madcap software

TUTORIAL

MADCAP FLARE DESKTOP 2025

Custom Toolbar

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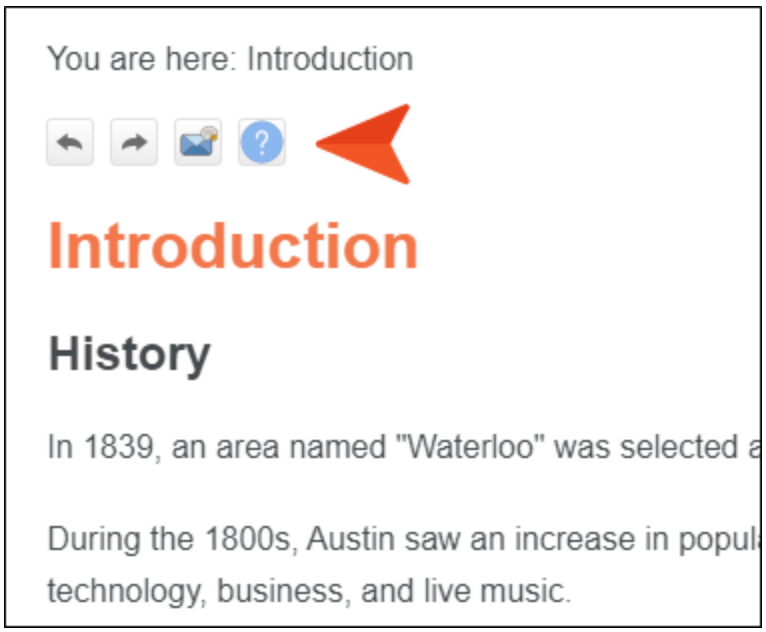
CHAPTER 1

Welcome

Approximate Time: 15 minutes

Welcome to the Custom Toolbar Tutorial.

- Tutorial Goal Learning how to integrate a topic toolbar into a project, with JavaScript designed for a couple of custom buttons (email feedback and open external URL).
- Key Concepts Inserting a Topic Toolbar proxy to a template page, adding images to the project, and adding/editing a Toolbar skin to provide JavaScript for buttons.



CHAPTER 2

Before We Begin

Before we begin this tutorial, there are just a few things you should know.

This chapter discusses the following:

Writing the Code 7

JavaScript Used in This Tutorial 7

Writing the Code

The intention of this tutorial is not to show you how to write JavaScript or JQuery. Instead, it assumes you already have some script that you've already written or obtained from another source.

JavaScript Used in This Tutorial

The JavaScript used in this tutorial lets you provide functionality for a couple of custom buttons in a topic toolbar.

The first custom button opens the end user's email client with a new email automatically populated with an email address, subject, and default text. This lets the user send you feedback about a particular topic.

The second custom button can be used to open an external website (e.g., company Help ticket page) or file (e.g., PDF) in another window.

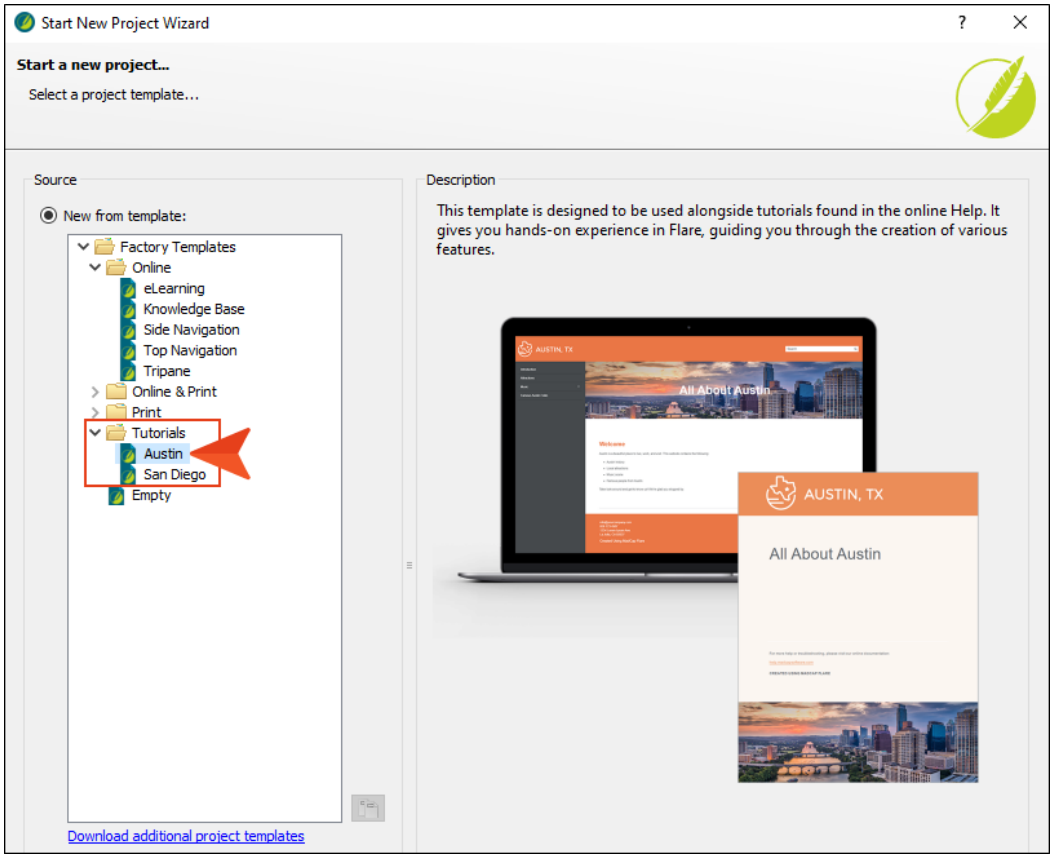
CHAPTER 3

Creating a Project From a Template

To start, let's create a new project based on Flare's Austin template.

How to Create a New Project From a Template

1. Select **File > New Project**. The Start New Project Wizard opens.
2. In the **Project name** field, give your project any name you want.
3. (Optional) In the **Project folder** field, you can enter a location where you want to save your project. By default, projects are saved in your Documents > My Projects folder.
4. Click **Next**.
5. Under **Factory Templates**, expand the **Tutorials** folder. Select the **Austin** template.



6. Click **Next**.
7. For branding, keep the default settings. (This is where you could customize your project's look with branding, such as colors and logo.) Click **Next**.
8. Click **Finish**. The project is created and loaded into Flare Desktop.

CHAPTER 4

Downloading Image Files

The custom toolbar in this tutorial will use two buttons (Previous and Next) that are already available and therefore have images. However, you will be adding two more custom buttons (Email and Help), so you need to have a couple of images to represent each of those buttons. We have a couple of images that are the same size as the existing images, which you can download and use.

How to Download Image Files

1. Download the following zip file:

   ```
   https://docs.madcapsoftware.com/tutorial-assets/flare/Custom-Toolbar-Images.zip
   ```

2. In Windows, open the zip file and copy the Email and Help image files.
3. Paste the image files somewhere on your computer.

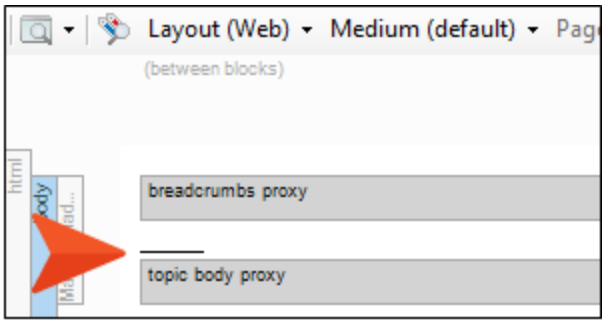
CHAPTER 5

Inserting a Topic Toolbar Proxy

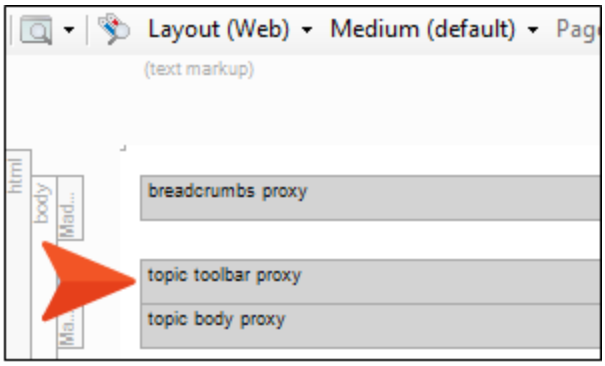
Next, you need to insert a proxy, which serves as a placeholder for the topic toolbar when the HTML5 output is generated. In this lesson, you will insert the proxy into one of the template pages, which is associated with most of the topics in the project. By doing this, the topic toolbar will appear at the top of each of those topics in the output.

How to Insert a Topic Toolbar Proxy

1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > TemplatePages**, and double-click **Other-Topics.flmsp**. The template page opens in the XML Editor.
2. Click between the two proxies (gray bars) so that the cursor flashes horizontally.



3. On the far right side of the **Insert** ribbon, select **Proxy > Insert Topic Toolbar Proxy**.
4. Leave the fields in the dialog as they are, and click **OK**. A new gray bar is added, representing the Topic Toolbar proxy.



> **NOTE** If you had multiple Toolbar skin components, you could select the correct one in this dialog. However, you don't even have one yet. That's what you will add in the next lesson.
>
> Also, it's possible to select buttons in this dialog, but we'll wait to do it in the skin component instead.

5. Click to save your work.

CHAPTER 6

Adding and Editing a Skin Component

Now you need to add a skin component to the project and modify it.

This chapter discusses the following:

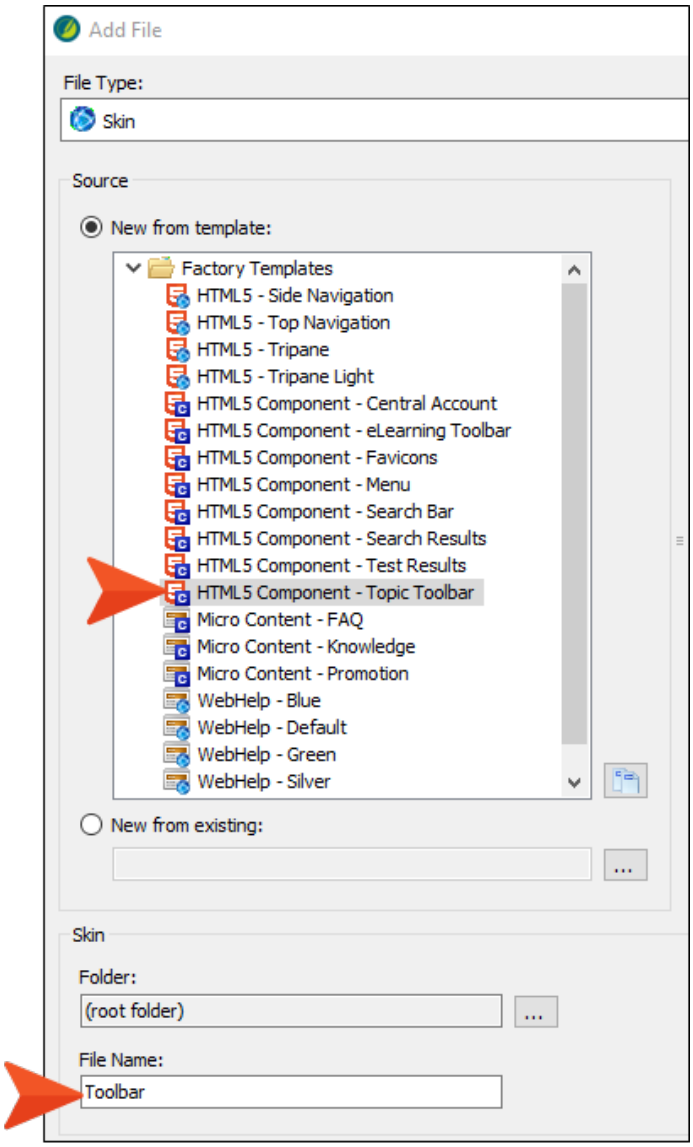
How to Add a Toolbar Skin Component 15

How to Add Custom Buttons 17

How to Add JavaScript to the Custom Buttons 19

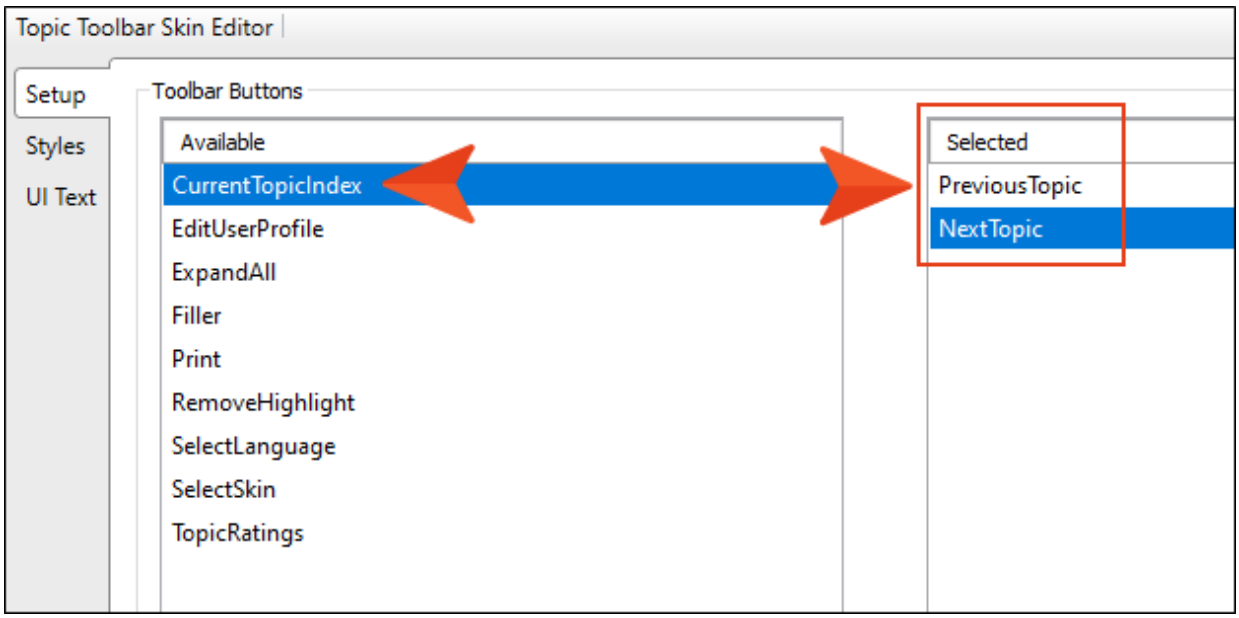
How to Add a Toolbar Skin Component

1. In the Project Organizer, right-click the **Skins** folder and select **Add Skin**.
2. In the dialog, select **HTML5 Component - Topic Toolbar**, and in the **File Name** field enter `Toolbar`.



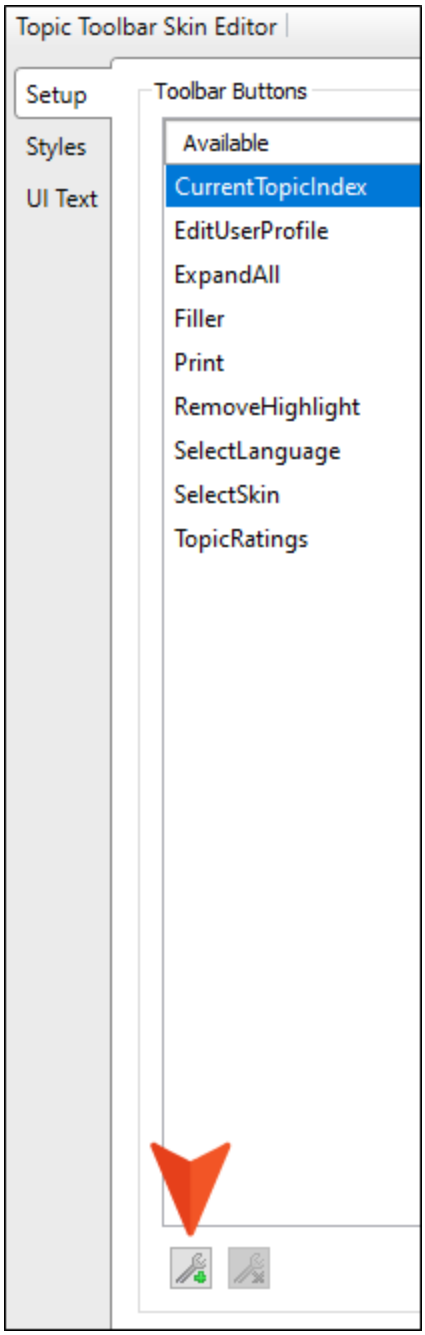
3. Click **Add**. The file is added to the Project Organizer and opens to the right.

4. In the Topic Toolbar Skin Editor, select the **Setup** tab.
5. The "PreviousTopic" and "NextTopic" buttons are already added on the right side of the editor, so you don't need to select them. But let's remove the other button. Double-click **CurrentTopicIndex**, moving it to the left side.



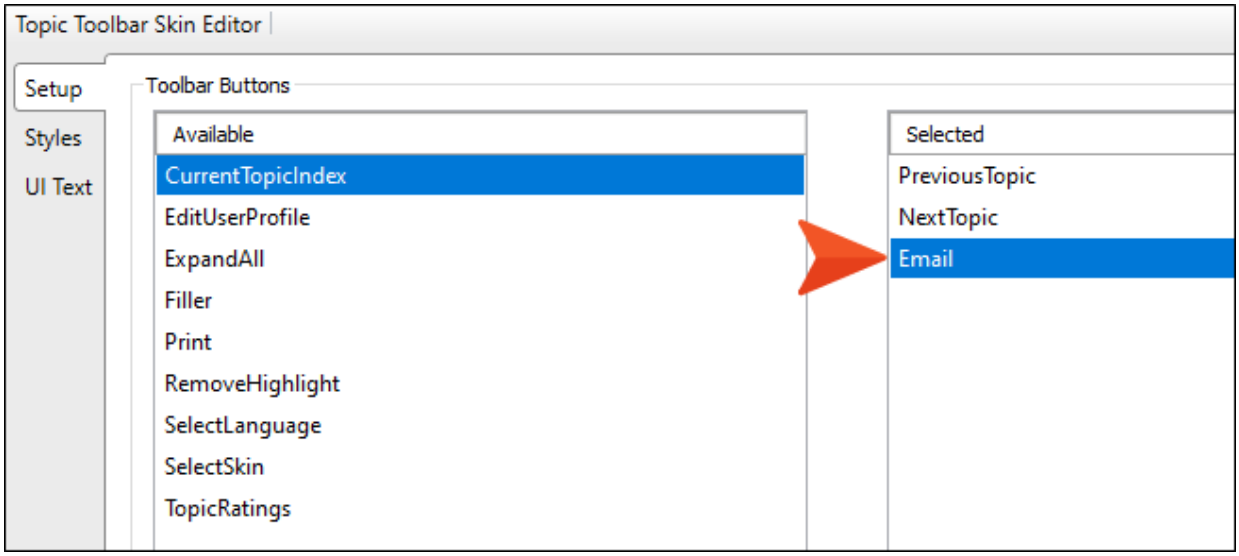
How to Add Custom Buttons

1. At the lower-left of the editor, click .

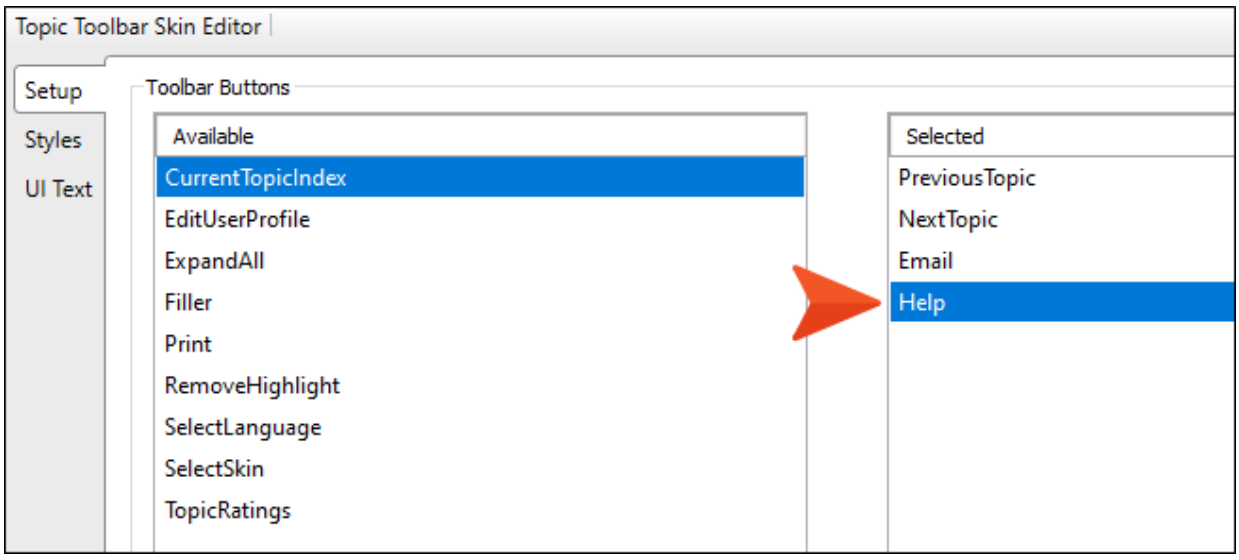


2. In the dialog, enter `Email` as the name of the new button, then click **OK**.

3. On the left side of the editor, double-click **Email** to move it to the right. Then at the bottom of the right side, click to move it to the bottom of the list of buttons. This means the button will display third in the toolbar.



4. Click again.
5. In the dialog, enter `Help` as the name of the new button, then click **OK**.
6. On the left side of the editor, double-click **Help** to move it to the right. Then at the bottom of the right side, click to move it to the bottom of the list of buttons. This means the button will display fourth in the toolbar.



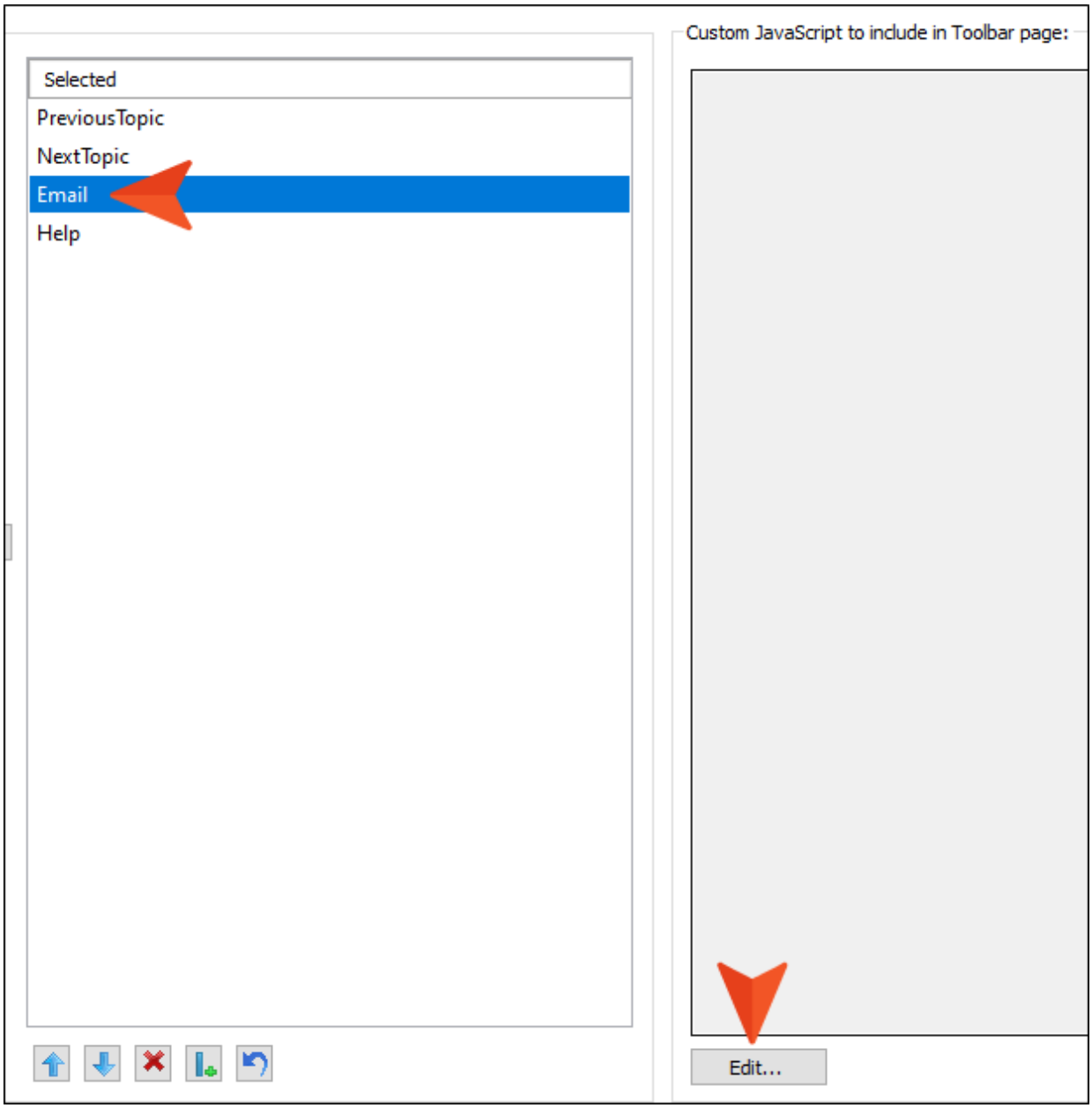
How to Add JavaScript to the Custom Buttons

1. Copy the following.

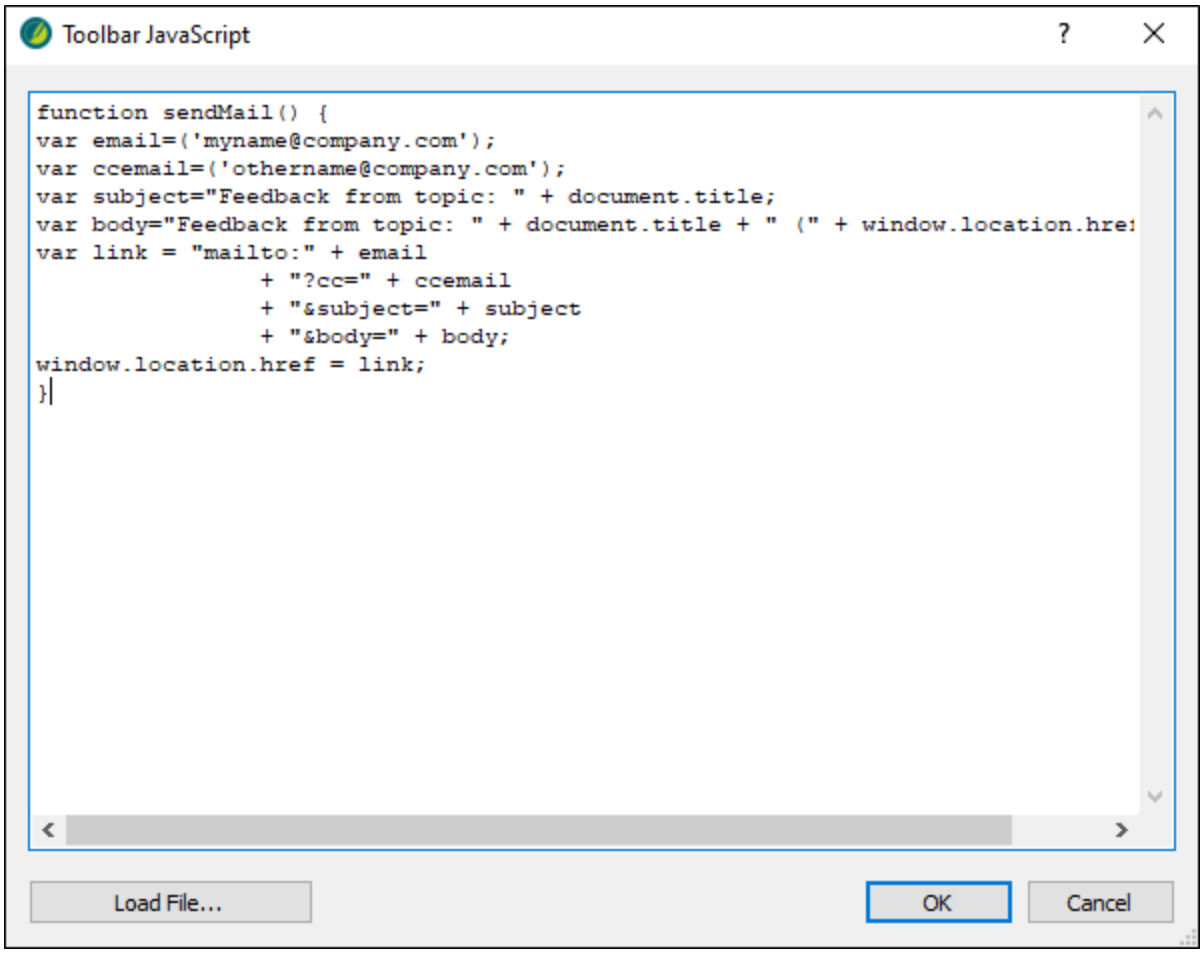
```
function sendMail() {
var email=('myname@company.com');
var ccemail=('othername@company.com');
var subject="Feedback from topic: " + document.title;
var body="Feedback from topic: " + document.title + " (" + window.location.href
+ ")";
var link = "mailto:" + email
        + "?cc=" + ccemail
        + "&subject=" + subject
        + "&body=" + body;
window.location.href = link;
}
```

2. On the right side of the Topic Toolbar Skin Editor, select Email.

3. On the lower-right, click **Edit**.



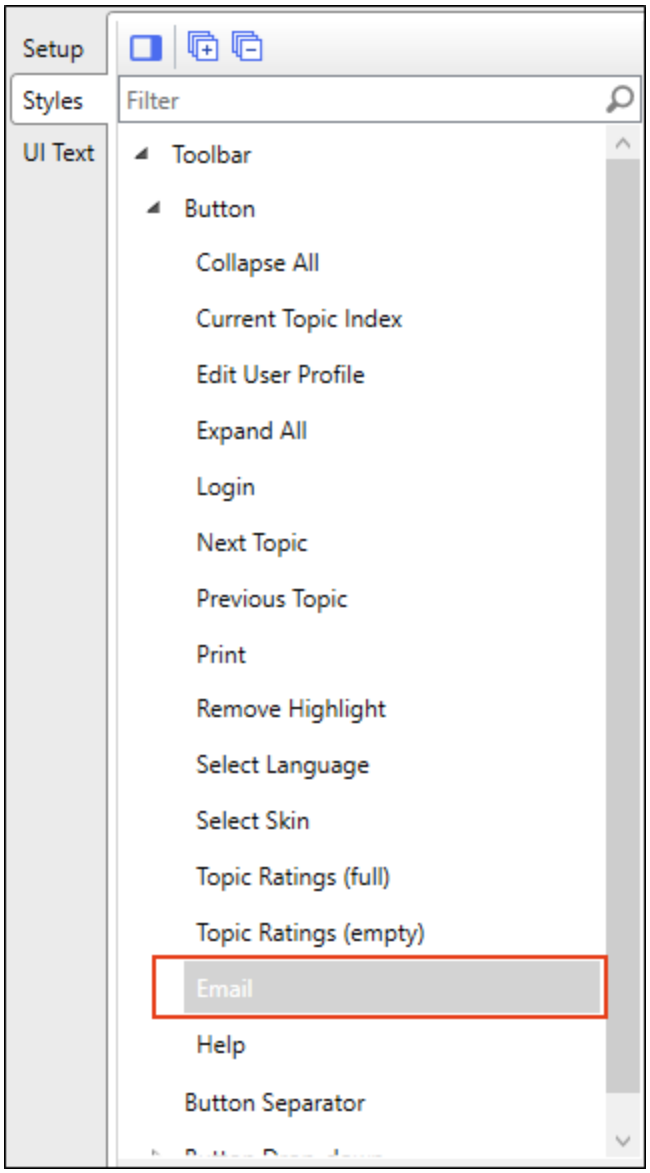
4. In the dialog, paste the code that you copied.



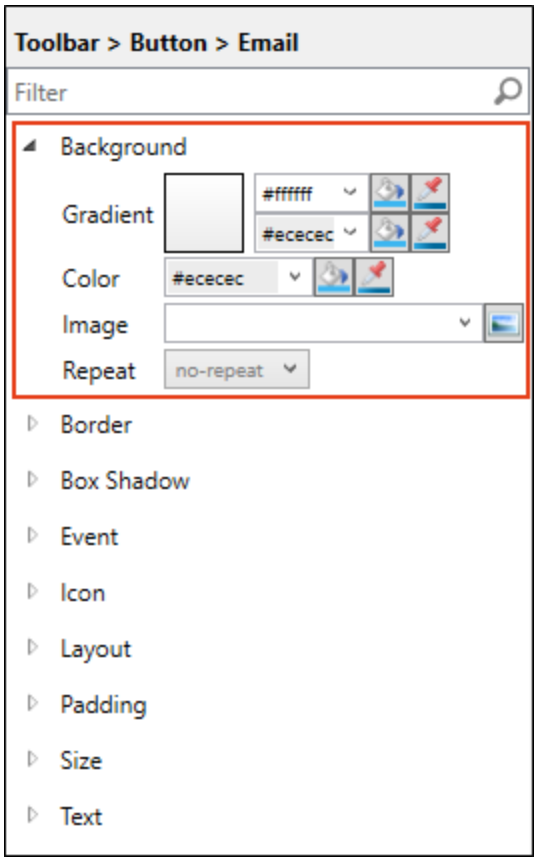
> NOTE Let's leave the code as it is, but in an actual project, you would replace the email addresses, as well as the subject and body text, with whatever you want.

5. Click **OK**. The code displays on the right side of the editor.
6. On the left side of the editor, select the **Styles** tab.

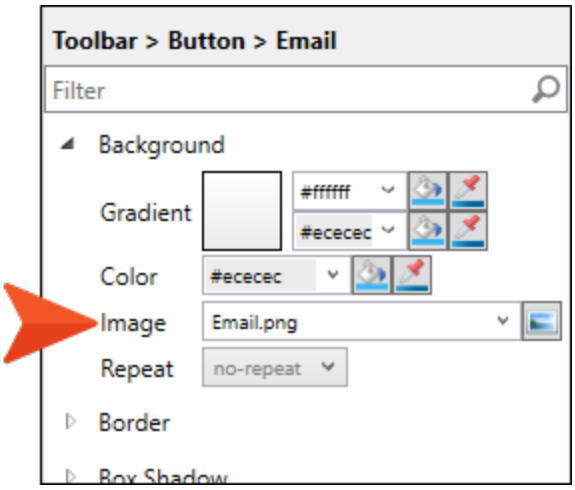
7. Expand the **Toolbar > Button** style group, and select **Email**.



8. In the properties section, expand **Background**.



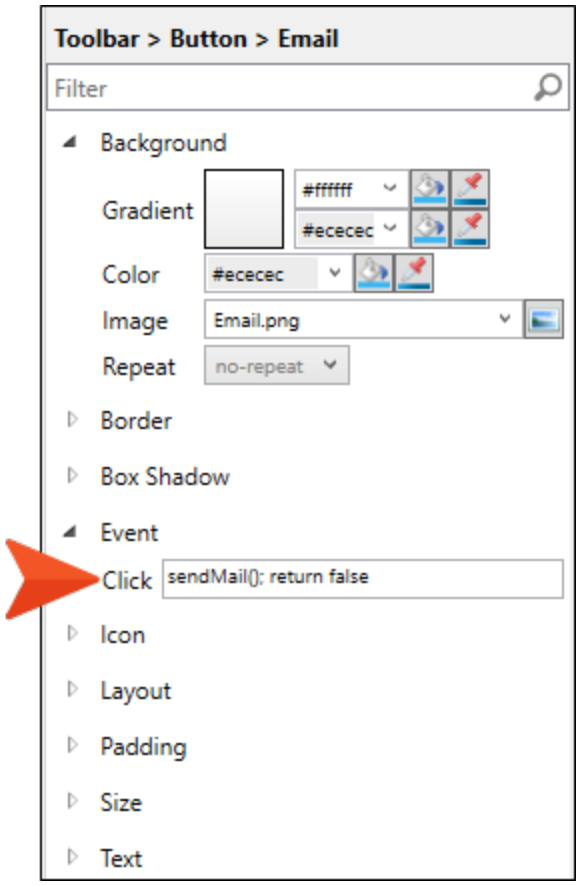
9. To the right of the **Image** field, click .
10. In the dialog, click , then find and select the **Email** image you downloaded and saved to your computer. After you find it in the dialog, select **Open**, then **OK**. The image file is shown in the field.



11. Expand the **Event** property.

12. Copy the following extra piece of JavaScript and paste it into the **Click** field.

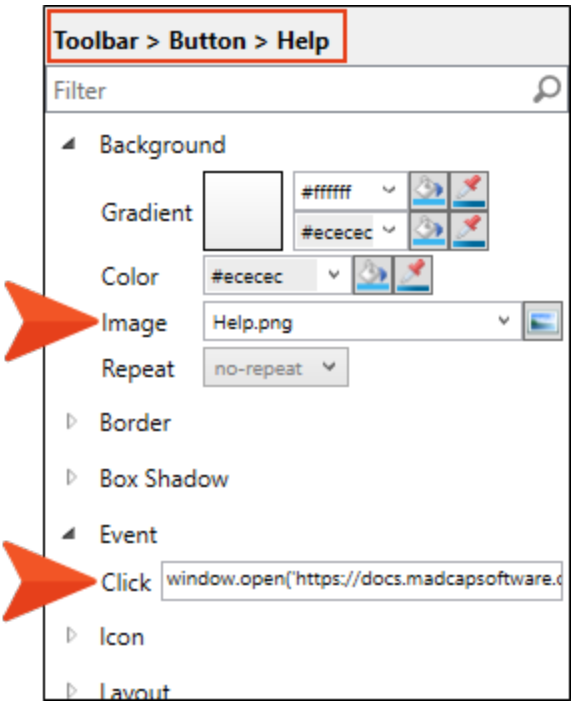
```
sendMail(); return false
```



13. From the **Toolbar > Button** style group, select **Help**.

14. Repeat the steps above to select the **Help** image you downloaded, and copy/paste the following JavaScript into the **Event > Click** field.

```
window.open('https://docs.madcapsoftware.com/doc-team/Source-Control.pdf');
return
```



> NOTE This particular piece of JavaScript opens a MadCap Software PDF. But in an actual project, you can replace the URL with your own.

15. Click to save your work.
16. Build and view the **All-About-Austin-HTML5** target.
17. Open any topic other than the Home page.
18. Click the buttons in the toolbar at the top of any topic to test them.

PDFs

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

Tutorials

Autonumbers Tutorial

Back-to-Top Button Tutorial

Context-Sensitive Help Tutorial

Custom Toolbar Tutorial

eLearning Tutorial—Basic

eLearning Tutorial—Advanced

Getting Started Tutorial

Image Tooltips Tutorial

Lists Tutorial

Meta Tags Tutorial

Micro Content Tutorial—Basic

Micro Content Tutorial—Advanced

Responsive Output Tutorial

Single-Sourcing Tutorial

Snippet Conditions Tutorial

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