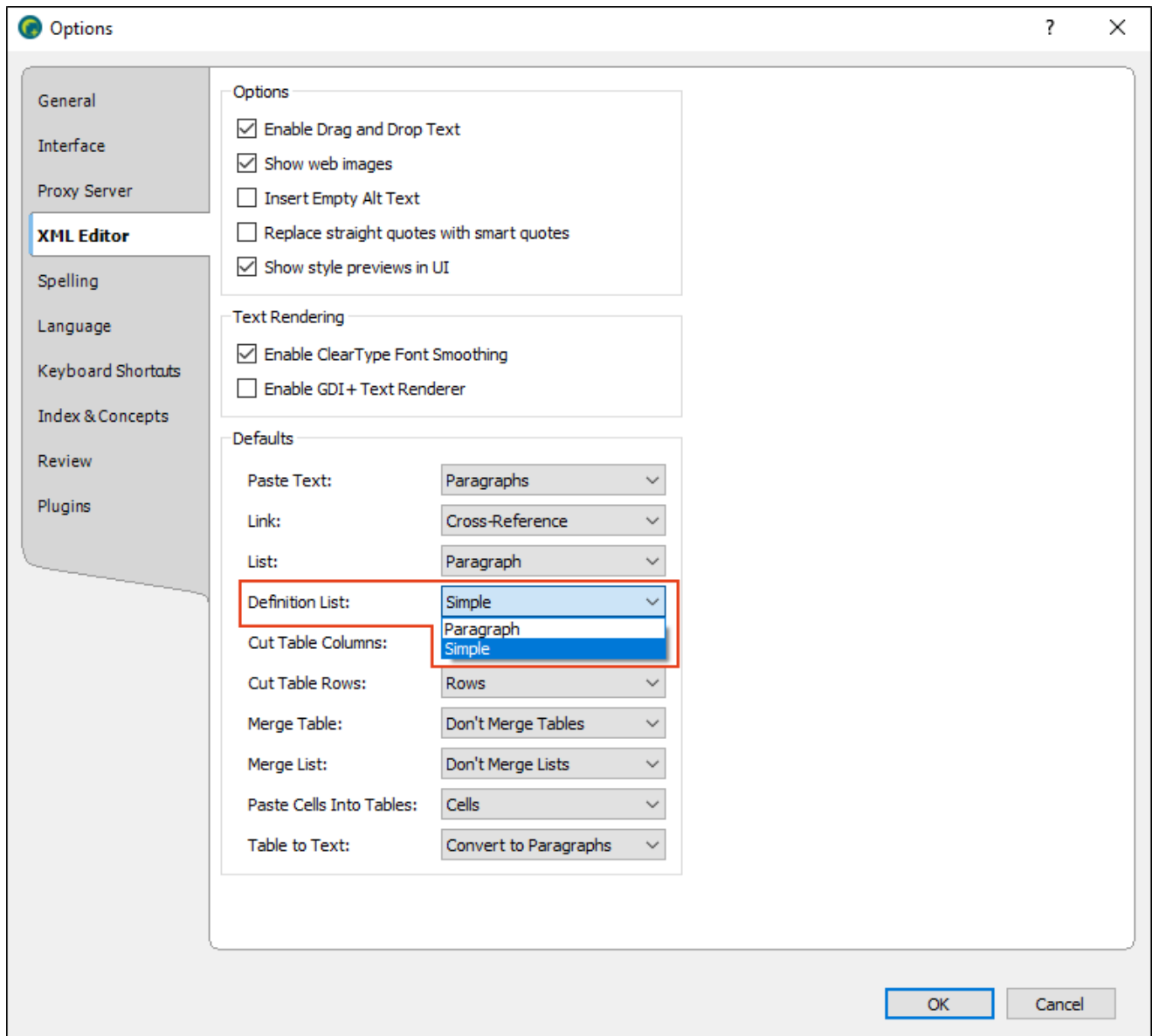
Some authors might prefer the previous behavior, where list items do not contain <p> tags initially. Therefore, Contributor lets you set the default behavior according to your tastes and needs. This can be done by clicking the floating icon when you start a new list, and clicking **Set Default**.



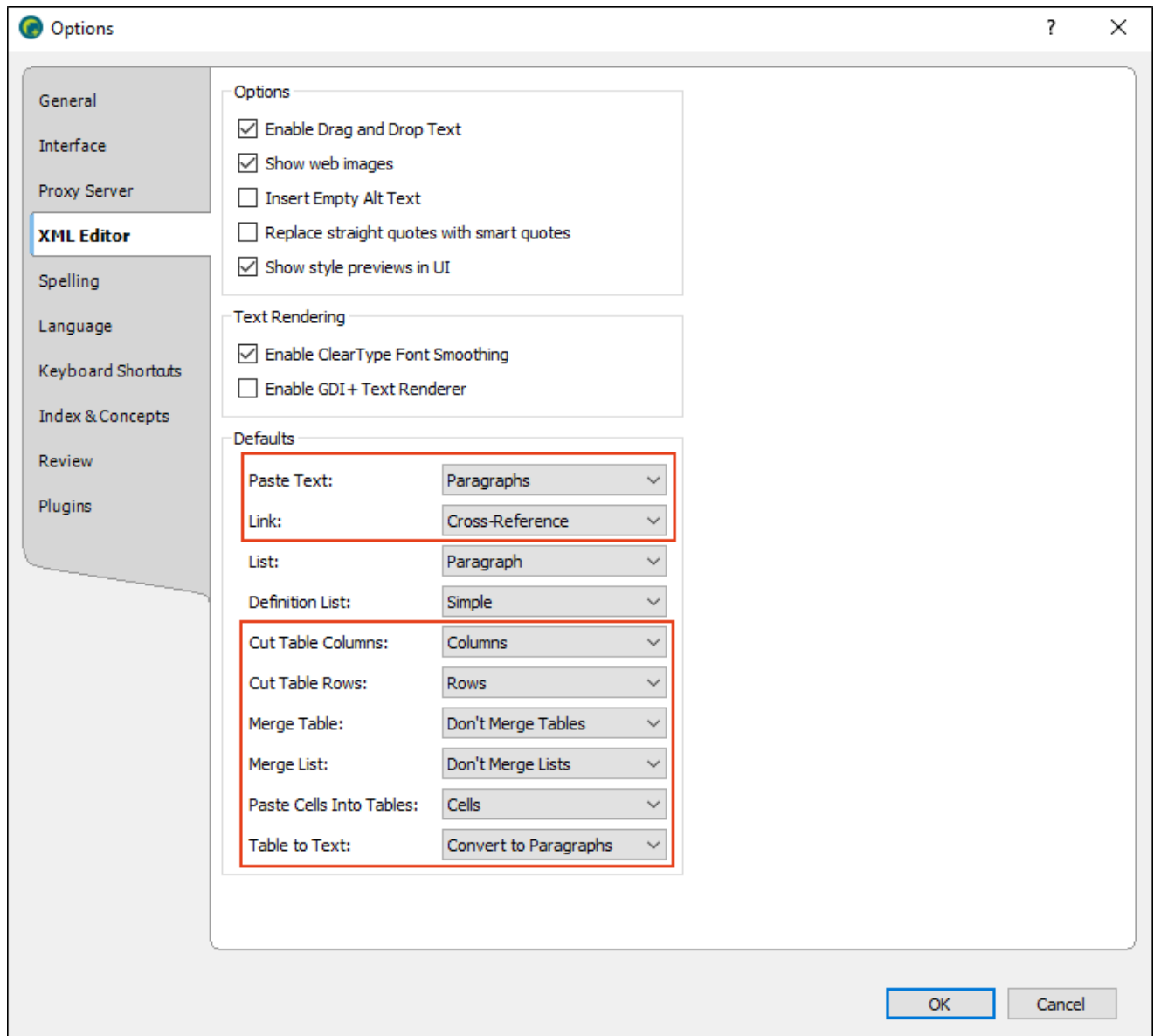
This opens the Options dialog, where you can choose your default setting.



For definition lists, the default behavior is to not include `<p>` tags within the individual `<dt>` and `<dd>` tags. This is probably the most common way to work with definition lists. However, you can change the setting in the Options dialog for definition lists if you want the terms and definitions to include `<p>` tags.



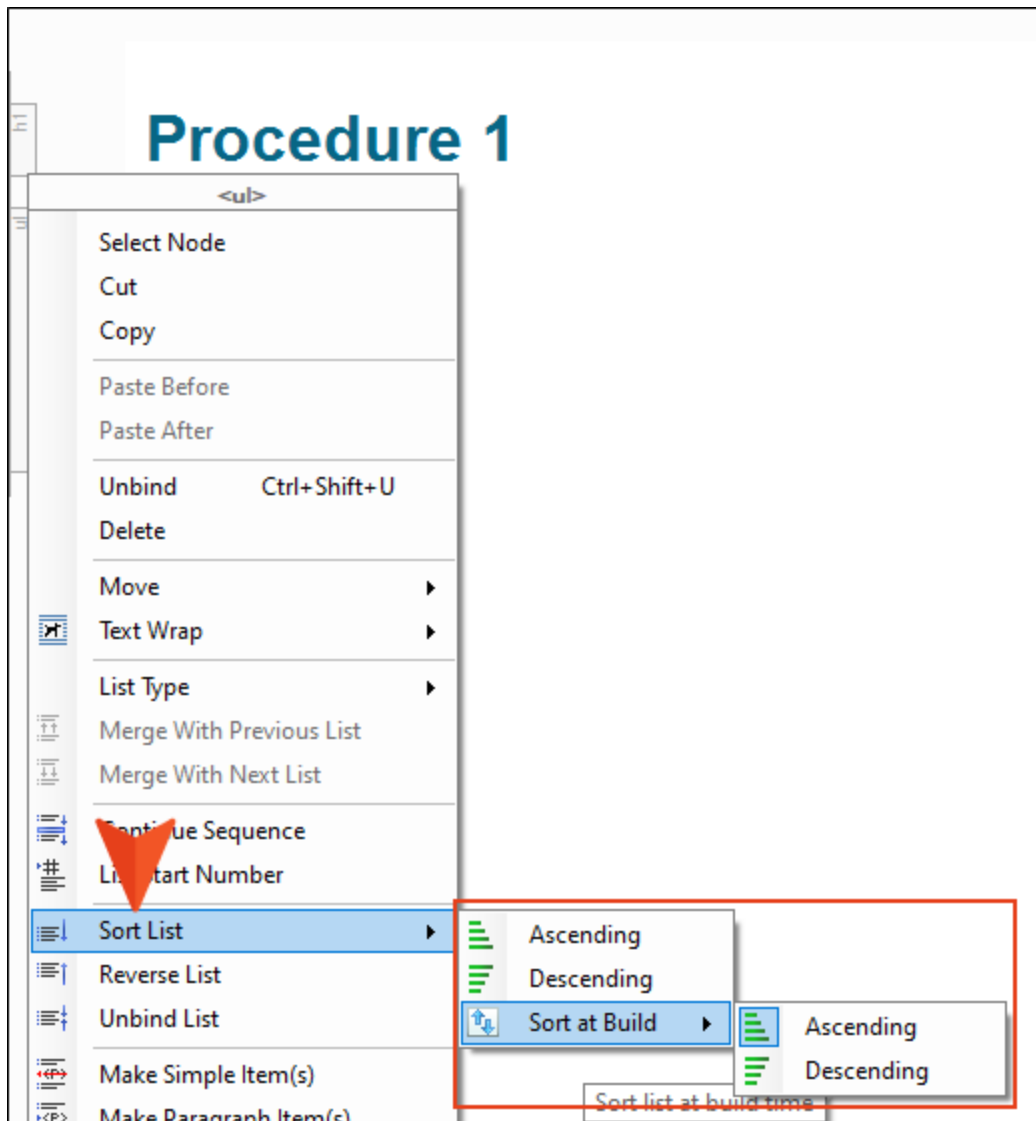
And you will notice many other new options in this dialog for setting defaults for various features. You could set these defaults in previous versions of Contributor, but these fields in the Options dialog are new.



Sorting

Previously, there was one "Sort List" option available from the context menu when right-clicking a list structure bar. This always sorted the list in ascending order. However, now you can choose from the following options:

- **Ascending**
- **Descending**
- **Sort at Build** This option displays a submenu with the same Ascending and Descending options. If you select one of these options, Contributor will sort the list automatically when you build output. For example, this might be a useful option if you always want a particular list sorted, but multiple authors are working on the list over a period of time, and you want to ensure that the last author making edits does not forget to sort the list. Translation is another reason to sort lists at build time. Because languages use different characters, this ensures that the list in each output is sorted appropriately.



Another change you might notice is that when sorting a list that includes numbers in the content, the value is now sorted instead of the digit.

☆ **EXAMPLE** You have a list like this, with a number at the beginning of each bullet to represent some kind of code.

- 8 - Description for this
- 1 - Description for this
- 10 - Description for this
- 2 - Description for this
- 5 - Description for this
- 9 - Description for this

You want to sort the list so that it shows each description according to its code value.

After sorting the list, instead of this...

- 1 - Description for this
- 10 - Description for this
- 2 - Description for this
- 5 - Description for this
- 8 - Description for this
- 9 - Description for this

☆ ... you will get this.

- 1 - Description for this
- 2 - Description for this
- 5 - Description for this
- 8 - Description for this
- 9 - Description for this
- 10 - Description for this

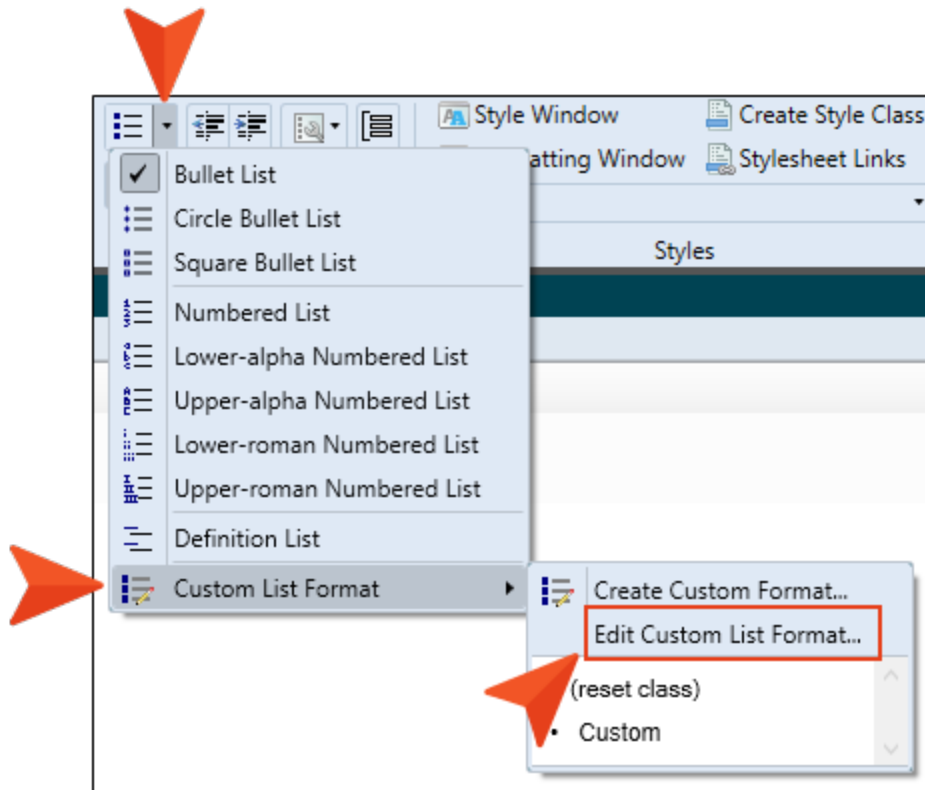
List Shortcuts

Some of the following shortcuts already existed, but some are new.

Add Another Definition <dd> to Definition List	ENTER (press at end of <dd> tag containing text)
Add New Term <dt> to Definition List	ENTER (press at end of empty <dd> tag)
Create Paragraph or Simple Item in List (Toggle)	CTRL+;
Exit Bulleted or Numbered List	ENTER (press x2 on last line)
Exit Definition List	ENTER (press x3 on last line, at end of final <dd> tag)
Indent List Item	TAB
Outdent List Item	SHIFT+TAB
Remove List Tag and Convert to Paragraph	

Edit Custom List Format Option

There is a new option in the lists menu to edit a custom list format.



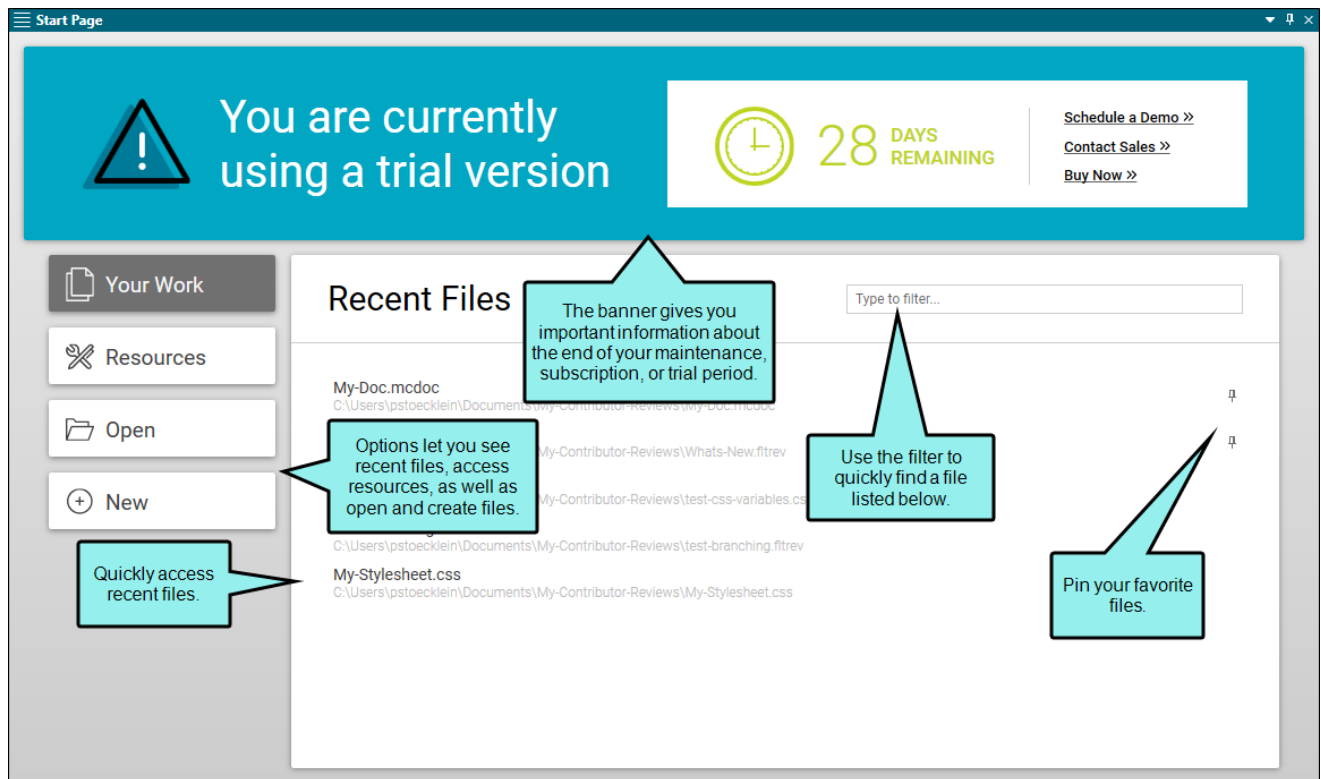
Other List Behavior

You will notice various improvements related to the behavior of lists when you perform certain actions, including:

- **Unbinding** When unbinding lists, items will not result in a `<p>` tag within another `<p>` tag.
- **Pasting** When pasting one list inside another, the new list will be merged more appropriately.
- **Outdenting** When outdenting list items, the result is better.
- **Snippets** When you are working with snippets that are part of lists, the behavior is improved (e.g., a block snippet inserted in a list item displays the bullet appropriately in the XML Editor, rather than at the bottom of the content).

Start Page Redesign

The Start Page in Contributor has been redesigned to make it more efficient, display a banner with the expiration date for the license type, provide links to take action, and allow for more space to display links and information.



This chapter discusses the following:

Page Options on Left	37
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I Page Options on Left

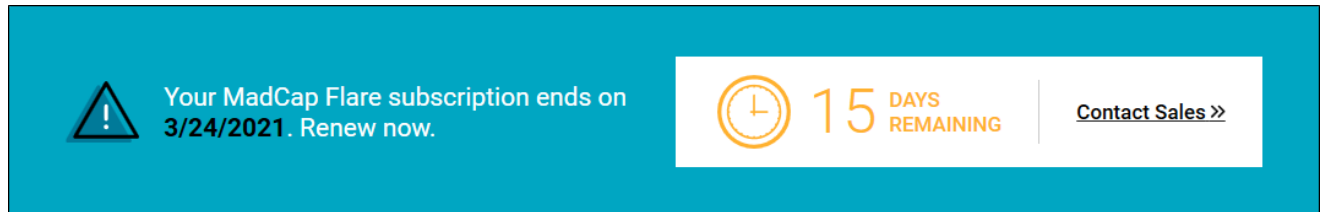
A series of options on the left side of the Start Page can be used to access different information or perform specific actions.

- **Your Work** Displays recent files, with a filter field at the top. This is the same information that was previously shown on the left side of the Start Page in previous versions. But by clicking this option, you can now see more of it.
- **Resources** This is the same dynamic information that was previously displayed at the bottom of the Start Page. Again, by moving it to a separate page view, more space becomes available to list resources.
- **Open** Lets you open an existing Flare project.
- **New Project** Opens the wizard so that you can create a new Flare project.

License Expiration Banner

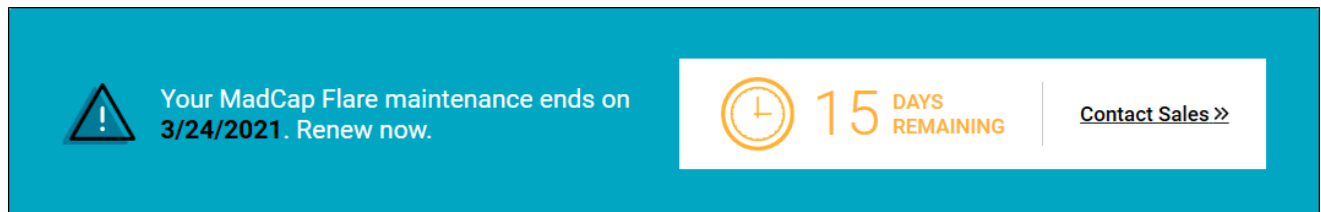
Depending on your type of license (e.g., subscription, maintenance, trial), a banner displays when a deadline for renewing or purchasing is approaching. You can click a link to take action (e.g., Contact Sales). If you have more than 90 days left, you will not see a banner.

Subscription



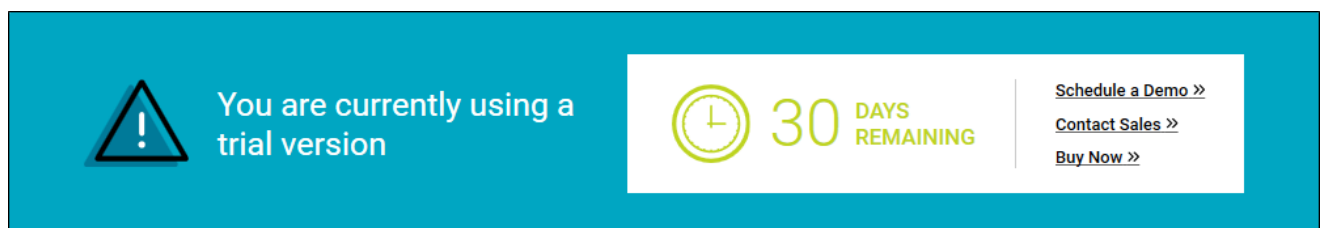
A blue banner with a white warning triangle icon on the left. The text reads: "Your MadCap Flare subscription ends on 3/24/2021. Renew now." To the right, there is a white box containing a clock icon, the number "15" in large orange font, and "DAYS REMAINING" in smaller orange font. Further right, there is a link: "Contact Sales >>" in blue text.

Maintenance



A blue banner with a white warning triangle icon on the left. The text reads: "Your MadCap Flare maintenance ends on 3/24/2021. Renew now." To the right, there is a white box containing a clock icon, the number "15" in large orange font, and "DAYS REMAINING" in smaller orange font. Further right, there is a link: "Contact Sales >>" in blue text.

Trial

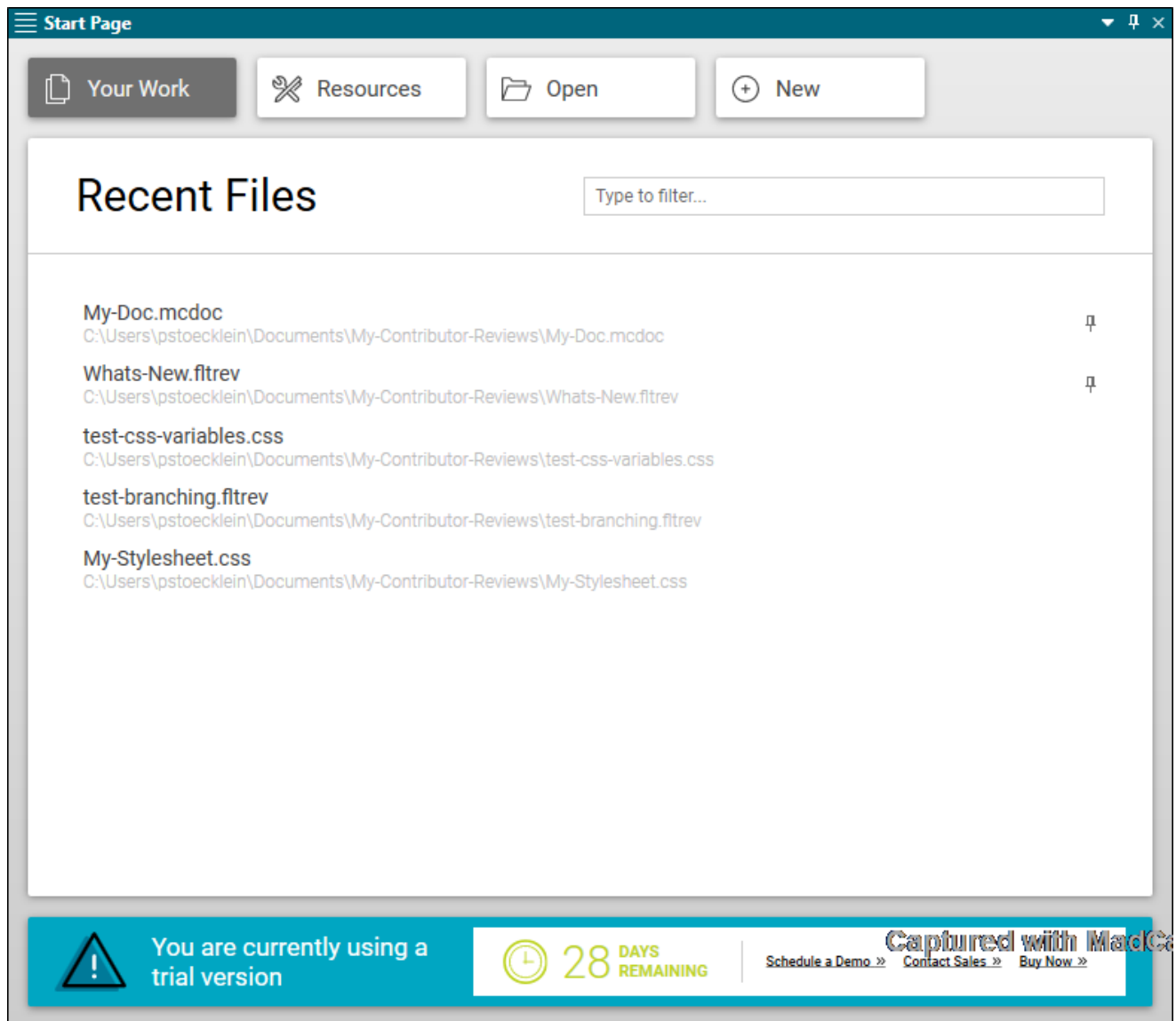


A blue banner with a white warning triangle icon on the left. The text reads: "You are currently using a trial version". To the right, there is a white box containing a clock icon, the number "30" in large green font, and "DAYS REMAINING" in smaller green font. Further right, there are three links: "Schedule a Demo >>", "Contact Sales >>", and "Buy Now >>" in blue text.

I Responsive to Window Size

The layout of the Start Page changes depending on the size of the window.

For example, if the window is large, the page options are shown on the left, and the information banner is at the top. But if the window is reduced in size, the page options are shown at the top, and the information banner is at the bottom. A horizontal bar might also appear if the window becomes narrow enough.



PDFs

The following PDFs are available for download from the online Help.

I Cheat Sheets

Shortcuts Cheat Sheet

I User Guides

Getting Started Guide

Contributor Workflow Guide

Review Workflow Guide

What's New Guide