

**MADCAP FLARE DESKTOP 2026**

# Using Mediums

Copyright © 2026 MadCap Software. All rights reserved.

Information in this document is subject to change without notice. The software described in this document is furnished under a license agreement or nondisclosure agreement. The software may be used or copied only in accordance with the terms of those agreements. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording for any purpose other than the purchaser's personal use without the written permission of MadCap Software.

MadCap Software  
1660 17th Street, Suite 201  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
858-320-0387  
[www.madcapsoftware.com](http://www.madcapsoftware.com)

**THIS PDF WAS CREATED USING MADCAP FLARE.**

# CONTENTS

---

## **CHAPTER 1**

Welcome .....	5
---------------	---

## **CHAPTER 2**

Creating a Project From a Template .....	6
How to Create a New Project From a Template .....	7

## **CHAPTER 3**

Understanding Mediums .....	8
How to Select Mediums in the Stylesheet Editor .....	9
How to View Mediums Side by Side .....	11

## **CHAPTER 4**

Creating and Editing Mediums .....	13
How to Create a Medium .....	14
How to Edit a Medium .....	16
(Optional) How to View Mediums in the Text Editor .....	19

## **CHAPTER 5**

Working With Mediums in a Topic .....	20
Using Mediums in a Topic .....	21
Using Mediums With Table Stylesheets .....	24

## **CHAPTER 6**

Setting Mediums in the Target Editor .....	28
How to Set a Medium in the Target Editor .....	29

## **APPENDIX**

PDFs .....	31
Tutorials .....	31
Cheat Sheets .....	32
User Guides .....	33

## CHAPTER 1

# Welcome

*Approximate Time: 15 minutes*

Welcome to the Styles Tutorial—Using Mediums.

- **Tutorial Goal** Learning how to use mediums in a Flare project.
- **Key Concepts** Interacting with mediums in the Stylesheet Editor, working with mediums in the XML Editor and Table Editor, and associating a medium with a target.


Medium: (default) h1	Medium: print h1	Medium: print-black h1
color: var(--Brand1)	color: var(--Brand1)	color: black
font-size: 24.0pt	font-size: 25pt	font-size: 24.0pt
font-weight: bold	font-weight: bold	font-weight: bold
line-height: ...	line-height: 27pt	line-height: ...
PrintSupport	PrintSupport	PrintSupport
page-brea... avoid	page-brea... avoid	page-brea... avoid


One stylesheet, showing multiple mediums with separate style settings for different outputs.

**This is MadCap Software.**      **This is MadCap Software.**      **This is MadCap Software.**

# Creating a Project From a Template

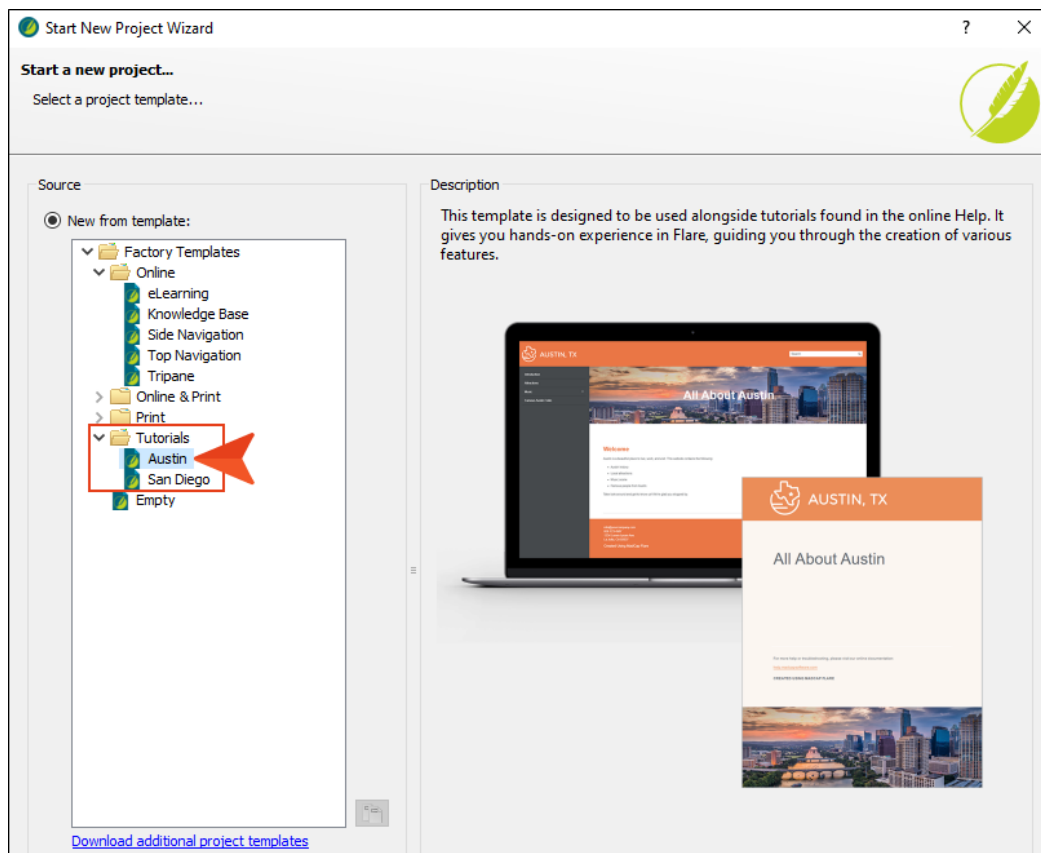
To start, let's create a new project based on Flare's Austin template.

 **NOTE** This is a standalone tutorial. However, if you have completed the previous styles tutorials, you can skip this topic since a project has already been created.

 **NOTE** If you plan to work with the project from the previous styles tutorials, the images you see as you go through this tutorial will be slightly different. If you want the images to match, then it is recommended to create a new project for this tutorial.

# I 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 3

---

# Understanding Mediums

You can use mediums and media queries in Flare Desktop to produce various outputs with different appearances. These are similar concepts; in fact, you will see mediums and media queries side by side in different places in Flare Desktop's user interface. However, they are not the same.


A medium is an alternative group of settings in a stylesheet and can be very useful when you are generating multiple kinds of outputs. One use for a medium is to have one group of style settings for online formats and a different group of settings for print-based formats; therefore, you could use one medium for your online targets and another medium for print-based targets.



**This chapter discusses the following:**

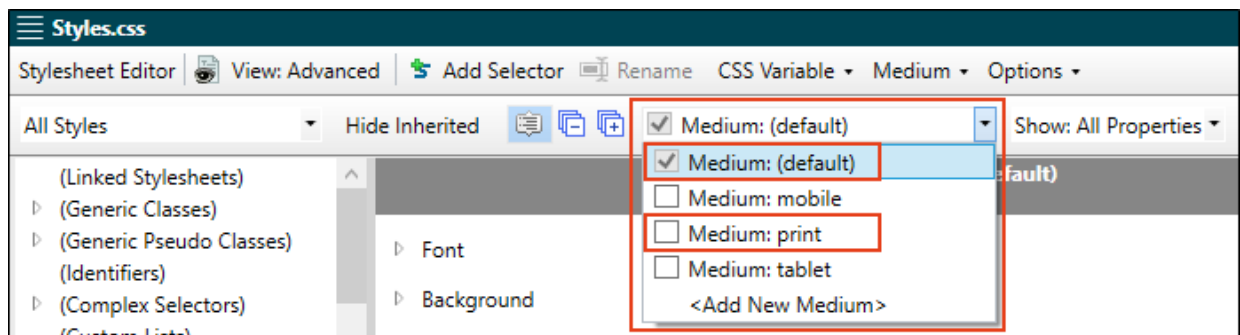
How to Select Mediums in the Stylesheet Editor .....	9
How to View Mediums Side by Side .....	11

# How to Select Mediums in the Stylesheet Editor

1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > Stylesheets**, and double-click the **Styles.css** file.
2. From the local toolbar of the Stylesheet Editor, make sure the first button is labeled **View: Advanced**.

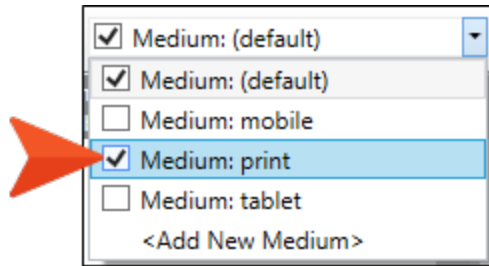
 **NOTE** You can select a medium in the editor's Simplified view. In that case, whichever medium you choose becomes the editable one. When working in the Advanced view, the medium you select opens in a new pane in the Stylesheet Editor.

3. In the local toolbar, click  (Alphabetical view) to switch to  (Grouped view). (Your view might already be set to the Grouped view.)
4. From the local toolbar, click the **Medium** drop-down.



Out-of-the-box, Flare Desktop includes a “default” medium, where most of the styles are set. Since Flare Desktop caters to online authoring first, the default medium is automatically set for online outputs. The other supplied medium is a factory “print” medium, which is automatically set for print outputs. (The tablet and mobile items in the Medium drop-down are media queries.)

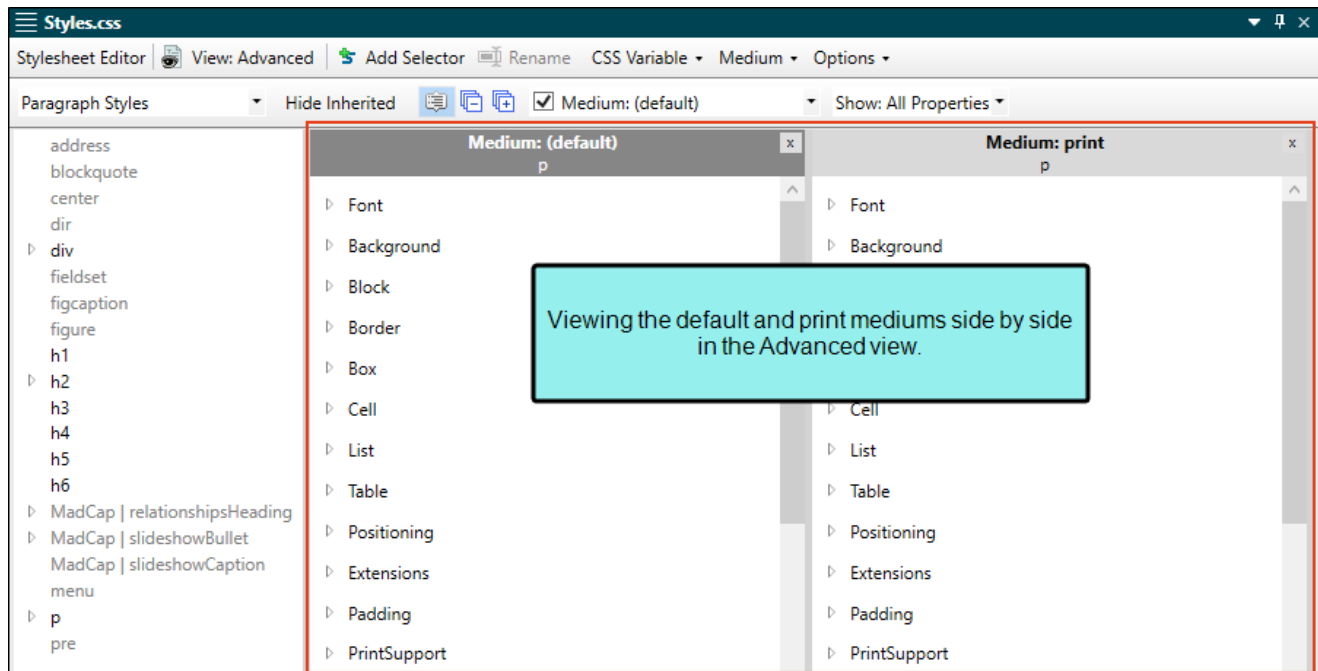
5. Click the check box next to the **Medium: print** item.



In the drop-down, if you click the check box next to medium it opens beside the one already displayed in the editor. If you click the name of the medium, it opens and the other closes. If multiple mediums are open, the succeeding medium always opens next to the others.

# How to View Mediums Side by Side

Multiple mediums can be open at the same time in the Advanced view of the Stylesheet Editor. The medium you give focus to becomes editable.

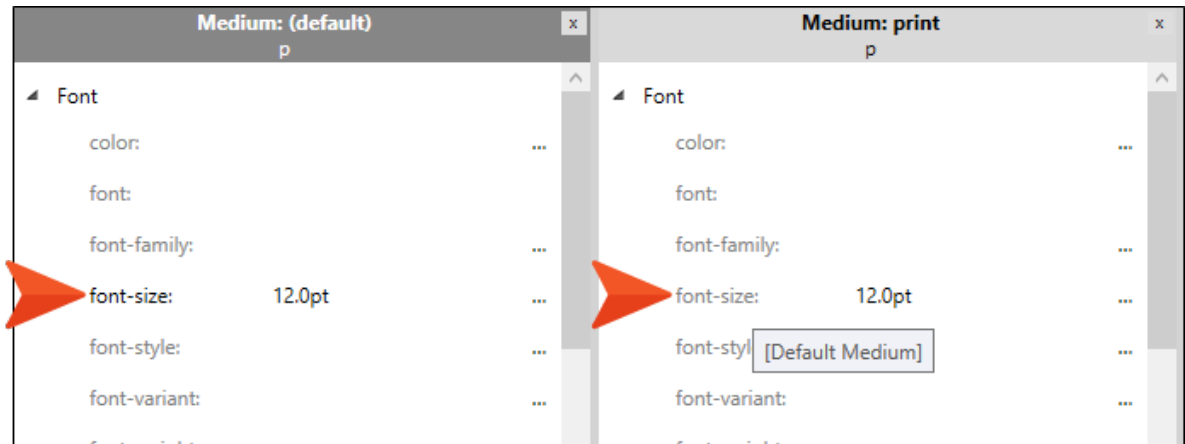



Mediums inherit styles from the “default” medium unless you specifically change the other medium styles to something else.

1. From the **Styles** drop-down, select **Paragraph Styles**.
2. In the left pane tree structure, select the **p** style.
3. In the local toolbar, select from the **Show** drop-down, **Show: All Properties**.

4. In the Medium: (default) window pane, expand the **Font** property group.

While viewing the two mediums side by side, you can see the default medium font-size label is a darker text, and the print medium font-size label is shown in light gray text. The light gray text indicates that the style is inherited from somewhere else. Furthermore, if you hover your cursor over the font-size property in the print medium, a pop-up displays showing what medium the style is coming from.



 **NOTE** Notice how the Medium: print window pane is synchronized with the active default window pane. For example, the font property group for the print medium expanded when you expanded it in the default medium window pane. Because of this, you can easily compare styles for different outputs.

**CHAPTER 4**

---

# Creating and Editing Mediums

Mediums are another way to single-source content (or at least stylesheets) in Flare Desktop. They are convenient to use if you just have a few tweaks from one output to the next.

When contemplating using a new medium, ask yourself how much of the content design will be the same for the new output? If the majority of your design will be the same, then use mediums. If the majority of your design will be different, it might be better to use a new stylesheet.

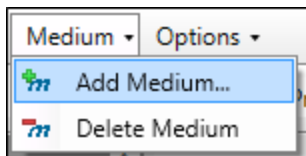
**This chapter discusses the following:**


- How to Create a Medium ..... 14
- How to Edit a Medium ..... 16
- (Optional) How to View Mediums in the Text Editor ..... 19

# I How to Create a Medium

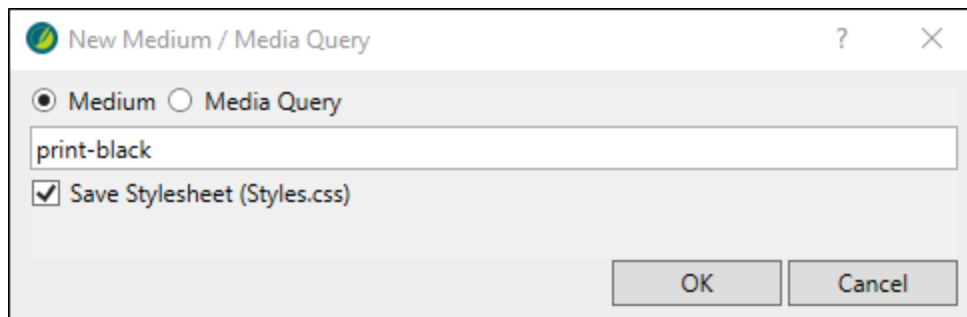
Let's create an alternate medium for print, where the heading styles and cross-references show in black rather than in color. (By default, the Austin template displays the h1 and cross-reference styles in orange.) These changes are relatively minor, so it makes sense to use a new medium where most of the styles from the default stylesheet will remain the same.

1. From the local toolbar of the Stylesheet Editor, click the **Medium** drop-down, and select **Add Medium**.

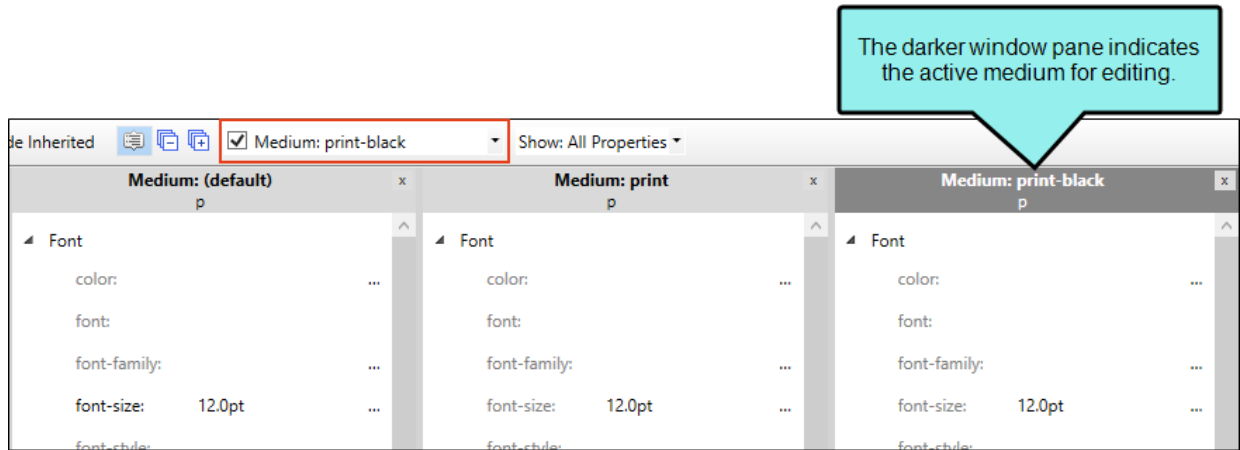



 **NOTE** You might notice two Medium drop-downs in the Stylesheet Editor. One focuses on adding or deleting new mediums. The other lists mediums to select, and also provides a way to add a medium at the bottom of the list. It is up to you on how you choose to add a new medium since both options take you to the New Medium / Media Query dialog.

2. From the New Medium / Media Query dialog, type `print-black`. Click **OK**.



The new medium is added, and displays as the active medium next to the default and print mediums.

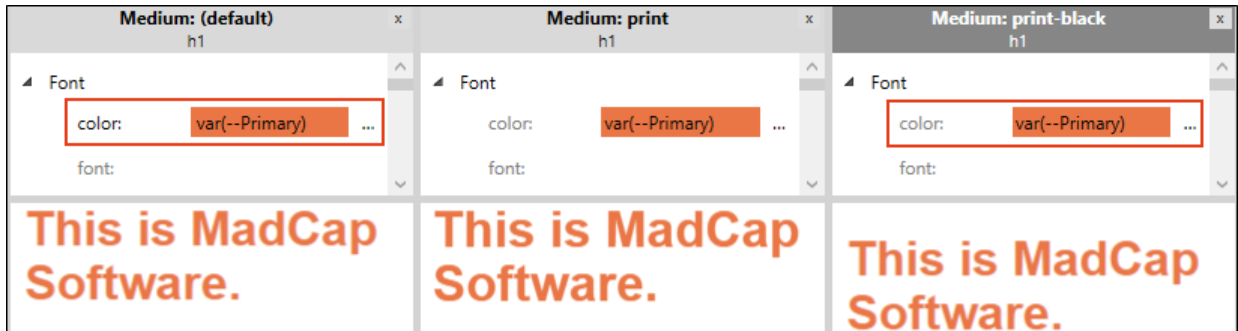


 **NOTE** If you are working the Styles tutorials in a sequential order without creating a new project each time, keep in mind that styles have been changed in the Styles.css file. The images may not match for the Styles.css primary stylesheet in this tutorial.

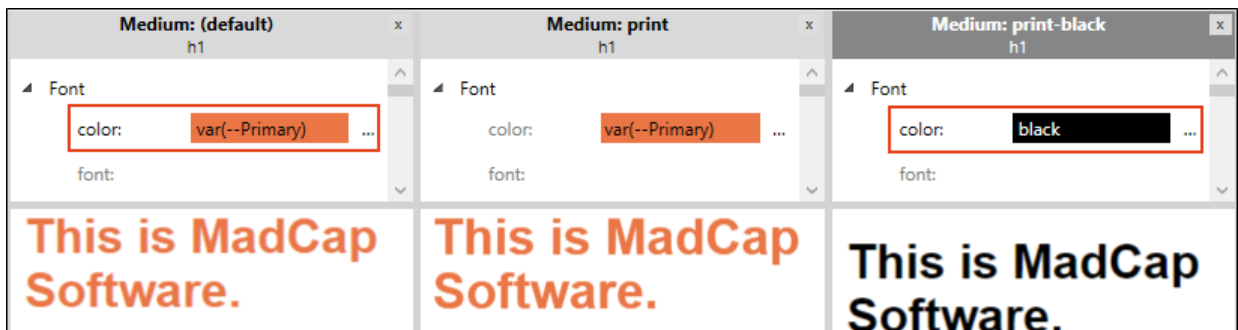
# How to Edit a Medium


Let's edit the h1 and MadCap|xref styles in our new medium.


1. From the **Styles** drop-down, select **Heading Styles**.
2. In the left pane tree structure, select the **h1** style.
3. In the Medium: print-black window pane, expand the **Font** group (if it is not already expanded), and view the **color** property. You can see that the default medium font color has been defined with a CSS variable, where the branding color is orange.





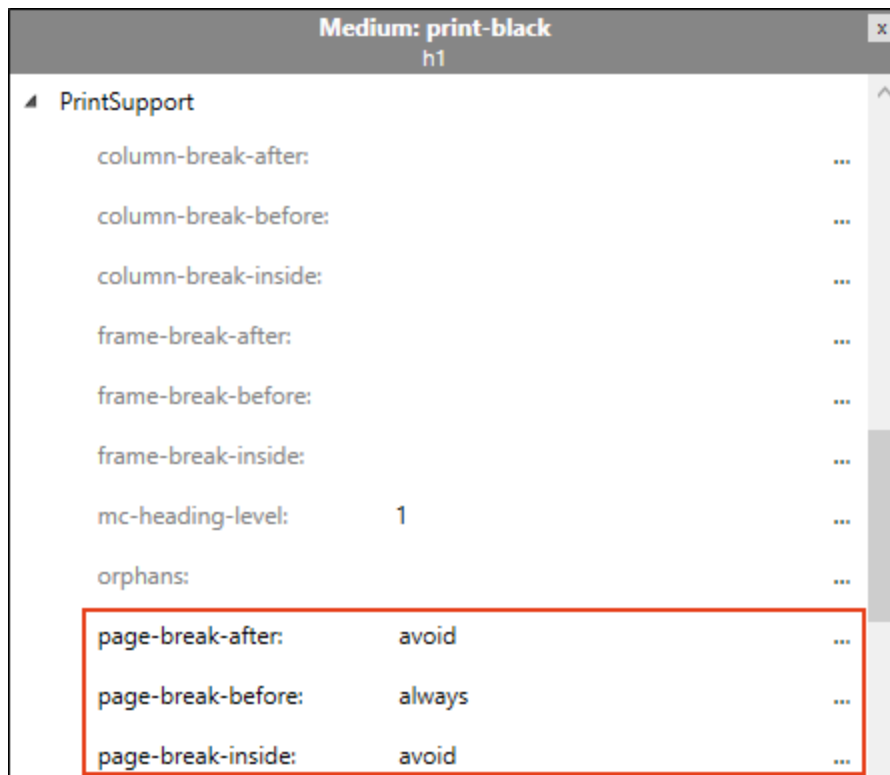
4. Next to the **color** property, type `black`, and press **ENTER**. Notice the color property in the print-black medium is no longer inheriting its style from the default medium.



- From the list of style properties, expand the **PrintSupport** group, and next to **page-break-after**, click .

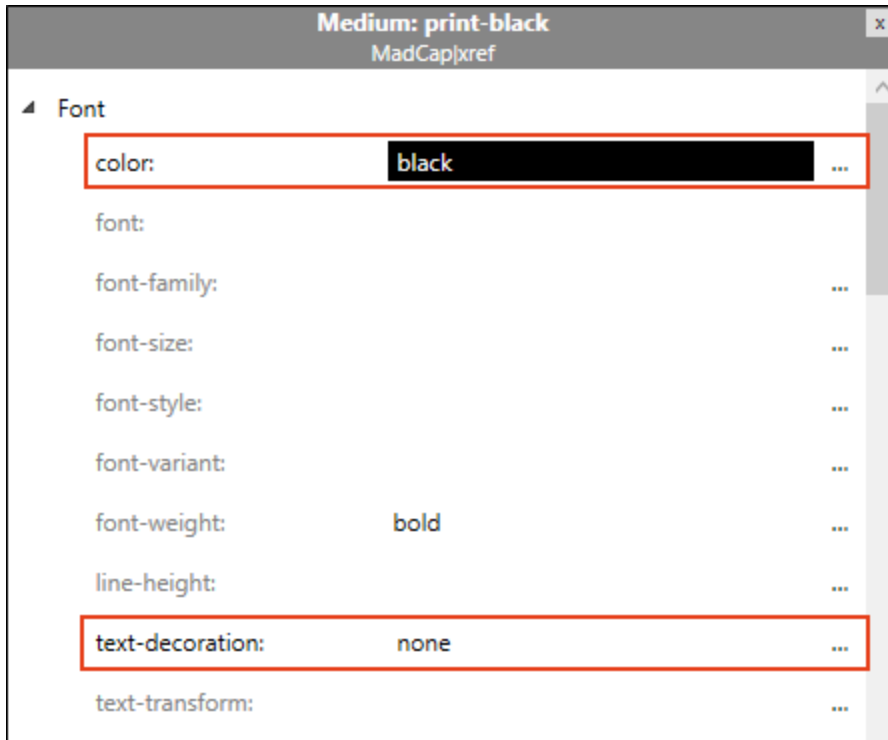
 **NOTE** Depending on your workspace layout, you might have to adjust the print-black window pane to see the style property entry in its entirety.

- From the pop-up window, set the value to **avoid**.
- Next to **page-break-before**, click , and set the value to **always**.
- Next to **page-break-inside**, click , and set the value to **avoid**.



- From the **Styles** drop-down, select **Link Styles**.
- In the left pane tree structure, select the **MadCap|xref** style.
- In the Medium: print-black window pane, expand the **Font** group (if it is not already expanded).
- Next to the **color** property, type `black`, and press **ENTER**.

13. Next to the **text-decoration** property, click , and select **none**. Click **OK**.



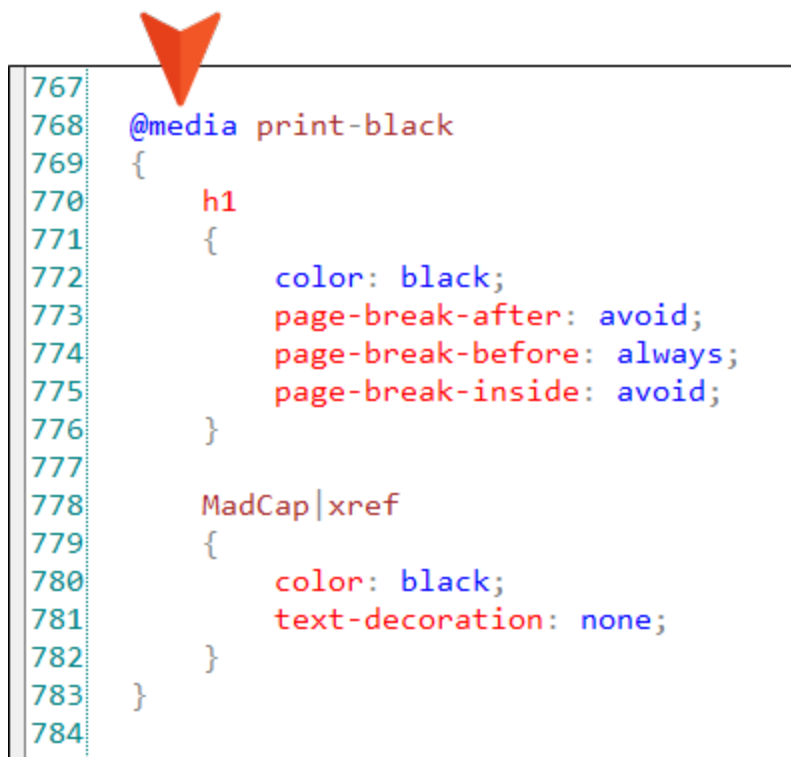
14. Click  to save your work.

✓ **TIP** Since you can potentially have multiple mediums displaying in the Advanced view of the Stylesheet Editor, it is a good idea to double-check which medium window pane is active. Always verify which one you are about to edit; you don't want to accidentally change the wrong one.

# I (Optional) How to View Mediums in the Text Editor

Although this is not a necessary task for using mediums, let's see how a medium looks in CSS code in the Text Editor.

1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > Stylesheets**, and right-click the **Styles.css** file.
2. From the context menu, select **Open with**, and then select **Internal Text Editor**. All the styles and properties from the Stylesheet Editor are displayed to the right in the Text Editor.
3. In the Text Editor, all the default styles are in the upper region of the editor. As you scroll down to roughly line 587, you'll see a line that starts with `@media`. This means the style is either a medium or a media query. The styles underneath the media entry are indented.
4. Continue to scroll down to the end of the file (roughly line 768). You will see the `@media print-black` medium displays the styles you specifically set.



```
767
768 @media print-black
769 {
770     h1
771     {
772         color: black;
773         page-break-after: avoid;
774         page-break-before: always;
775         page-break-inside: avoid;
776     }
777
778     MadCap|xref
779     {
780         color: black;
781         text-decoration: none;
782     }
783 }
784
```

# Working With Mediums in a Topic

The XML Editor can display content in different layout modes, and the mediums are tied to those modes. By default, the XML Editor is set to display in Layout (Web) mode.

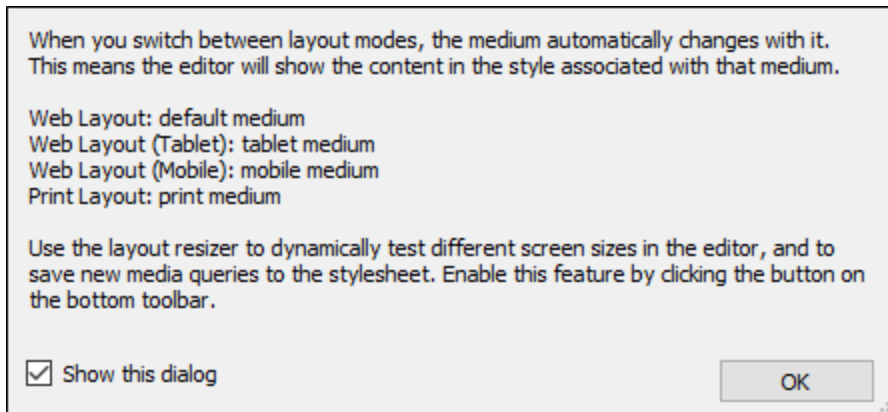
**This chapter discusses the following:**

Using Mediums in a Topic .....	21
Using Mediums With Table Stylesheets .....	24

# Using Mediums in a Topic


Let's set the editor to present content as it would show in print.

1. Open the **Famous-Austin-Folks.htm** file for a simple edit in print layout mode.
2. In the local toolbar, from the **Layout** drop-down, select **Print Layout**.
3. A pop-up opens with a message about switching layout modes. Read it and click **OK**.

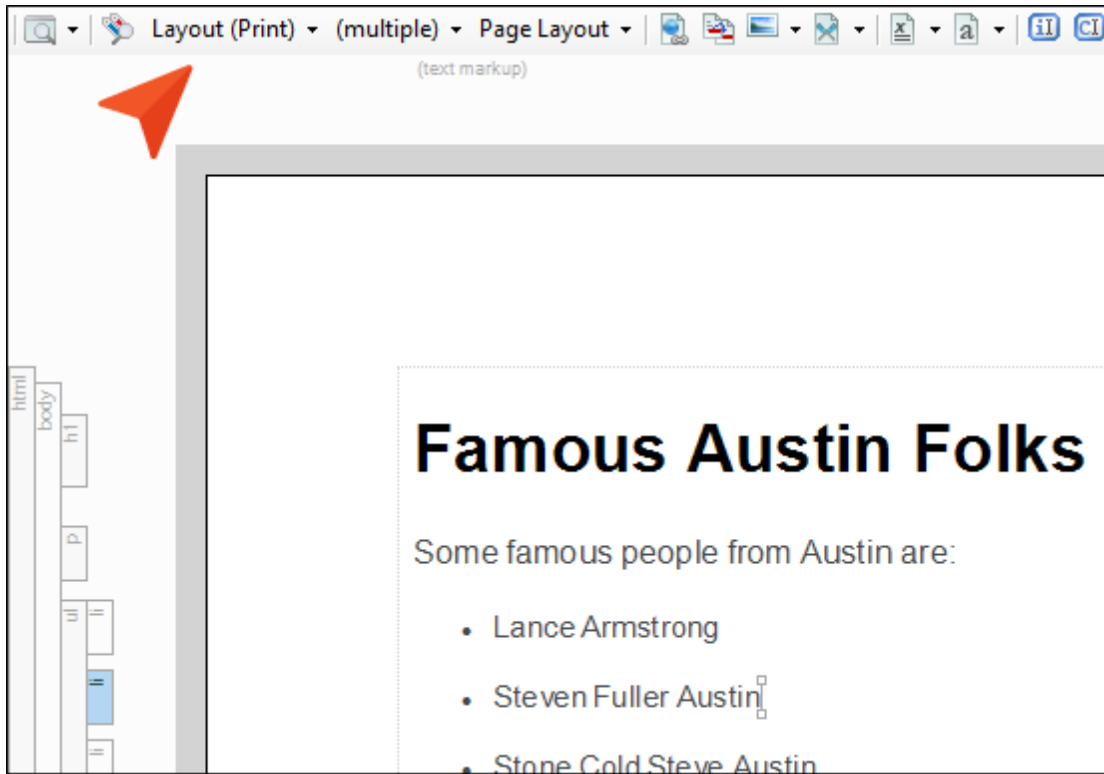


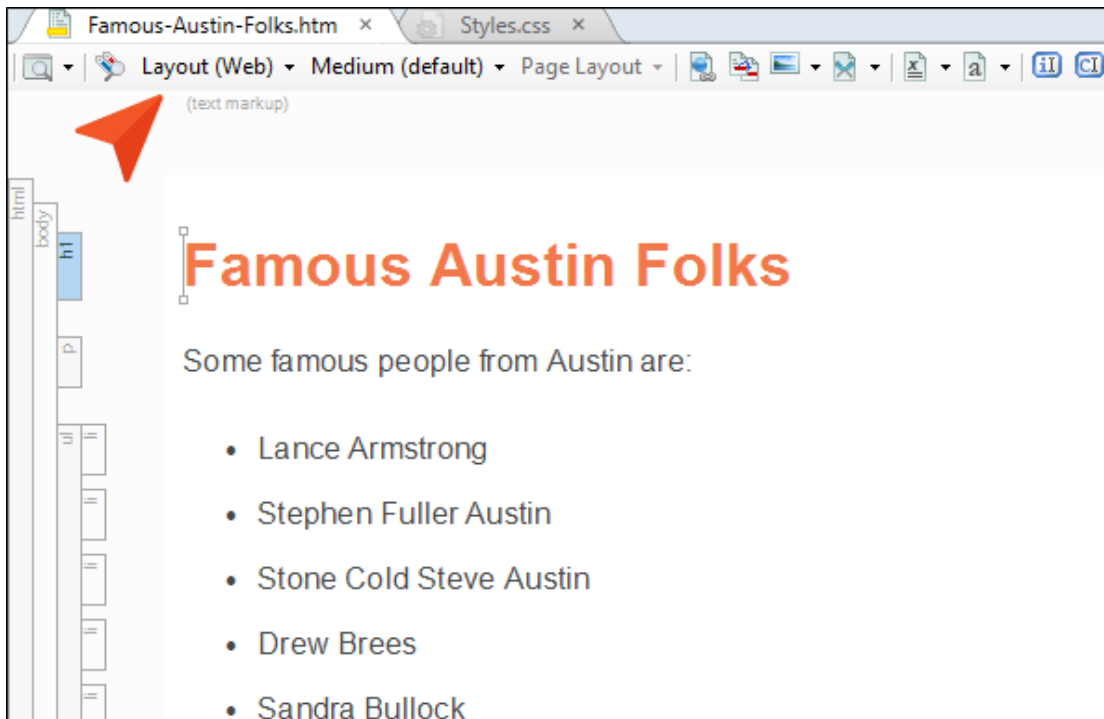
4. In the local toolbar, from the **Medium** drop-down, select **print-black**. Notice that (multiple) displays to indicate multiple styles are applicable (i.e., print and print-black).

You can work in a topic with your preferred or current layout, and with your specific medium styles set. This enables you to see what content will look like before building the output.


5. Create an empty list item after "Lance Armstrong," and type `Stephen Fuller Austin`.
6. Click  to save your work.

7. (Optional) If you are curious and want to go back and forth between the Layout (Web) and Layout (Print) modes, your edits are applicable to both layouts. But, the web layout will be associated with the online default medium.





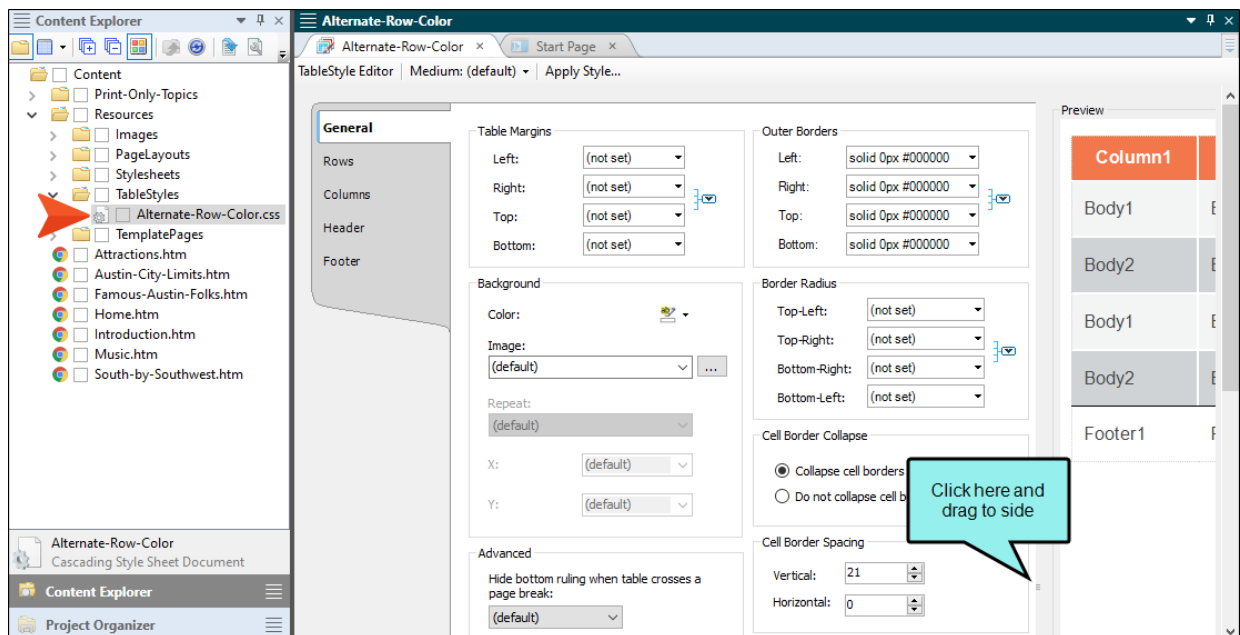
8. If you switched back to the web layout mode, make sure the layout mode is set to print layout and that the medium is print-black for the following steps.

 **NOTE** If you are working the Styles tutorials in a sequential order without creating a new project each time, keep in mind that styles have been changed in the Styles.css file. The images may not match for the Styles.css primary stylesheet in this tutorial.

# Using Mediums With Table Stylesheets

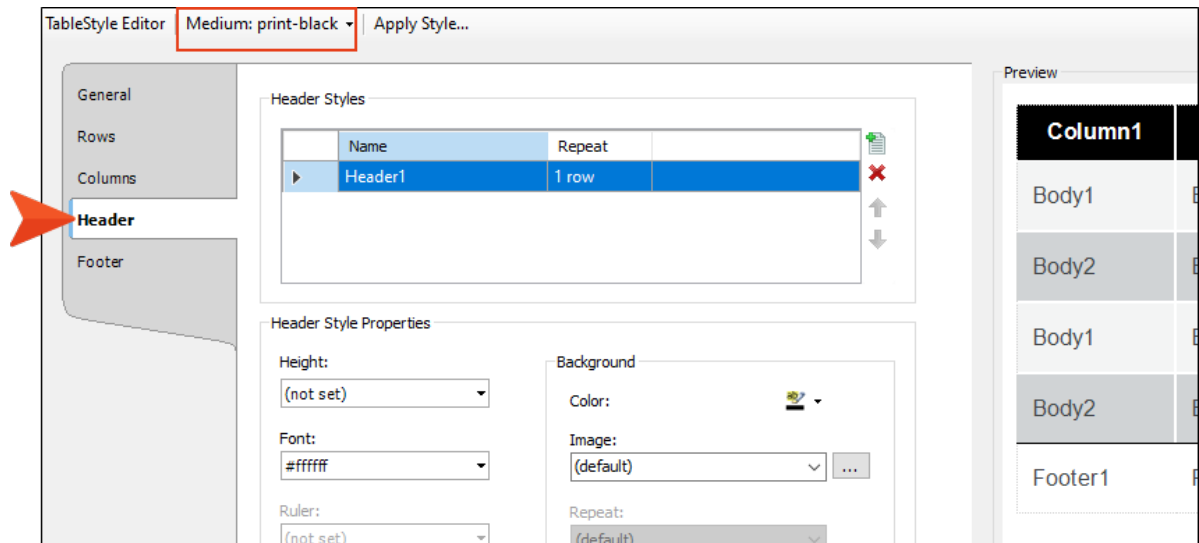
Up to this point we've been using mediums with regular stylesheets. Mediums can also be used with table stylesheets. Let's add a table and change its look so it has a black header row, and specify this table design with the print-black medium. For more information see the Help system.


1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > Table Styles**, and double-click **Alternate-Row-Color.css**. The Table Style Editor opens to the right.
2. If necessary, click the divider between the fields and the preview, and drag it to the side to view both.

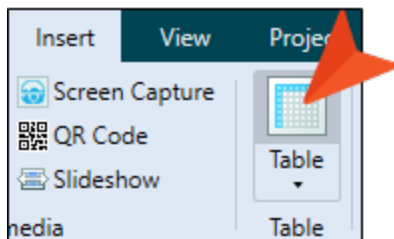


3. In the local toolbar, click the **Medium** drop-down, and select **Medium: print-black**.
4. In the editor, select the **Header** tab.

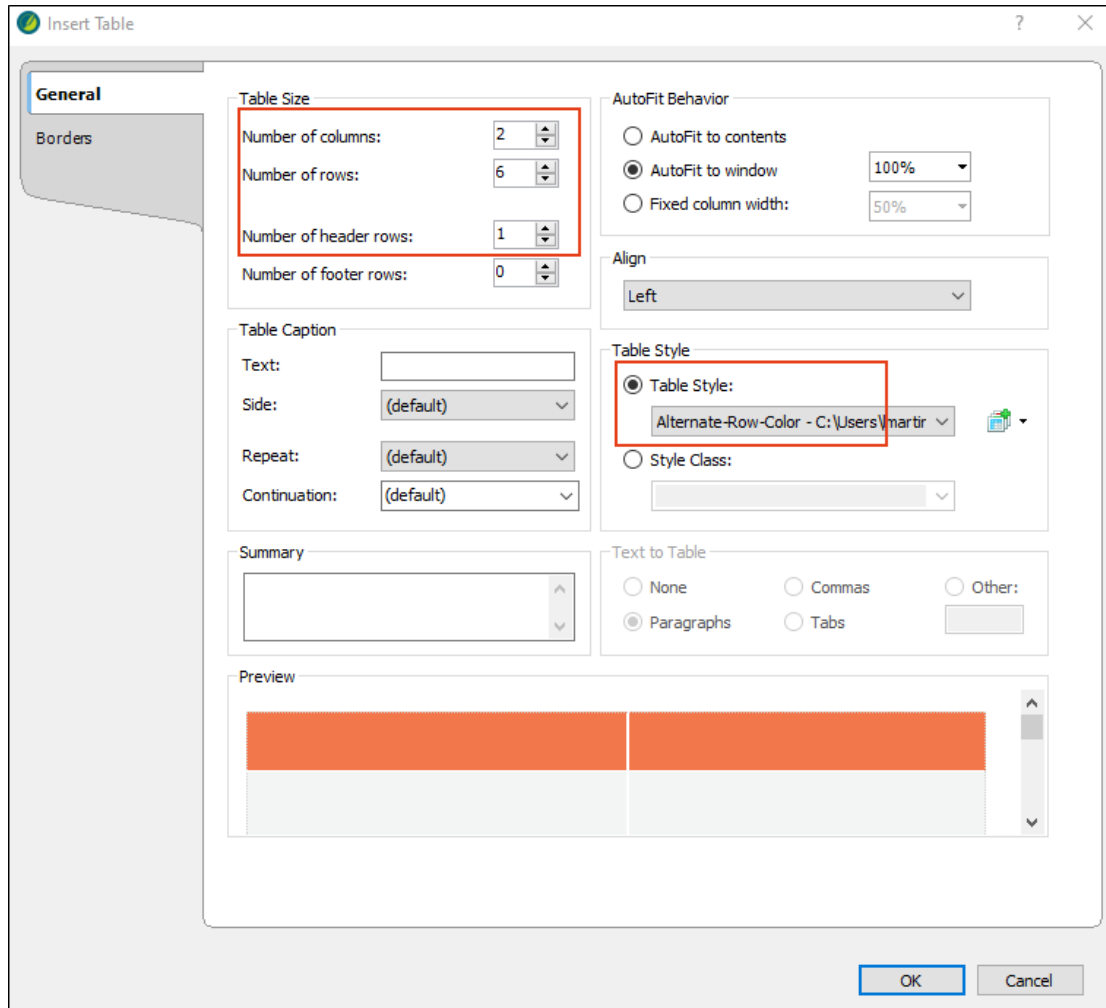
5. In the **Header Style Properties** group, change the background color to black.



6. Click  to save your work.
7. Open the **Music.htm** file.
8. After the first paragraph, create an empty paragraph, and place your cursor there.
9. From the **Insert** ribbon, click the **Table** button. The Insert Table dialog opens.

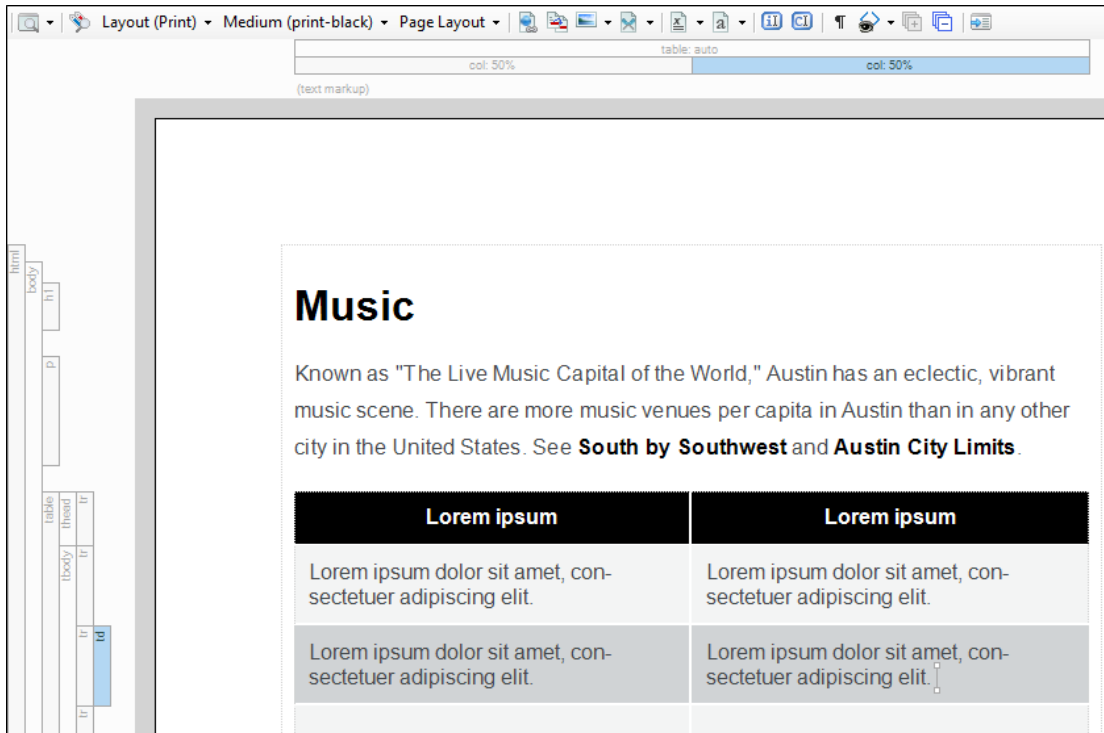



10. Set the fields in the dialog as follows, and then click **OK**.



**NOTE** In the Insert Table dialog, you selected the Alternate-Row-Color.css table stylesheet. You might have noticed the Preview section shows it as if it were the online default medium. Since your topic is already set to display the print-black medium, the table will insert with the styles set for that medium.

- Click in the table and type anything in the header and body rows. The table design corresponds to the specified print-black medium.



 **NOTE** An alternate way to apply a table style is through the table structure bar in the XML Editor. After right-clicking the **table** bar, you can select **Table Style**, and then the desired table stylesheet.

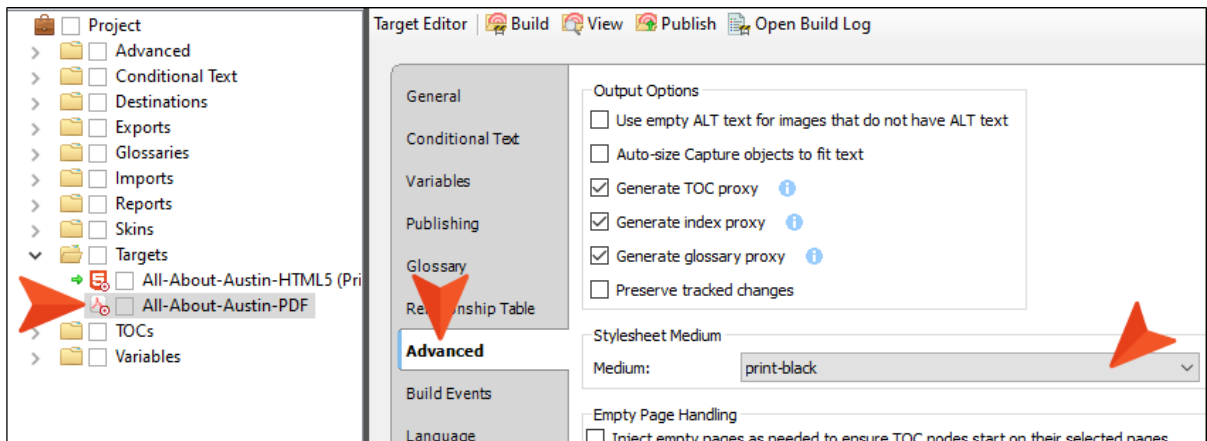
- Click  to save your work.


# Setting Mediums in the Target Editor

Since Flare Desktop caters to online authoring first, the default medium is automatically set for online outputs. The other supplied medium is a factory “print” medium, which is automatically set for print outputs. You need to explicitly tell Flare Desktop which medium you want a particular target to use, but only if you intend to use a medium other than the defaults provided.

# I How to Set a Medium in the Target Editor

1. From the Project Organizer, expand **Targets**, and double-click **All-About-Austin-PDF**.
2. In the Target Editor, select the **Advanced** tab.
3. From the **Medium** field, select **print-black**. This associates the medium with the target.

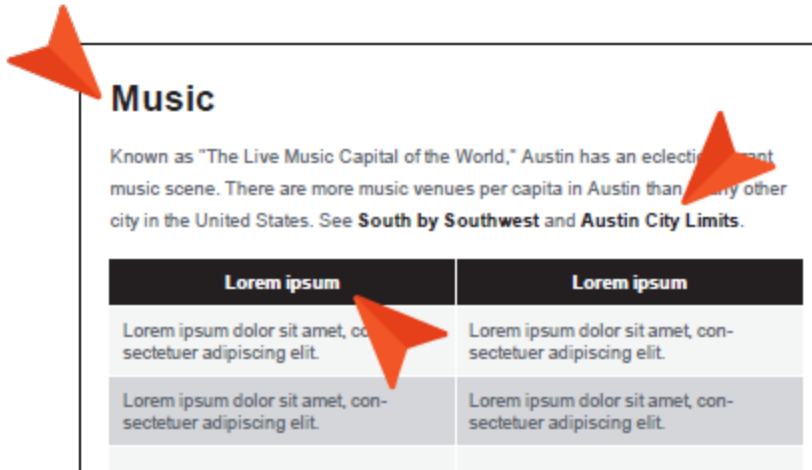


4. Click  to save your work.
5. Select the **Project** ribbon. Then from the **Build Primary** drop-down, select **Build All-About-Austin-PDF**.

The Builds window pane opens at the bottom of the Flare Desktop interface, and the target begins to generate.

When the build finishes successfully, the Build Progress cell turns dark green.

6. Double-click the row to open the PDF output. Notice the h1 elements throughout the project, the xref links, and table header in the Music topic are black instead of in a color.



7. Close the PDF.
8. From the **Window** ribbon, select **Close All Documents**.

## APPENDIX

---

# PDFs

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

## I 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*

*Styles Tutorials*

*Tables Tutorial*

*Word Import Tutorial*

# | Cheat Sheets

*Context-Sensitive Help Cheat Sheet*

*Folders and Files Cheat Sheet*

*Learning & Development Cheat Sheet*

*Lists Cheat Sheet*

*Micro Content Cheat Sheet*

*Print-Based Output Cheat Sheet*

*Search Cheat Sheet*

*Shortcuts Cheat Sheet*

*Structure Bars Cheat Sheet*

*Styles Cheat Sheet*

# I User Guides

*Accessibility Guide*

*Analysis and Reports Guide*

*Architecture Guide*

*Autonumbers Guide*

*Branding Guide*

*Condition Tags Guide*

*Context-Sensitive Help Guide*

*Eclipse Help Guide*

*eLearning Guide*

*Flare Online Integration  
Guide*

*Getting Started Guide*

*Global Project Linking Guide*

*HTML5 Guide*

*Images Guide*

*Import Guide*

*Indexing Guide*

*Key Features Guide*

*Lists Guide*

*Meta Tags Guide*

*Micro Content Guide*

*Navigation Links Guide*

*Plug-In API Guide*

*Print-Based Output Guide*

*Project Creation Guide*

*QR Codes Guide*

*Reviews & Contributions With  
Contributor Guide*

*Scripting Guide*

*Search Guide*

*SharePoint Guide*

*Skins Guide*

*Snippets Guide*

*Source Control Guide: Git*

*Source Control Guide:  
Perforce Helix Core*

*Source Control Guide:  
Subversion*

*Source Control Guide: Team  
Foundation Server*

*Styles Guide*

*Tables Guide*

*Tables of Contents Guide*

*Targets Guide*

*Template Pages Guide*

*Templates Guide*

*Topics Guide*

*Touring the Workspace Guide*

*Transition From FrameMaker  
Guide*

*Translation and Localization  
Guide*

*Variables Guide*

*Videos Guide*

*What's New Guide*