

Maqetta: Visual Authoring of HTML5 User Interfaces

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Maqetta to RAD 8.5 Workflow

tonyerwin | June 20 2012 | Comment (1) | Visits (3927)

Updated Sept 10, 2012 for Release 7.

A key goal of **Maqetta** is to facilitate a smooth **designer-to-developer workflow** where UI designers can create live UI mock-ups based on working code that can be handed off to developers. Developers can then bring what they've been given into an integrated development environment (IDE) to take it from mock-up to final product. It is expected developers will provide a lot of additional code after the hand-off, but the intent is that the bulk of the visual assets created by Maqetta will last throughout the development lifecycle.

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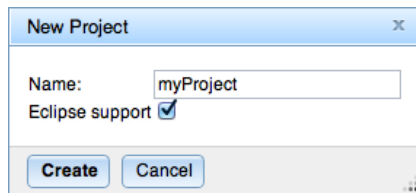
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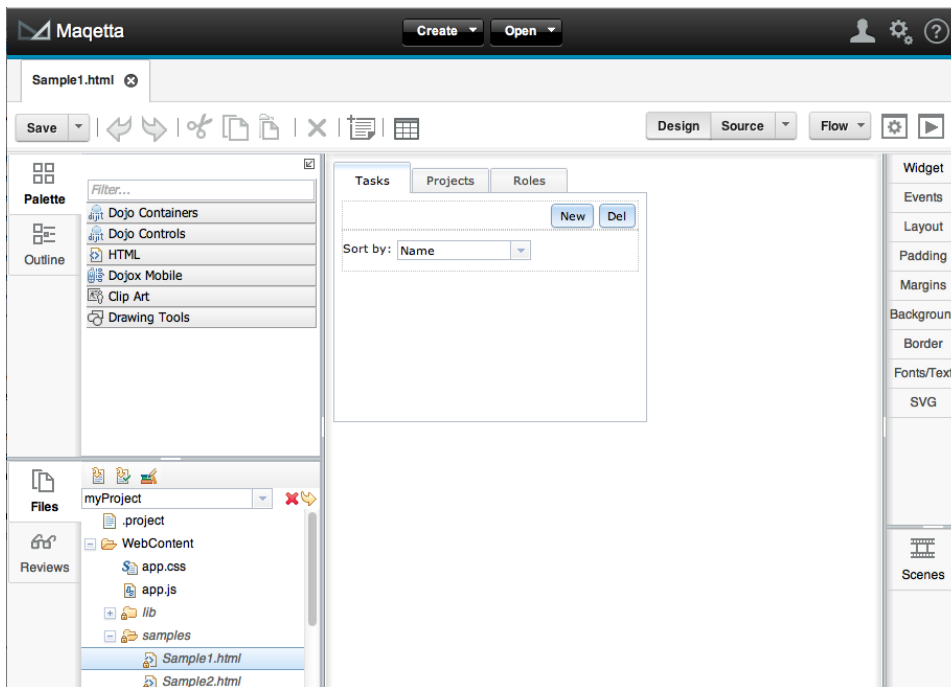
One IDE to consider is **IBM Rational Application Developer Version 8.5**, which enables developers to quickly build, test, analyze, and publish Java/Java EE®, Web 2.0, mobile, OSGi and Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) applications. Since RAD is built on top of Eclipse, it is very easy to transition to development mode by using Maqetta's support for exporting Eclipse-based projects. This article will guide you through the high-level steps.

Creating an Eclipse-based Project in Maqetta

To create an Eclipse-based project in Maqetta, choose *Create -> Project...* from the main menu. In the resulting dialog, give your new project a name and be sure to check the box for Eclipse support. Then, click *OK*.



Once your Eclipse-enabled project is created you can work with it like any other project in Maqetta. The screenshot below shows *Sample1.html* (found in the *WebContent/samples* folder) rendered in Maqetta's visual editor:



Downloading the Maqetta Workspace

About this blog

In this blog, Tony Erwin covers a range of topics related to Maqetta. Maqetta is an open source project that provides WYSIWYG visual authoring of HTML5 user interfaces (desktop and mobile).

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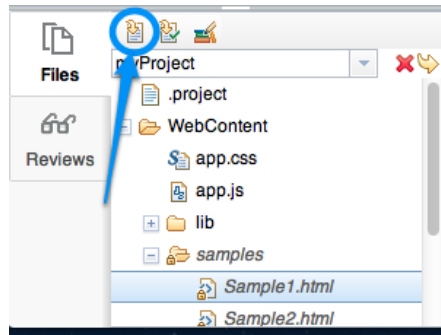
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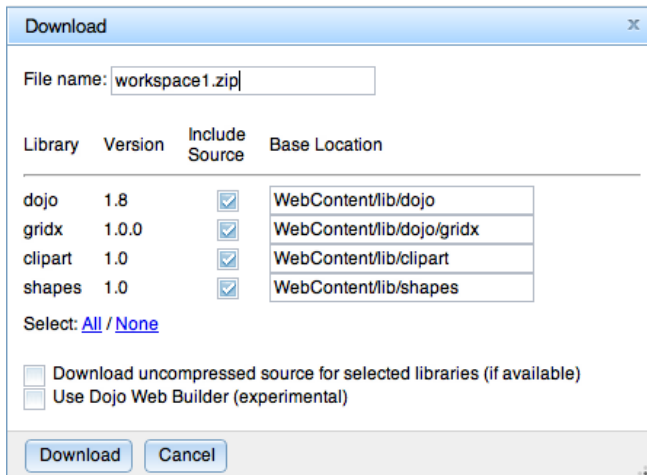
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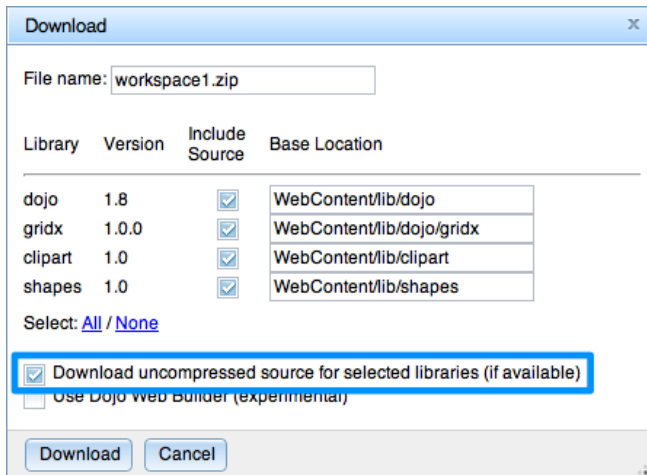
When you're ready to hand the project to developers, you can click on the *Download Entire Workspace* button in the Files palette toolbar. The Files palette is found in the lower left corner of the Maqetta workbench.



After doing so, you should see a dialog like the one below. It allows you to control a number of properties for your download including the file name to use and which of the libraries in your project should be included in the downloaded zip file.



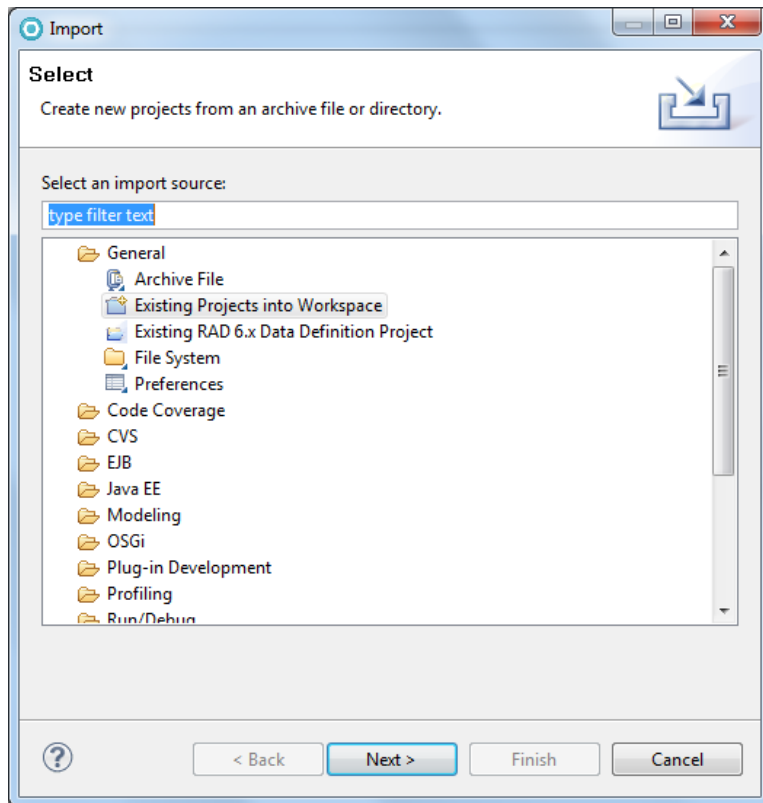
Since you will eventually be importing into RAD, you should check the *Download uncompressed source for selected libraries* option (as shown below). By default, the zip files downloaded from Maqetta contain built, minified source for the selected libraries. But, your RAD experience will be better if you use uncompressed source because RAD parses the source in order to determine what widgets should be shown in its widget palette.



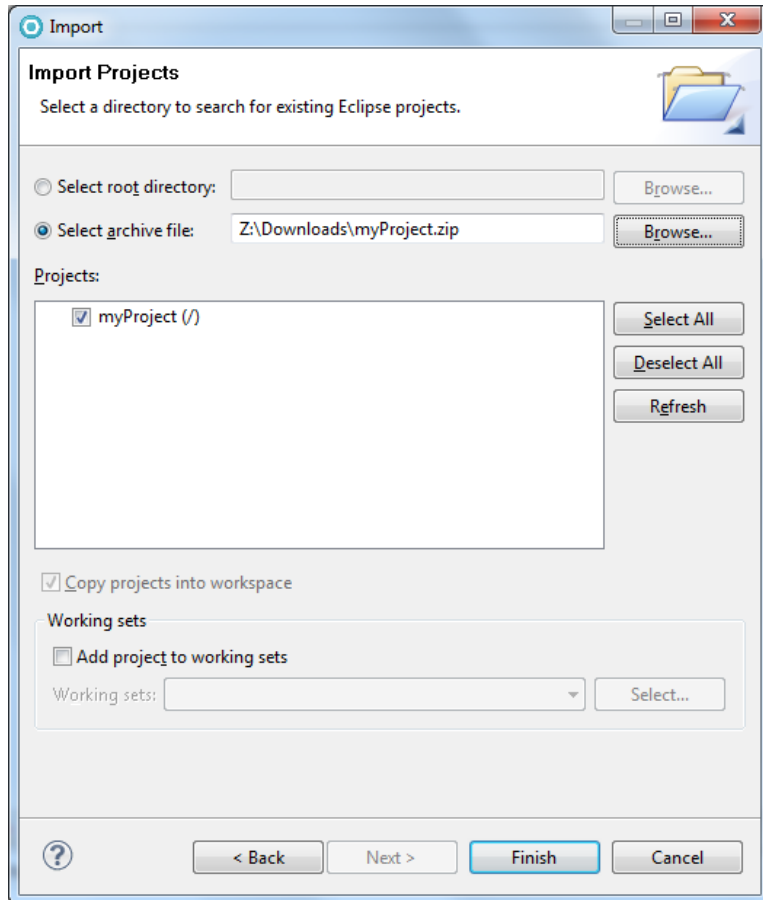
At this point, you can optionally change the file name or uncheck any unused libraries (like gridx, clipart, and shapes). Then, click OK.

Importing into RAD

Once the download is complete, you're ready to import your Maqetta project into RAD. First choose, the *File -> Import...* menu item. This will launch the RAD import wizard. On the first panel, select *General -> Existing Projects into Workspace* and click *Next*.

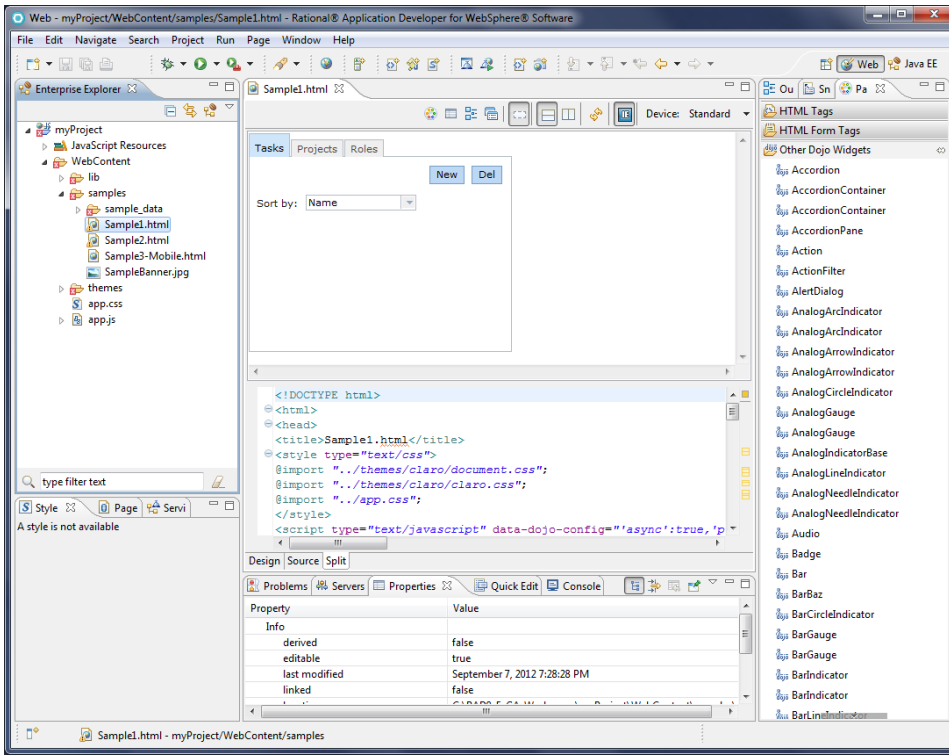


On the next panel, choose the *Select archive file* option, browse to the location of the zip file you downloaded from Maqetta, and then click *Finish*. At this point RAD will process the zip file and create a new project in your workspace.



Final Result

Once the import is complete, you can start working with the files in RAD. Your main goal once in RAD is likely to write JavaScript for the client-side "guts" of your application. But, in the screenshot below I've switched to the *Web Perspective* and opened *Sample1.html* in RAD's rich page editor. As you can see, the rendering looks like it did in Maqetta, and you can now use RAD's visual tools for tweaking the UI.



Addendum, Aug. 8, 2012

Be sure to check out [Part II](#) for information on using the Mobile Browser Simulator in RAD with your imported Maqetta projects.

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1 [JayAllen](#) commented June 27 2012

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Nice article Chuck, I'm going to give it a try... <div> </div> Jay

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