

# FlockML

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## Introduction

FlockML is an XML based markup language used to show rich text [messages](#) and [attachments](#) in Flock.

### FlockML Example

```
<flockml>Hello <strong>foobar</strong>, Welcome to <a href="https://flock.co/">Flock!</a></flockml>
```

Its salient features are:

- Renders natively on both desktop and mobile
- Inspired by HTML, so you will be familiar with many FlockML's elements already
- Elements for actions specific to Flock, like linking to a user or triggering actions like opening a widget

## Elements

### flockml

The root element for FlockML. Any FlockML document that doesn't have **<flockml>** as its root is considered invalid.

#### Example

```
<flockml>Hello World</flockml>
```

### a

The anchor element **<a>** defines a hyperlink. Clicking on this opens a URL in the browser.

#### Example

```
<a href="">Hello World</a>
```

#### Rendered

Hello World

## Attributes

Name	Required	Description
href	Yes	The URL to link to

## em

The emphasis element `<em>` is used to emphasise text and is typically italicized.

Example	Rendered
<code>&lt;em&gt;Hello World&lt;/em&gt;</code>	<i>Hello World</i>

## i

The italics element `<i>` is used to italicize text.

Example	Rendered
<code>&lt;i&gt;Hello World&lt;/i&gt;</code>	<i>Hello World</i>

## strong

The strong element `<strong>` gives text strong importance, and is typically displayed in bold.

Example	Rendered
<code>&lt;strong&gt;Hello World&lt;/strong&gt;</code>	<b>Hello World</b>

## b

The bold element `<b>` is used to display text in bold.

Example	Rendered
<code>&lt;b&gt;Hello World&lt;/b&gt;</code>	<b>Hello World</b>

## u

The underline element `<u>` renders text with an underline.

Example	Rendered
<code>&lt;u&gt;Hello World&lt;/u&gt;</code>	<u>Hello World</u>

## br

The line break element `<br>` produces a line break in text (carriage-return).

Example	Rendered
<code>Hello&lt;br/&gt;World</code>	Hello World

## user

This element can be used to link to a Flock user.

Example	Rendered
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<code>&lt;user userId="u:guid"&gt;FirstName LastName&lt;/user&gt;</code>	<a href="#">FirstName LastName</a>
--	------------------------------------

## Attributes

Name	Required	Description
userId	Yes	Should be a user <a href="#">identifier</a> .

- If the Flock client knows the user's name, it will ignore any text content inside. Otherwise, it will display the text content if present.
- If the Flock client doesn't know the user's name, and no text content is provided, it will display "Unknown User".

## action

The `action` element allows an app to trigger a [client action](#). The associated event is [client.flockmlAction](#).

### Example

```
click <action id="act1" type="openWidget" url="<url>" desktopType="sidebar" mobileType="modal">here</action> to launch a widget.
```

## Attributes

Name	Required	Description
type	Yes	The type of action to trigger. Should be one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <code>openWidget</code></li> <li>• <code>openBrowser</code></li> <li>• <code>sendEvent</code></li> </ul>
id	No	An identifier for the action. It is included in the payload for <a href="#">client.flockmlAction</a> as the <code>actionId</code> attribute.

If `type` is `openWidget`, the following attributes should also be provided:

Name	Required	Description
url	Yes	The widget URL
desktopType	Yes	The type of widget in desktop. Should be either <code>modal</code> or <code>sidebar</code> . Defaults to <code>modal</code> .
mobileType	Yes	The type of widget in mobile. If provided, it should be set to <code>modal</code> .

If `type` is `openBrowser`, the following attributes should be provided:

Name	Required	Description
url	Yes	The URL to open
sendContext	No	Whether to send context to the URL or not. Should be either <code>true</code> or <code>false</code> . Default value is <code>false</code> .

If `type` is `sendEvent`, no other attribute needs to be provided.