

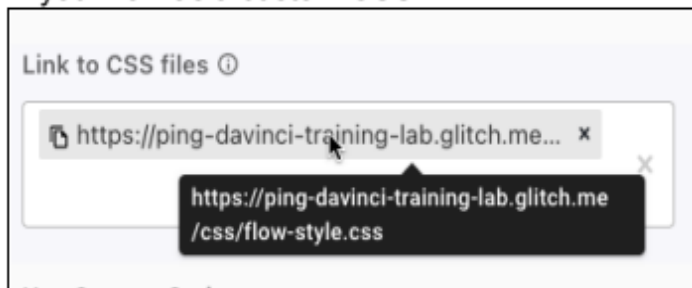
Using CSS in Flows vs Application

Table of Contents

- 1 Objective
- 2 Do the following task items
 - 2.1 Show CSS in web app used and not custom CSS in flow
 - 2.2 Change the look and feel of application

1 Objective

In the previous exercise you invoked your flow through a Web application. This flow leveraged CSS file to define the look and feel of the application. In earlier exercises you had a reference to this file in your flow as a custom CSS:



You then turned off use of custom CSS and had the flow inherit this from the web application.

In this exercise you will review how CSS is leveraged in a flow vs an application and also see the advantage of leaving the presentation layer controlled by your application rather than using CSS in your flow. This is not an absolute rule, but it is generally a good rule to follow and use exceptions with caution.

Once your flow is ready to be embedded within a web application, delegation of the look and feel should be moved to that calling application. This enables the design team to refresh the appearance without modifying the production flow.

Before you continue with your web app integration there are a few CSS **best practices** you should keep in mind.

- 1 CSS definitions that you create directly within your Custom HTML Templates or inline within your HTML, will be rendered in your client application and cannot easily be overwritten.
- 2 For maximum flexibility, it is recommended that only flows intended for execution within DaVinci contain CSS definitions.
- 3 If your flow will be embedded into an external application, no CSS should be declared with your components as updating the look and feel will require flow updates and deployments.
- 4 And lastly, linked flow CSS files are not rendered in the client application.

Tip

All the number instruction steps in each section must be followed to successfully complete this exercise. Any bullet points or images are for example only unless called out in a numbered step.

Tip

You will be using Glitch for editing the code and testing with the your flow changes. Before you start a lab or need to access Glitch, ensure that you are logged into your Glitch account and accessing the current project.

2 Do the following task items

In this exercise you will see how custom CSS in a flow is used (not used) embedded with a web application. You will also see how leaving the styling in your web application makes it easy to adjust it without having to change the flow.

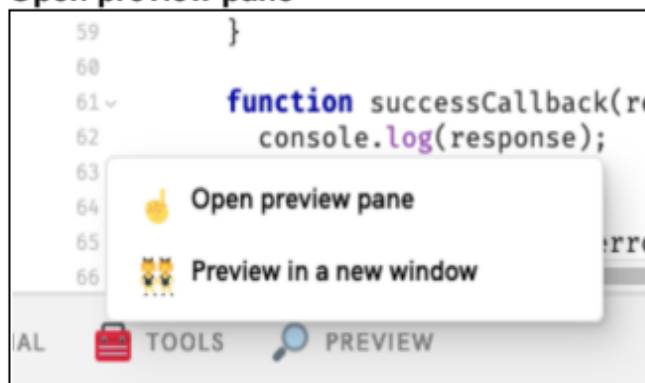
2.1 Show CSS in web app used and not custom CSS in flow

While it's not necessary to disable the CSS from within the settings menu, it is a good practice to do so. Linked flow CSS files are only applied when the flow is being executed from within DaVinci.

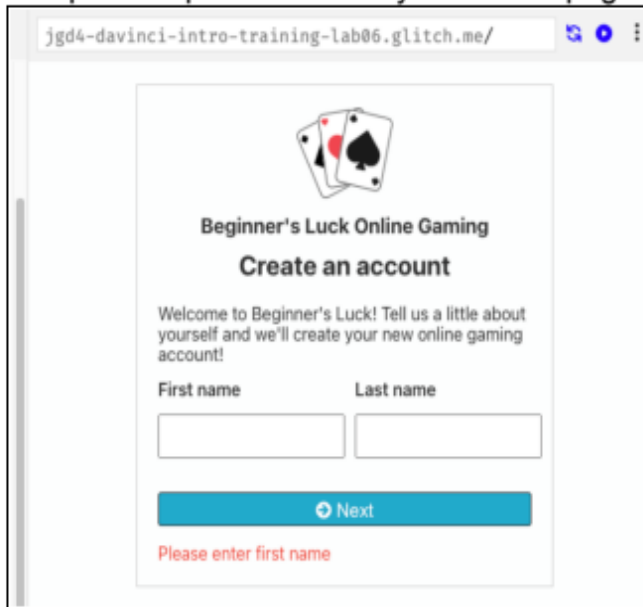
In this section you will see this in action.

- 1 In a browser tab **open** the **DaVinci Admin Console** then:
 - 1.1 Select from **Flows** the **Progressive Registration** flow.
- 2 In another browser tab **open** the **Glitch** application you created in the previous exercise.
 - 2.1 Select the **index.html** file in the **views** folder to open in the Glitch editor.
 - 2.2 If the preview pane to the left of the editor is not open use **Preview** button to open it with

Open preview pane



2.3 The preview pane will show you the first page of the executed flow as follows:



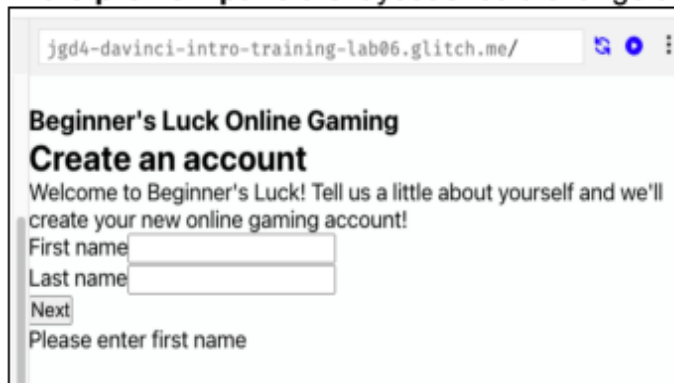
3 The CSS is coming from the application to verify this comment out the style link as shown in the following screenshot:

```
36 <!-- <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/flow-style.css" /> -->
37
38 <!-- <title>Beginner's Luck - Account Registration</title> -->
39
40
```

3.1 Add comments by surrounding the line with `<!-- -->`

- You can quickly comment a line by using:
 - Mac OS use `Command /`
 - Windows OS use `Control /`
- The Glitch editor uses Sublime text shortcuts for the most part.

4 In the **preview pane** the layout should change as shown in following screenshot:



- This may take a second or two for Glitch to catch up and reinvoke the template. You can always force a reload with the circle arrows icon.

5 Select your browser tab with **DaVinci Admin Console** open to your **Progressive Registration** flow.

- In the previous exercise you turned off custom CSS for the flow, so what happens if you turn it back on?

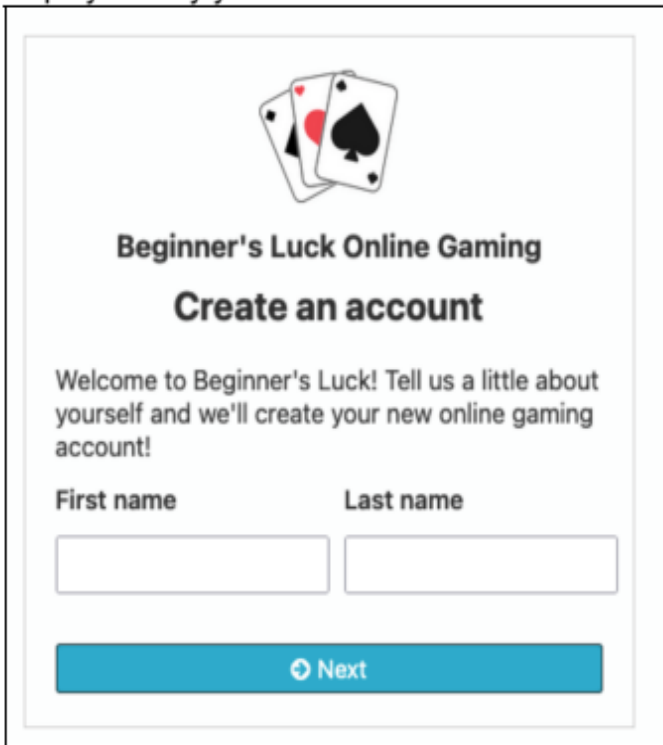
6 In the flow select **Flow Settings** to configure the flow settings.

7 Select the **Customizations** tab.

8 Toggle **Use Custom CSS** on, this was turned off in the previous exercise.

9 Click **Save** button to save the change to settings.

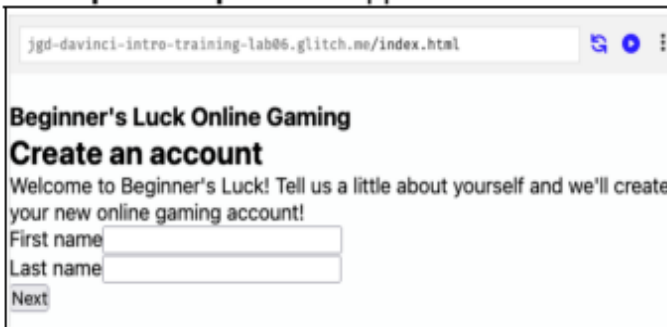
10 Deploy and try your flow from within the DaVinci console.



- The CSS is applied to your flow.

11 Select the browser tab with **Glitch** project.

12 In the **preview pane** the application has not changed, it is still not using the CSS.



13 Remove the comments around the style link in the **index.html** file.

```
<!-- http://www.glitch.com/docs/development/development.html -->
</>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/flow-style.css" />
<title>Beginner's Luck - Account Registration</title>
```

14 Back in your **DaVinci** flow toggle **Use Custom CSS** off.

15 Save the changes, your flow, and deploy it.

16 Continue with the next section.

2.2 Change the look and feel of application

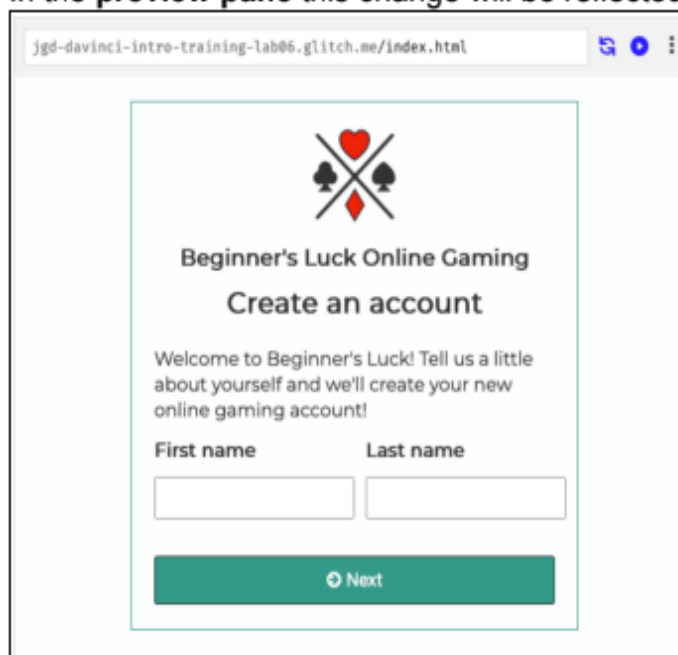
By externalizing the styling used in a flow to the application it is embedded in, makes it very easy to change this style and not have to change the flow. Typically this type of change will not have any impact on the flow and not require that it be modified only the application is impacted with this type of change.

A new layout style has been designed for the application and in this section you will change the application to use this new style.

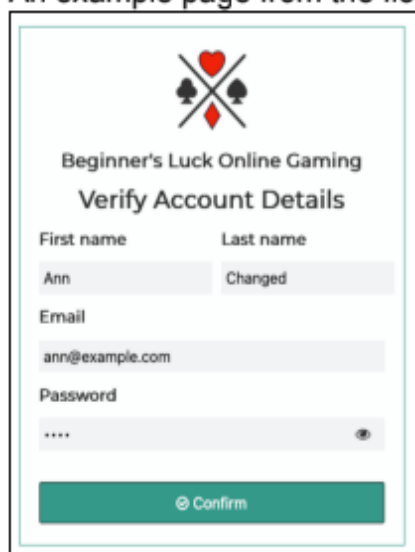
- 1 Select the browser tab with **Glitch** project.
- 2 Select the **index.html** file to open in the Glitch editor.
- 3 The new CSS file is already part of your application, you just need to change the code to point to it:
 - The CSS folder can be found in the public folder in your application project.
- 3.1 In the **link** tag that you commented out in the previous section is the reference to **css/flow-style.css** on the **href** attribute.
- 3.2 Change the name of the file from **flow-style.css** to **flow-updated.css**, this change will be automatically saved.

```
href="https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0-  
/>  
<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/flow-updated.css" />  
<title>Beginner's Luck - Account Registration</title>
```

- 4 In the **preview pane** this change will be reflected in a second or two.



- You may need to reload the preview pane.
- 5 Launch the application in a new browser tab by using **Preview in a new window** and review your entire flow to see how it impacted all screens in the flow.
 - 6 An example page from the flow with the changes:



- 7 This was done without any changes to your flow in DaVinci.
8 You have completed this exercise.