

# Adobe® Flash® Catalyst® CS5.5

Create expressive interfaces and interactive content without writing code



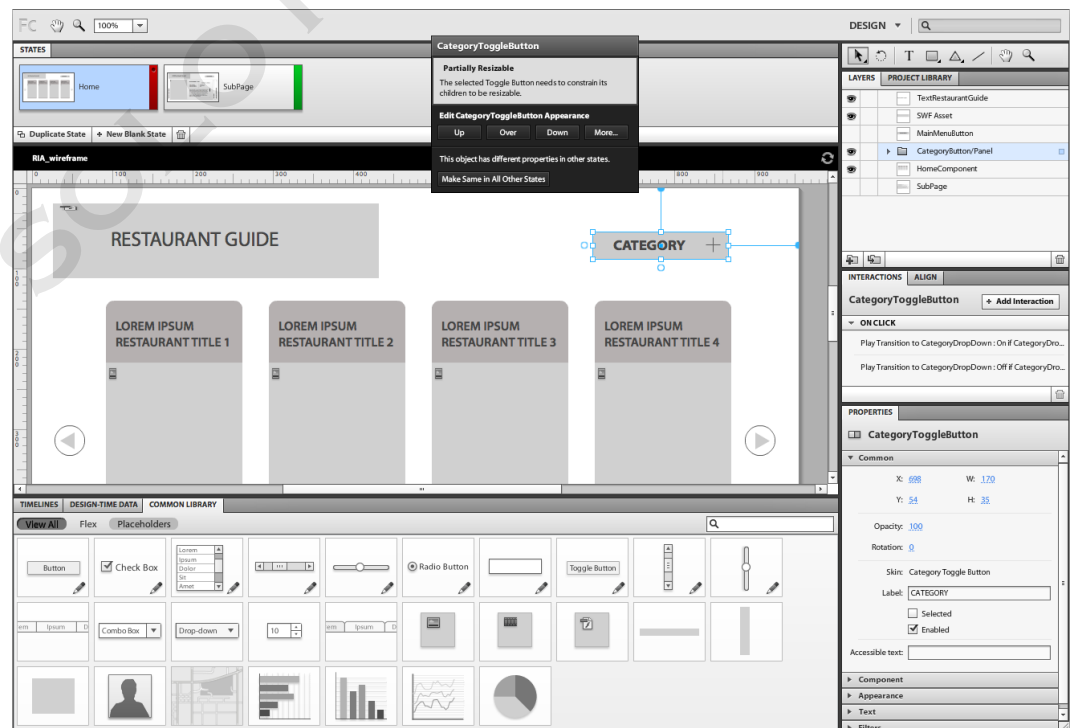
Adobe Flash Catalyst CS5.5 is also available as a component of:

- Adobe Creative Suite® 5.5 Design Premium
- Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Web Premium
- Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Production Premium
- Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Master Collection

Use a new efficient workflow to collaborate intelligently and roundtrip files with developers who use Adobe Flash Builder™ 4.5 software. Rapidly prototype user interfaces for resizable Flex® based websites and applications with new components. Craft more precise and expressive transitions and effects, and efficiently design developer-built custom components.

Flash Catalyst CS5.5 software enables designers to expand their skillset and design user interfaces and interactive components for Flex based websites and applications without writing code. Designers can quickly create functional prototypes using new components and interactions, which can then be sent to clients for approval. These prototypes are based on the open-source Adobe Flex framework, and can be handed off directly to a developer for coding in Adobe Flash Builder 4.5. New in Flash Catalyst CS5.5, developers can send projects back to designers, who can then continue to tweak the design and to skin components using artwork from Adobe Illustrator®, Photoshop®, or Fireworks® software. This collaborative workflow allows designers and developers to work in parallel.

Built for designers, Flash Catalyst combines an intuitive user interface and toolset—similar to those in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Fireworks—with the expressiveness, consistency, and reach of the Adobe Flash Platform.



An intuitive user interface allows you to easily set constraints—settings that determine how your content will adjust when viewed on screens of different sizes—for the entire artboard or individual components.

**Top new features**

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With Adobe Flash Catalyst CS5.5, you can:

**Speed the design and development process.** Build functional, interactive user interface designs with a collection of Spark Flex components and new placeholder components. Collaborate intelligently and roundtrip project files with developers who use Adobe Flash Builder 4.5. Open a Flex project that was created or previously edited by your developer partner directly in Flash Catalyst, where you can skin components using artwork from Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and Fireworks.

**Approach interaction design without writing code.** Transform static Photoshop, Illustrator, or Fireworks designs into fully interactive projects without requiring any development or coding skills. Use a new Align panel, an enhanced Timelines panel, and a more powerful Interactions panel to quickly and easily prototype user interface designs for Flex based websites and applications. With an easy-to-use and approachable interface, Flash Catalyst enables designers to expand their skill set to include interactive projects.

**Leverage the power of the Adobe Flash Platform.** Rapidly create expressive interfaces and interactive content to your exacting design standards. Deliver your creative vision using the reach and consistency of the Adobe Flash Platform. Easily integrate video, sound effects, and dynamic media, and get the look you want quickly and precisely with layout tools and panels. Bring designs created in Flash Catalyst into Flash Professional for further refinement and development. Export projects for the web as finished SWF files or directly to a customer as Adobe AIR® projects that can run across platforms as desktop applications.

## Who uses Flash Catalyst?

**Interaction designers** use Flash Catalyst to transform wireframes and visual designs from Photoshop, Illustrator, or Fireworks into interactive prototypes without writing code. With the ability to create and edit smooth animated transitions and easily integrate video, sound effects, and dynamic media, they create rich, visual prototypes that can be taken directly into development.

**Web designers** use Flash Catalyst to transform wireframes and visual designs from Photoshop, Illustrator, or Fireworks into interactive content for the web without writing code. Using mock data to define and preview the look and behavior of dynamic data without needing a database, they create web application interfaces that populate with real-time information at runtime.

**Graphic designers** use Flash Catalyst to transform static Photoshop or Illustrator designs into interactive projects without writing code. Using intuitive menu-driven functions to define interactions and to create components like buttons and scroll bars, they create expressive interactive elements for applications and websites, such as online portfolios and widgets.

**Web application developers** use Flash Catalyst to work closely with designers and define custom components, interactions, and behaviors. With the ability to roundtrip project files with Adobe Flash Builder 4.5, they develop rich Internet applications that can be delivered virtually anywhere, using SWF and Adobe AIR publishing options.

**Video editors** use Flash Catalyst to integrate video content from Adobe Premiere® Pro and After Effects® software into fully interactive projects without writing code. Using intuitive menu-driven functions to incorporate video and audio content and custom playback controls, they assemble compelling stories, create video presentations, and pitch concepts.

## Top new features of Adobe Flash Catalyst CS5.5

### Full designer-developer workflow

Flash Catalyst CS5 and Flash Builder 4 enabled a workflow that allowed designers to provide native Flex Project (FXP) files to developers, who could then open and continue to work with those files. Now, Flash Catalyst CS5.5 and Flash Builder 4.5 expand on this concept and deliver a powerful new workflow that lets designers and developers collaborate on the same project.



## Enhanced timelines and animations

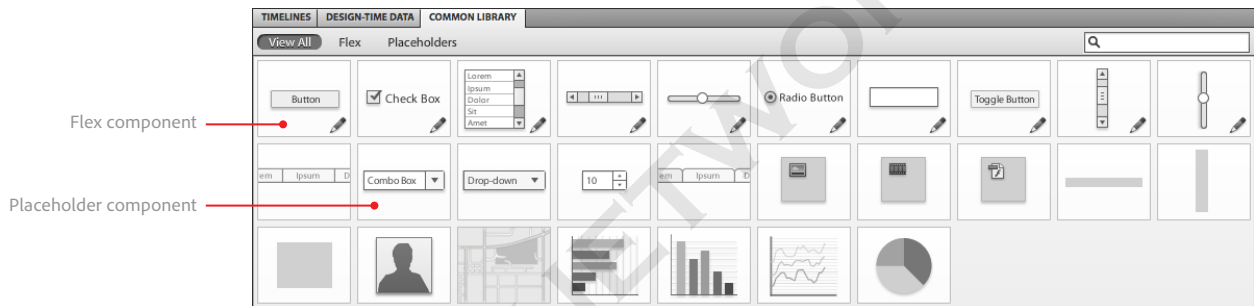
Flash Catalyst CS5.5 makes it easier to navigate through longer timeline transitions, with a new horizontal scroll bar across the bottom of the Timelines panel. In addition, Flash Catalyst CS5.5 takes advantage of more efficient code enhancements. Transitions that are applied in the Timelines panel have been rewritten to use the <animate> tag, making for more efficient and better performing code.

## Common Library panel

The Wireframe Components panel in Flash Catalyst CS5 has been replaced with a new Common Library panel in Flash Catalyst CS5.5, sporting larger and more descriptive icons. Appearing in a horizontal format, the panel contains a collection of new components that fall into two categories:

- **Flex components.** Flex Spark components, written to support Adobe Flex 4.5, can be skinned and used directly by developers when projects are opened in Flash Builder 4.5. Flex components are identified with pencil icons in the Common Library panel.
- **Placeholder components.** Unlike Flex components, placeholder components are not Spark components, and they cannot be skinned in Flash Catalyst. They are intended to be used as mockups or placeholders, which a developer can modify later in Adobe Flash Builder 4.5.

The Common Library panel features a Search field that allows you to quickly find the component you need. In addition, there are filters that allow you to view all components, just Flex components, or just Placeholder components.



The new Common Library panel makes it easy to build wireframes with components.

## Custom skinnable components

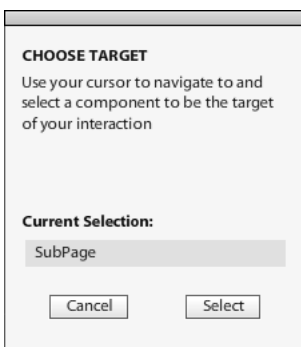
Custom skinnable components are elements that are built by developers in Flash Builder 4.5 and contain customized parts that are defined and controlled by the developer. These custom components can be skinned by a designer in Flash Catalyst CS5.5.

When a custom skinnable component is imported into Flash Catalyst CS5.5, you can choose **Modify > Convert Artwork To Component > Skinnable Component**. This brings up the Select Skinnable Component dialog box, which allows you to choose from a list of all of the components available in the project. The dialog box also features an **Import From File** button that allows you to quickly import additional component definitions from a Flex Project Library (FXPL) file.

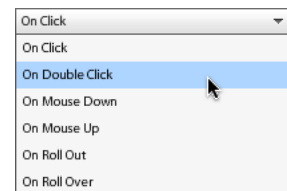
## Improved interactions

With Flash Catalyst CS5, you could specify a transition to a state at the application level when defining an interaction, but you could not specify a transition to a state within other components. In Flash Catalyst CS5.5, you can visually target components directly from the artboard, making it possible to easily define transitions to other component states.

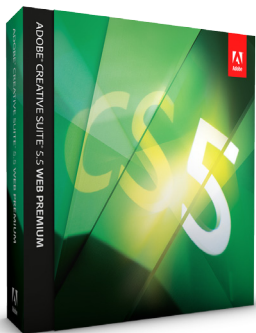
A new target mode is now available when you define an interaction, which allows you to navigate and visually select another component or object on the artboard. You can then choose to target a state from the selected component.



When defining interactions, you can choose a target visually, directly from the artboard.



Flash Catalyst CS5.5 offers a new **On Double Click** interaction for extended functionality.



**Achieve extraordinary web design**  
Explore the wider world of web design and development with Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Web Premium.

Get a more comprehensive toolset at an appealing price. In addition to Adobe Flash Catalyst, Creative Suite 5.5 Web Premium offers the latest versions of Adobe Dreamweaver®, Flash Professional, Flash Builder Premium Edition, Photoshop Extended, Illustrator, Acrobat® Pro, Fireworks®, and Contribute® software, so that you can:

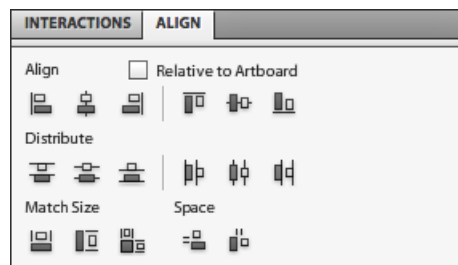
- **View website designs as they would appear across screens of different sizes and resolutions.** A single, easy-to-use panel in Dreamweaver CS5.5 handles custom media queries and efficiently manages multiple CSS files.
  - **Build rich content for devices with support for the jQuery mobile framework.** Take advantage of mobile templates, contextual code hinting, and the ability to quickly insert objects into your site using Dreamweaver CS5.5.
  - **Reach audiences on the newest platforms and devices.** Use Flash Professional CS5.5 to create content and reach audiences on Flash Player and AIR runtimes, and on Android, iOS, webOS, and Adobe Digital Home devices.
  - **Build standalone applications targeted at multiple platforms.** Use the new mobile support for ActionScript and Flex projects in Adobe Flash Builder 4.5 Premium Edition. Leverage mobile-ready components optimized for performance and touch input.
- For more info, see *Adobe Creative Suite 5.5 Web Premium What's New*.

## User-requested enhancements

Adobe continuously reaches out to both designers and developers in efforts to add useful features. Flash Catalyst CS5.5 adds a number of enhancements requested by users, including the following:

### Align panel

The new Align panel is similar to that found in other Adobe design applications such as Illustrator. It can be found grouped with the Interactions panel and contains align, distribute, distribute spacing, and match size functions. In addition, the panel allows you to align objects to the artboard.



The Align panel makes it easy to quickly square up your wireframes and designs.

### Efficient component naming

When you convert artwork to a component, or when you double-click a wireframe component in order to skin it, that component is added to the Project Library panel. In Flash Catalyst CS5, these components were named automatically (i.e., Button1, Button2, and so on). In Flash Catalyst CS5.5, any time you convert artwork to a component or attempt to skin a wireframe component, you are prompted to name the component. In this way, the components in your library can be quickly understood, making it easier for developers to work with your projects.

### "Replace With" command

Flash Catalyst CS5.5 simplifies the process of mocking up functional wireframes by enabling you to easily replace objects on the artboard. With an object selected, choose **Modify > Replace With** and the **Select Asset** dialog box open, listing all the objects in your project library. This allows you to quickly replace a rectangle with a component, or even replace one kind of component with another.

### Updated color theme

Flash Catalyst CS5.5 features a new theme for wireframe component skins, which uses shades of gray to give you a color-neutral wireframe for your project. This new color theme appears in both the Flex and the Placeholder components.

In addition to the neutral gray color scheme now featured in the components, all drawing tools in Flash Catalyst CS5.5 create shapes that use a matching shades of gray by default. This theme allows you to quickly generate wireframes with a consistent look.

## Still haven't tried Flash Catalyst CS5?

Flash Catalyst CS5 is relatively new, introduced in April 2010, and you may not have had the chance to familiarize yourself with this powerful application. In addition to the new functionality you read about in this document, Flash Catalyst CS5.5 also features:

- **Approachable interaction design.** Create expressive interfaces and interactive content without writing any code. Define behaviors and sophisticated interactions using simple menu-based commands.
- **Roundtrip editing.** Edit artwork directly in Illustrator or Photoshop with full fidelity at any time while preserving important structure and interactions.
- **Video and dynamic media.** Integrate video, sound, and dynamic media into your design as easily as static artwork, and then add interactions to control playback.

## System requirements

### Mac OS

- Intel® processor
- Mac OS X v10.5.8 or v10.6
- 1GB of RAM (2GB recommended)
- 1GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on a volume that uses a case-sensitive file system or on removable flash storage devices)
- 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit video card
- DVD-ROM drive
- Java™ Runtime Environment 1.5 or 1.6
- Broadband Internet connection required for online services and to validate Subscription Edition (if applicable) on an ongoing basis\*

### Windows

- Intel® Pentium® 4 or AMD Athlon® 64 processor
- Microsoft® Windows® XP with Service Pack 2; Windows Vista® Home Premium, Business, Ultimate, or Enterprise with Service Pack 1; or Windows 7
- 1GB of RAM (2GB recommended)
- 1GB of available hard-disk space for installation; additional free space required during installation (cannot install on removable flash storage devices)
- 1024x768 display (1280x800 recommended) with 16-bit video card
- DVD-ROM drive
- Java™ Runtime Environment 1.5 (32 bit) or 1.6
- Broadband Internet connection required for online services and to validate Subscription Edition (if applicable) on an ongoing basis\*

For updates to system requirements, visit [www.adobe.com/go/flashcatalyst\\_systemreqs](http://www.adobe.com/go/flashcatalyst_systemreqs).

- **Smooth animated transitions.** Create and edit animated transitions between pages or states of components. Create engaging experiences with objects that move and smoothly fade in and out.
- **Design-time data.** Design and preview the look and behavior of dynamic data without having to connect to a database.
- **Powerful layout tools.** Get the look you want quickly and precisely with sophisticated layout tools and panels.
- **SWF and Adobe AIR publishing.** Export your project to the web as a finished SWF file for Adobe Flash Player or as an Adobe AIR project that can run outside of the browser.
- **Rapidly prototype user interfaces.** Quickly design wireframes and evolve developer-ready interface concepts using native Spark components and placeholder graphics.

For more information about these features, see *Adobe Flash Catalyst CSS What's New*.

## About Adobe Systems Incorporated

Adobe is the world's leading provider of software solutions to create, manage, and deliver high-impact, reliable digital content. For more information, visit [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

## Expected ship date

Second quarter 2011

## For more information

Product details:

[www.adobe.com/flashcatalyst](http://www.adobe.com/flashcatalyst)



Adobe

Adobe Systems Incorporated  
345 Park Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95110-2704  
USA  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

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