More than one way to skin a Flex app…

The Practical Design Approach:
Using CSS and CS3 Design Tools
to tweak those stale skins

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Who will benefit from this session?

A. Developers who will be skinning their own apps
B. Developers who have to work with designers to make their designs work
C. Designers who are new to Flex 3
D. Anyone working in Flex 3 who wants to make attractive applications and still save time
E. YOU!

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What is Practical Design?

A. Opportunity
B. Shortcut
C. Differentiator
D. Method
E. Gratuitous plug for Friday's session: Design for Developers!

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What has this got to do with skinning Flex??

A. The advent of the RIA (Flex) has created a new "digital divide":
  - Those who know Flex
  - Those who know Design
B. So, what's the big deal about Practical Design?
  - Keep it Simple!
C. Differentiate yourself by knowing how to work with your clients, co-workers and conserve your time and energy

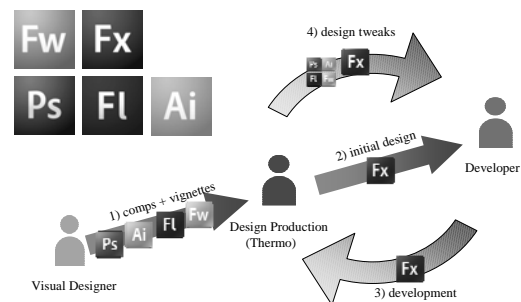4   June 18 - 21, 2008   www.cfunited.com

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The primrose path…

A. Adobe has made it easy for developers and designers to work together
B. Flex extensions for CS3:
  - Fireworks
  - Photoshop
  - Illustrator
  - Flash

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Designer > Developer Workflow

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Slide 7

Common themes

A. "The" Template
B. Symbols
C. Nine slice scaling
D. Registration
E. Extensions for CS3

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Now what?

A. Starting with a design (The GOAL!)
- Discuss your needs with your client!
- Design a comp or prototype for your client to review!
- Apply your comp to your symbols or layers (depending upon your application of choice)
B. Starting with a Flex application (Not the "Practical" Way)
- Determine if you should be using CSS instead of skinning
- Import your skins
- Tweak your skins (They're gonna need it!)
C. Jump right in. Gimme some skin!

Slide 9

Modifying the Fireworks Template

Slide 10
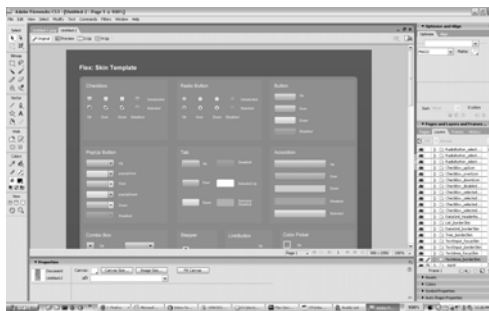
Modifying the Photoshop Template

Slide 11

Modifying the Illustrator Template

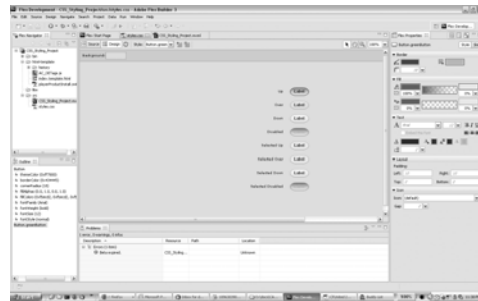## Slide 12
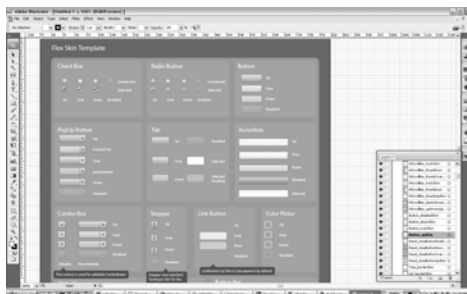
Modifying the Flash Template
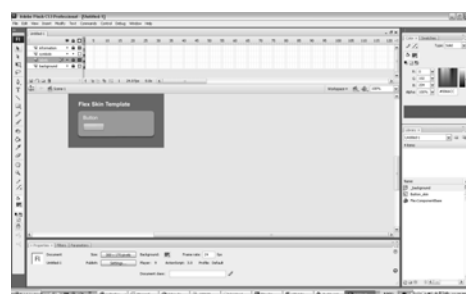
Bringing it all together

A. Importing your new styles into Flex Builder
B. Modifying the application styles for a quick fix
C. Applying multiple styles to one app

Editing Styles in Flex Builder 3

Tips for Dashboards and Reports

A. Take advantage of the wisdom of years. Keep it simple...then drill down!
B. Know your information architecture
C. Tips for using visual themes to reflect your information architecture

Go forth and multiply your skins

A. Work through design phase with your client
B. Know your architecture
C. Use the right tool for your skin
D. Use styles when appropriate
E. Keep your application screens clean
F. Check out Design for Developers for more great tips on how to take your interfaces to the next level!

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