

# DESIGN THE INTERFACE



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# Basics of interface design in Twixl

# Getting started with the Twixl design basics

In order to choose the look and feel of an app, Twixl offers the concepts of 'grid styles' and 'item styles' to determine how your content is presented to app users.

Grid styles are assigned to Collections and can be different for different collections. Item Styles are assigned to Content Items and they will define how content items will be displayed in the selected grid for the collection your content item is in.

You can access these interface design elements via Platform > Design.

## 1. Grid Styles

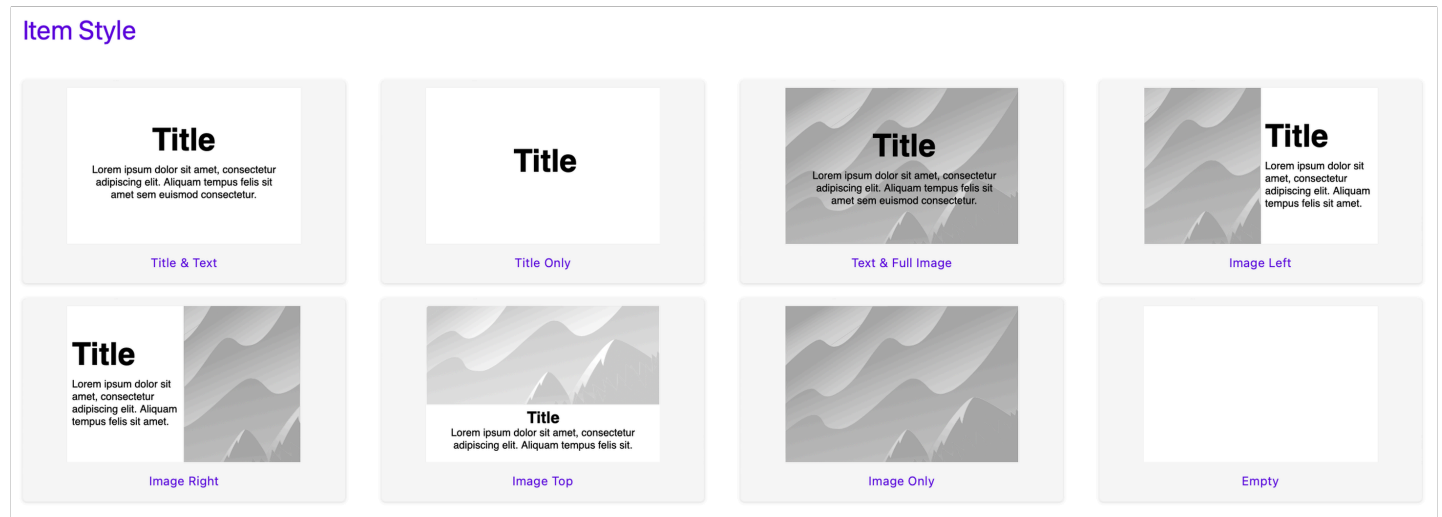
The grid style determines how the content of a [collection](#) in browse mode will be displayed on a 'grid' in your app. In this grid, each content item can be displayed using a particular size. Check the screenshot below of a grid that uses 6 columns (a '**grid style**'), and where each item on that grid spans a specified number of columns. Different collections in your app can have different grid styles applied to them. Learn more about [Grid Styles](#).





## 2. Item Styles

The appearance of the [content item](#) cells in your browse pages will be determined by the Item Style selection. Item Styles are defined in Design > Item Styles where you can add new item styles by clicking on '+' and selecting a template from the list. You can later adjust the style to match your requirements.



As you can see, a couple of template examples are:

- A title and a subtitle for an article
- A title on an image background
- An image to the left or right of a title & subtitle
- And many more ...

After selecting, you can continue to further adjust your [Item Style](#).

## 3. Other design elements

In the design section, you can find more elements that can enhance the user experience:

- [Configuration](#): where you define how the overall elements (like navigation bar, search page...) in your app will look like and how your app will behave (e.g. all data offline...).
- [Background Images](#): in addition to defining a background color for your collection in browse view, you can also use an image as the background for the thumbnails of your content items.
- [Custom Fonts](#): Twixl also supports the use of custom fonts in your app so the fonts you use in the item styles match your corporate style or the look and feel you want.



Make sure to install the Twixl app on your mobile devices before you start working on grid and item styles. That way you can immediately check how changes to your design look like in the app on your device. More information about the Twixl app [here](#).

# Configuration

**Configuration** allows you to set several UI design features.

Can be accessed via Menu > Design > Configuration

## Navigation Bar / Action Bar

### Navigation Bar / Action Bar

[Manage custom fonts](#)

|                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Title Font</b> ⓘ<br>[System Font]  | <b>Background Color</b> ⓘ<br>FFFFFF # |
| <b>Title Font Scale</b> ⓘ<br>100 %    | <b>Foreground Color</b> ⓘ<br>000000 # |
| <b>Action Font</b> ⓘ<br>[System Font] | <b>Tint Color</b> ⓘ<br>007AFF #       |
| <b>Action Font Scale</b> ⓘ<br>100 %   | <b>App Tint Color</b> ⓘ<br>007AFF #   |

- **Navigation Toolbar:** Set toolbar background color, toolbar foreground colors (i.e. for displaying the title), toolbar tint color (for navigation actions), app tint color (for messages in the app). For the **Toolbar**, you can also select custom fonts – see more on this [here](#).

## Search / Library / Downloads

### Search / Library / Downloads

|                                          |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Item Style</b> ⓘ<br>Default           | <b>Search by Content Item Type</b> ⓘ                  |
| <b>Grid Style</b> ⓘ<br>Default           | All Content Types <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Search Mode</b> ⓘ<br>Full-Text Search | PDF's <input type="checkbox"/>                        |
|                                          | HTML's <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
|                                          | Twixl Articles <input type="checkbox"/>               |

- **Search / Library / Downloads:** See [this article](#) for more info.

## Privacy Policy

### Privacy Policy

Button Title ⓘ

URL ⓘ

A mobile app privacy policy informs users about your data collection practices, disclosing how your app gathers, stores, and uses personal information (if applicable). Privacy policies for mobile apps should be accessible at all times and can be found in the app via the gear icon.

- **Button Title:** The title of the button users can click to view your privacy policy.
- **URL:** Add the link to your online privacy policy here.

## Support email

### Support Email

Support Email \* ⓘ

**Support e-mail:** When users report a problem, their message will be sent to this e-mail address.

## Supported Orientations

Here we can define whether the app can be rotated on Android devices or set some general options for app usage.

### Supported Orientations (Android only)

Tablets

Phones

# Application Behavior

## Application Behavior

### App Experience

Prompt for App Store and Play Store Rating  ☒

Prompt for App Updates  ☐

### Privacy & Security

Blur snapshot in iOS & Android app switcher  ☐

### PDF

Encrypt PDF Files  ☐

Allow saving reading position  ☐

Allow sending full PDFs  ☐

### Content Management

Externally Managed Content  ☐

Metered Access  ☐

Keep All Data Offline  ☐

### Social & Sharing

Sharing on Social Media  ☒

## App experience

- **Prompt for App Store Rating:** Prompts the user to rate your app in the App Store.
- **Prompt for App Updates:** Informs users when opening the app in case a new version of the app is available in the App Store or Google Play Store.

## Privacy and Security

- **Blur snapshot in iOS and Android app switcher:** If you enable this option, potentially sensitive information in the app switcher screen will automatically be blurred.

## PDF

- **Encrypt PDF Files:** Enables on-the-fly encryption for PDF content items. That way, PDF files are protected on mobile devices (most relevant on 'open' systems like Android).
- **Allow saving reading position:** Allows the user to return to the last visited page in the PDF.
- **Allow sending full PDFs:** Enables the user to share the complete PDF with another recipient using the standard sharing options.

## Content Management

- **Externally Managed Content:** Enable this when you have an external system that manages the content. This puts the content items and collections of your app in read-only mode on the Twixl platform. For more info, see [this article](#).

- **Metered Access:** Allows you to upload free preview items that users can check for free before they purchase the item. Once this feature is enabled, it cannot be disabled.
- **Keep All Data Offline:** With this option enabled, an app will be forced to download all available content when starting up for the first time. See [this article](#) for more info.

## Social & Sharing

- **Sharing on Social Media:** When allowing sharing on social media, users can share articles. For more info, see [this article](#).



### Related content

- [Grid Styles](#)
- [Item Styles](#)

# Grid Styles

When you envision the appearance of your app and how it presents itself to the user, the 'Grid Style' is one of the first things you should think about. What elements will be used: banners, showcases, collections...? And how should these be defined in a grid structure? It might be helpful to first make a mock-up of the Root Collection (and other collections) design and design this mock-up in a grid of squares. This will be the basis of your browse grid definition on the Twixl platform.

Twixl Publisher apps use a concept we call "Browse Pages" as a flexible way to present your content to readers and the design of these browse pages is defined by the browse grid. While browse pages can still mimic the behaviour of the traditional kiosk that contains different issues, the flexibility goes much further. Note that browse pages can be intended either for scrolling vertically or horizontally.

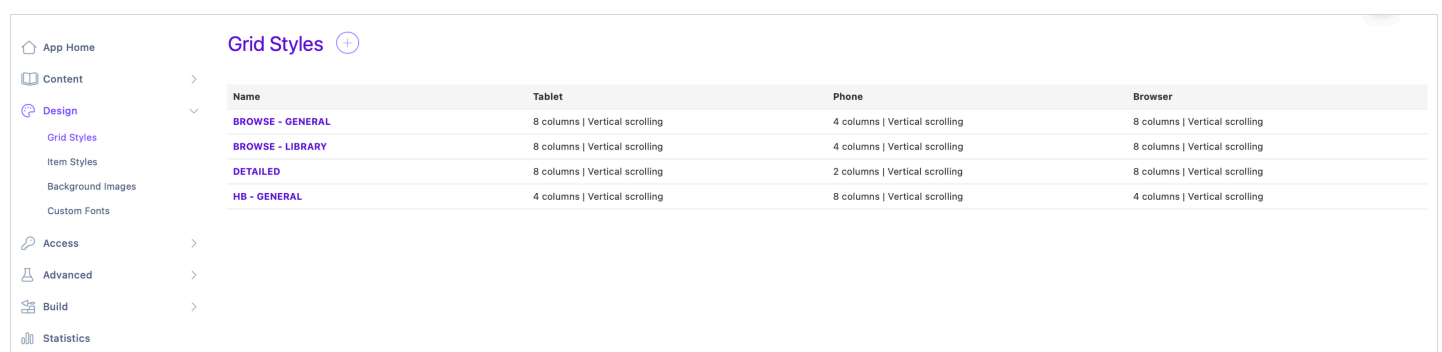
## 1. Defining the structure of your browser page(s)

The layout of your browse pages will be defined using a grid-based approach. First of all, define a number of columns for your pages. Then, based on that number of columns, your page will be filled with a number of equal squares.

You can insert the number of columns in the 'Grid Style' section on the Twixl Platform.

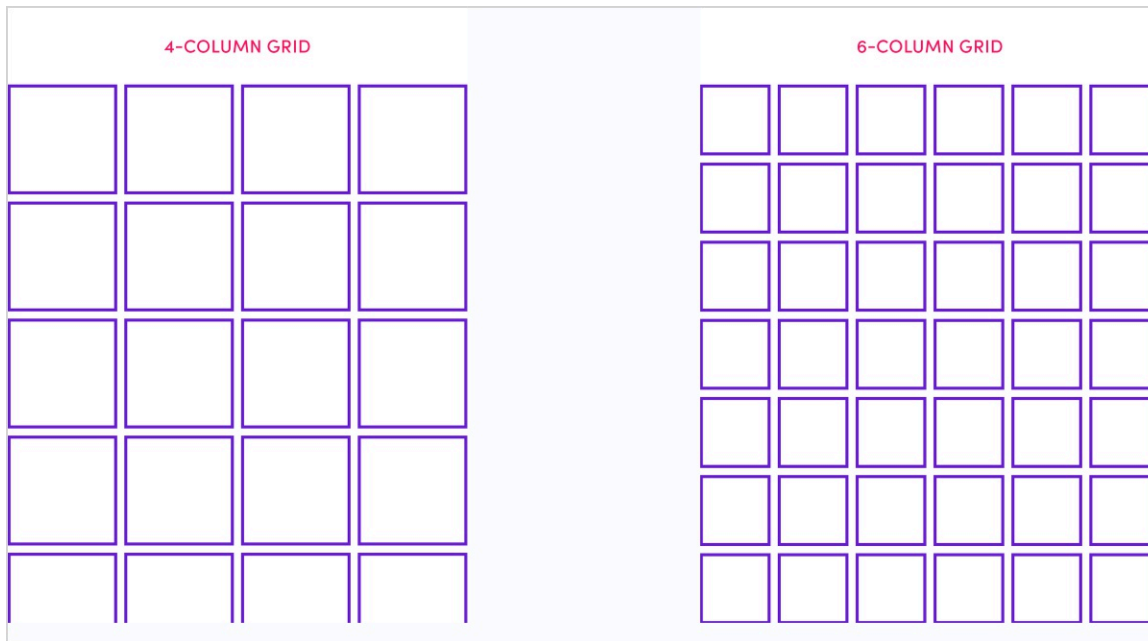
### How?

In your app > Design > Grid Styles



| Name             | Tablet                         | Phone                          | Browser                        |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BROWSE - GENERAL | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling | 4 columns   Vertical scrolling | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling |
| BROWSE - LIBRARY | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling | 4 columns   Vertical scrolling | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling |
| DETAILED         | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling | 2 columns   Vertical scrolling | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling |
| HB - GENERAL     | 4 columns   Vertical scrolling | 8 columns   Vertical scrolling | 4 columns   Vertical scrolling |

Here are examples of both a 4-column and a 6-column grid with vertical scrolling.



All the items you want to display will have a size of one or more of these squares. Your pages can have different cells as you can see in the example below.



Each of the cells can display a thumbnail that links to an article, or to other content items like an image or a movie (more on 'content items' can be found here). But it can also be a link to a collection of articles (an 'issue' in traditional speak).



## 2. Design your Grid Style

In the "Grid Style" window, you can adjust a number of parameters for a collection, such as the number of columns in your grid and whether scrolling will be horizontal or vertical. You can set different parameters for tablet and phone content.

## 1. Different device types

In 1 Grid Style you can define a different layout for:

- **Tablets**
- **Phones**
- **Browser:** will be used in the *Browser Client*.

It's entirely up to you whether you want to use separate designs for each rendition or not. You can use the same design as well by using the buttons **Copy to Phone**, **Copy to Tablet** and/or **Copy to Browser**.

## ABOUT THE BROWSER CLIENT

The tab Browser Client will only be visible when you activated the Browser Client in your app. [See this article for more info about the Browser Client.](#)

TABLET | PHONE | BROWSER

1

Metadata

TABLET

Name

BROWSE - GENERAL

Structure

TABLET

Columns

8

Scrolling

Vertical

Padding

TABLET

Top

0 pt

Right

0 pt

Bottom

0 pt

Left

0 pt

Spacing

TABLET

Value

0 pt

Colors

TABLET

Text

Background

Background Image

TABLET

Save

Save & Continue

Cancel

## 2. Different design options

In the right pane you can define different design options:

- **Metadata:** The name of the grid style that can be selected within your Collections.
- **Structure:** determines the number of columns for the squares that will be the basis for the size of the cells you place on your grid and the vertical or horizontal scrolling in your browse pages.
- **Padding:** refers to the number of pixels reserved on the outer sides of the grid.
- **Spacing:** refers to the space in between cells on the grid.
- **Colors:** set colors for the background of the grid and the text.
- **Background Image:** lets you select a background image for the collection – more details [here](#).
- **Options:** lets you control the swiping, and choose whether or not scrollbars should always be displayed.
- **Hamburger Menu:** Select this option if you want to apply the grid style to the Hamburger Menu. Once selected, you can adjust the menu's width (default: 300 pts).

## 3. How are grid styles rendered?

### 3.1. Auto-flow fills the gaps

Cells are rendered in an intelligent way:

- All cells are rendered using an 'auto-flow'.
- Cells that don't fit in one row, will be moved to the next and there it will be evaluated again.





### NAMING YOUR GRID STYLES

As most apps use several grids for different pages, giving an clear and unique name for each and every grid style is key. This will make your work in a later stadium much easier!

## 4. Related Content:

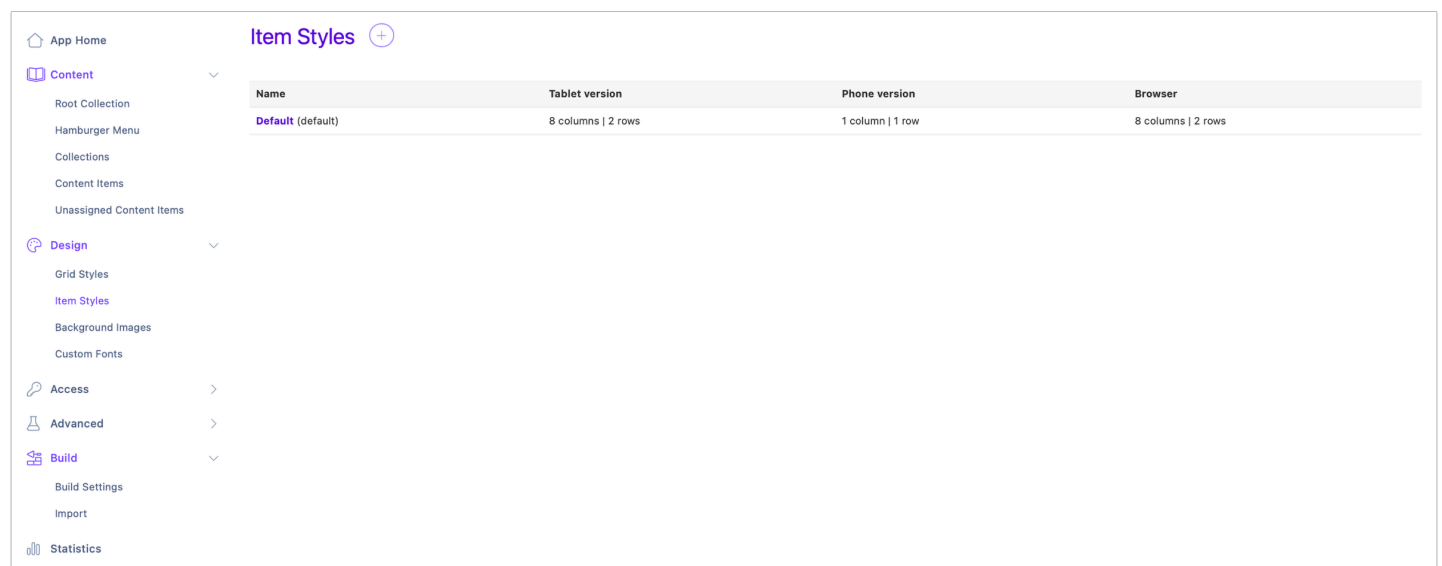
- [Item Styles](#)
- [Collections](#)
- [Check how the grid style looks on a mobile device](#)

# Item Styles

Where content will be positioned in a collection in browse view mode is defined by a grid style. How every cell – or number of cells – in this grid will look like and what will be displayed within this cell, is determined by an 'Item Style'.

## 1. General

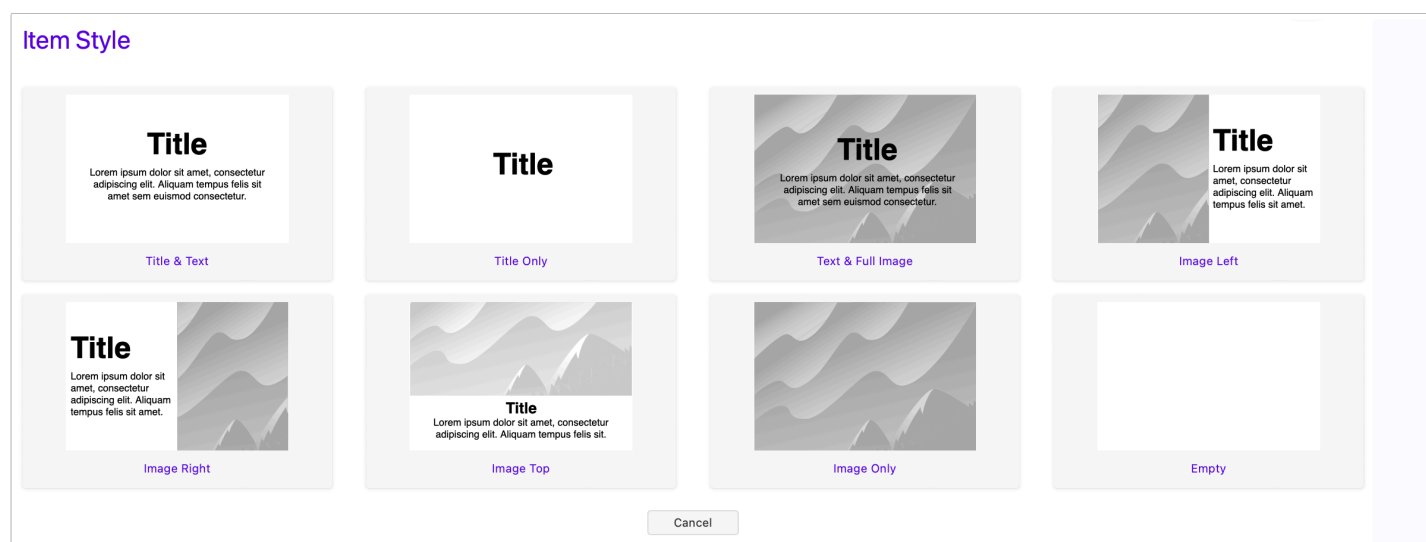
Start with your first Item Style by selecting the Item Styles tool from the left menu > Design > Item Styles for your app on the Twixl platform and click the "+" icon.



| Name              | Tablet version     | Phone version    | Browser            |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Default (default) | 8 columns   2 rows | 1 column   1 row | 8 columns   2 rows |

## 2. Adding Item Styles

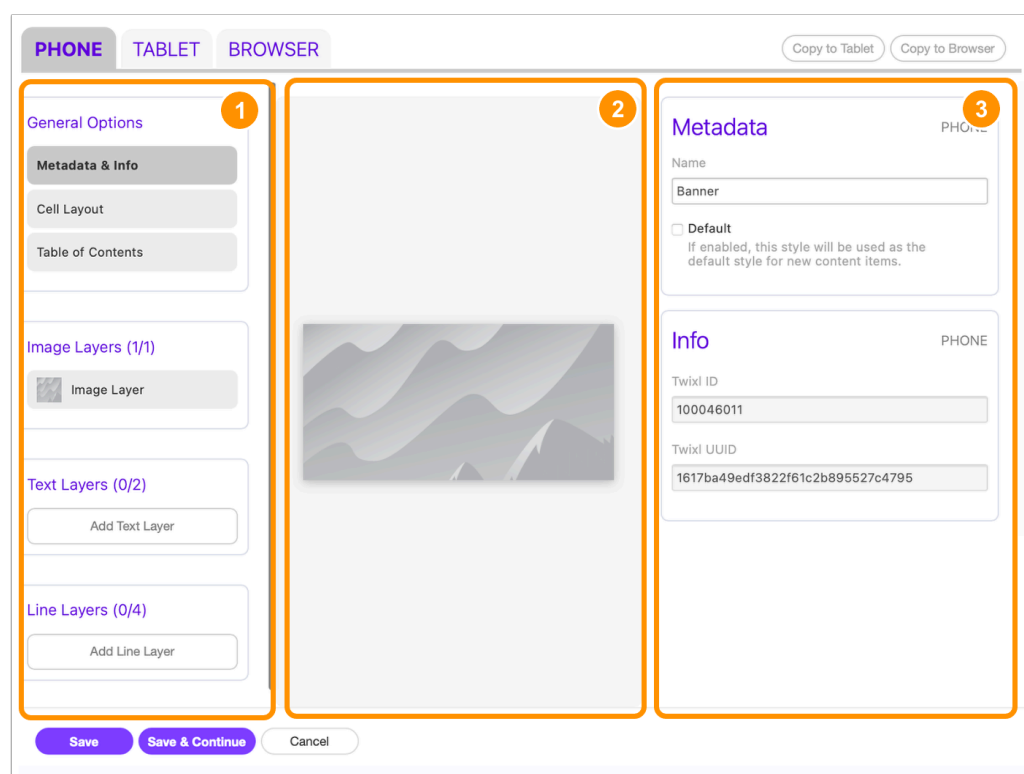
Several templates are available to help you getting started with Item Styles. The most common designs are ready with a simple click. Don't worry if these do not fit your needs exactly, they are fully customizable afterwards.



### 3. Getting Started

Entering the Item Style interface, you'll notice 3 different sections:

- General options:** select all the available options that are configurable for an Item Style here.
- Live Preview Pane:** the Live Preview Pane displays all the design changes you make, instantly.
- Available parameters per option:** for every General Option (cfr 1.) different parameters will be displayed enabling you to adapt the look and feel of your cell.



## 4. Available options



### AVAILABLE METADATA PLACEHOLDER TAGS

If you have entered metadata in your [Content Items](#), you can define here what you want to display in your cell by selecting the available metadata placeholder tags.

These are the available tags (they all correspond to the respective metadata fields in your Content Item):

**{name}** - **{title}** - **{subtitle}** - **{author}** - **{category}** - **{tagline}**

There are specific tags for specific use cases:

- **{creation date}**: This tag adds the creation date of the content item which can be handy to add to news items so the user has an idea about more recent and older items.
- **{publication date}**: Another tag one can use to identify an event date for instance.
- **{price}**: This tag will pull the price of your in-app purchase item from a store (App Store or Google Play)
- **{purchaseinfo}**: This tag will use the purchase info defined in our Collection or PDF Content Item (for non-free content).
- **{icon-download-status}**: This tag can be used for collections that are marked as [monolithic](#) or for longpress downloads and will make it clear to a user whether a collection is ready to download or has already been downloaded.

### 4.1. Tablet – Phone – Browser

In 1 Item Style you can define a layout for:

- **Tablets**: This design will be used on *Tablets*
- **Phones**: This design will be used on *Phones*
- **Browser**: This design will be used in the *Browser Client*.

You can use separate designs for each rendition or not. It all depends on the content and the requirements. If you want to use the same design on different media, select **Copy to Phone**, **Copy to Tablet** and/or **Copy to Browser**.



## ABOUT THE BROWSER CLIENT

The tab Browser Client will only be visible if the Browser Client option has been activated for your app. [See this article for more info about the Browser Client.](#)

## 4.2. General options

### Introduction

1. **General options:** Here you can configure general metadata, some basic layout options and the styling of the Table Of Content (TOC).
2. **Image Layers:** you can add an **Image Layer** with several styling options.
3. **Text Layers:** You can add up to **2 Text Layers** and each Text Layer can contain up to **5 Text Lines**. All come with a lot of styling options.
4. **Line Layers:** You can add up to **4 Line Layers**, each with their own styling options.

The combination of all these options, allows you to create complex styling options for your cells.

### 4.2.1. Metadata & Info

General Options

Metadata & Info

Cell Layout

Table of Contents

Image Layers (1/1)

Image Layer

Text Layers (0/2)

Add Text Layer

Metadata

PHONE

Name

Banner

☐ Default
 

If enabled, this style will be used as the default style for new content items.

Info

PHONE

Twixl ID

100046011

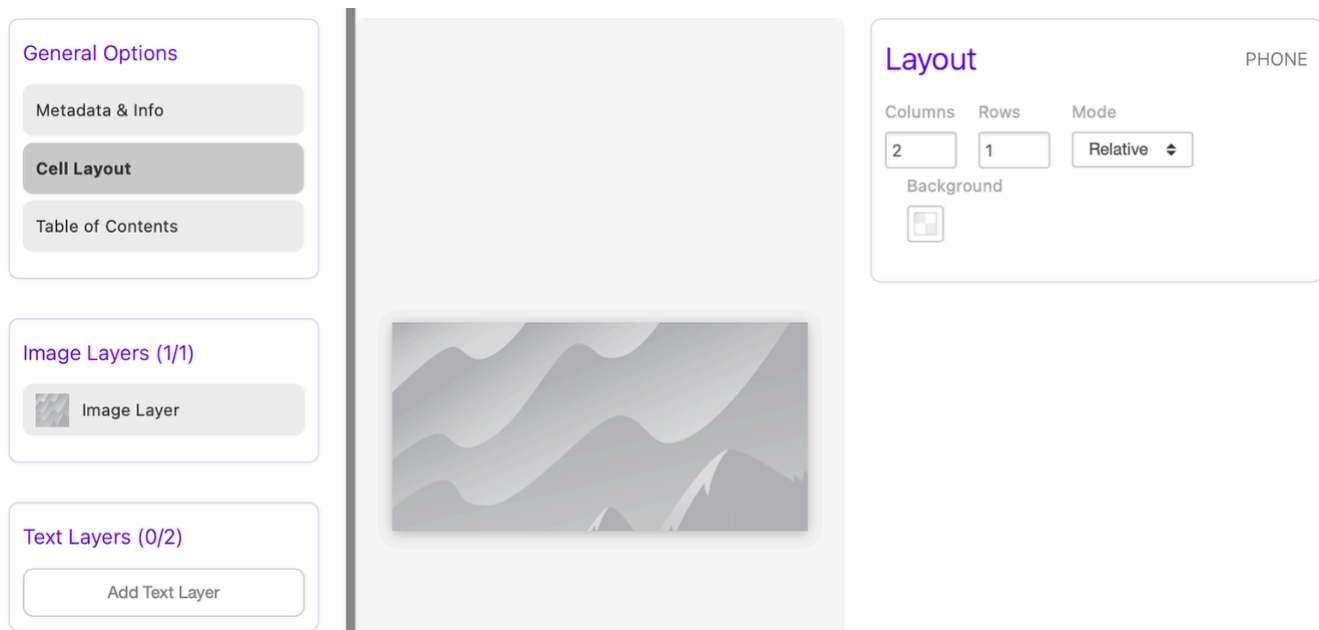
Twixl UUID

1617ba49edf3822f61c2b895527c4795

- **Name:** Define a name for this Item Style. Even though this is for internal use only, it is important to accord consistent names – even in line with the names of the Grid Styles

- in order to make it easier if you have to select the correct item style for your content or when you will extend the item style list with new item styles.
- **Default:** If enabled, this style will be used as the default style for new content items.
- **Twixl ID & Twixl UUID:** If you experience any issues and need support, it's always a good idea to mention this info in a Support Ticket.

## 4.2.2. Cell Layout



The layout defines the number of columns and rows that a cell will span. The effective size of your cell will depend on the number of columns you defined for your [Grid Styles](#).



### 4.2.3. Table of Contents

General Options

Metadata & Info

Cell Layout

**Table of Contents**

Image Layers (1/1)

 Image Layer

Text Layers (0/2)

Add Text Layer



**Table of Contents** PHONE

Title Template

{title}

name title subtitle author category tagline

price purchaseinfo creationdate

publicationdate icon-download-status

- AA aa Aa

Subtitle Template

{name}

name title subtitle author category tagline

price purchaseinfo creationdate

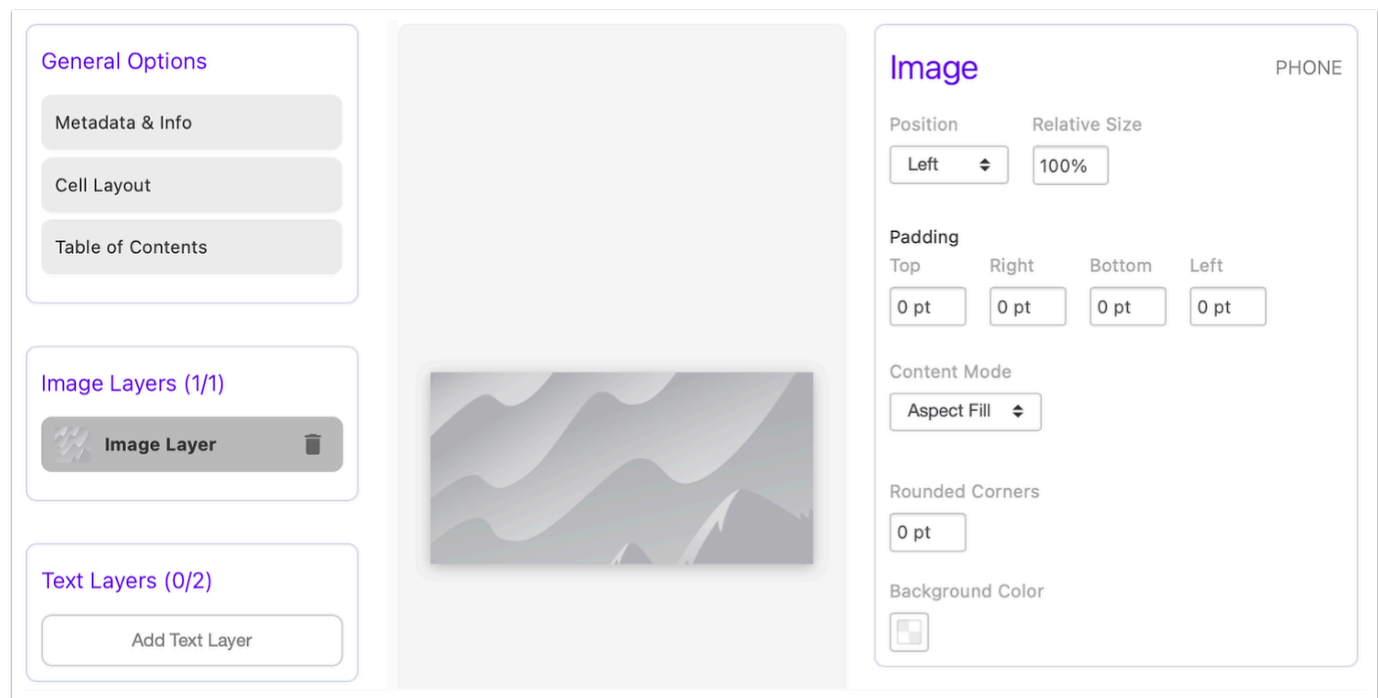
publicationdate icon-download-status

- AA aa Aa

This section determines the design of your table of content.

- **Title & Subtitle Template:** Select from different placeholders to show a title and optional subtitle. If these textlines are fixed, you can also enter your own title and subtitle.
- **Change case:** Allows you to change the case of title and subtitle.

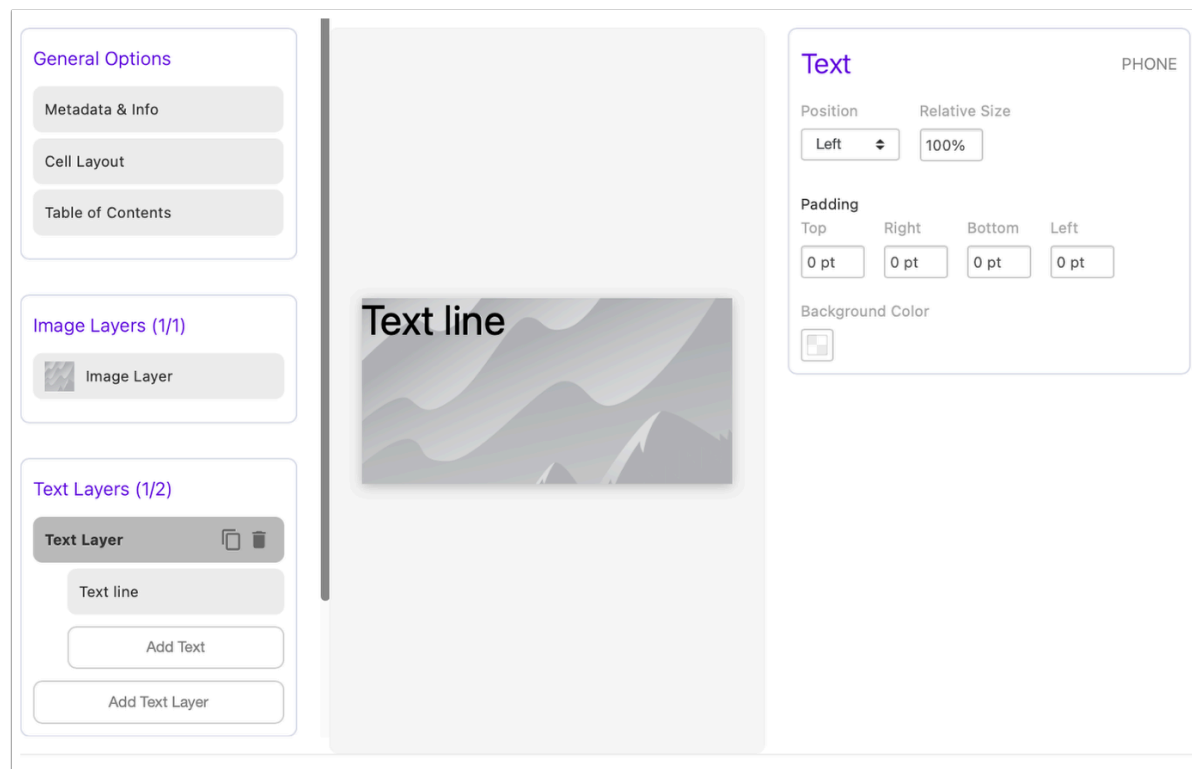
## 4.2.4. Image Layers



Define how a cover image for the cell should be handled:

- **Position & Relative Size:** You can define where the cover image needs to be placed in your cell.
- **Padding:** Set padding for extra spacing around the cells
- **Content Mode:**
  - Scale to Fill
  - Aspect Fit
  - Aspect Fill
- **Rounded Corners:** Allows rounded corners for your image layer
- **Background Color:** Choose a background color for your Image Layer

## 4.2.5. Text Layers

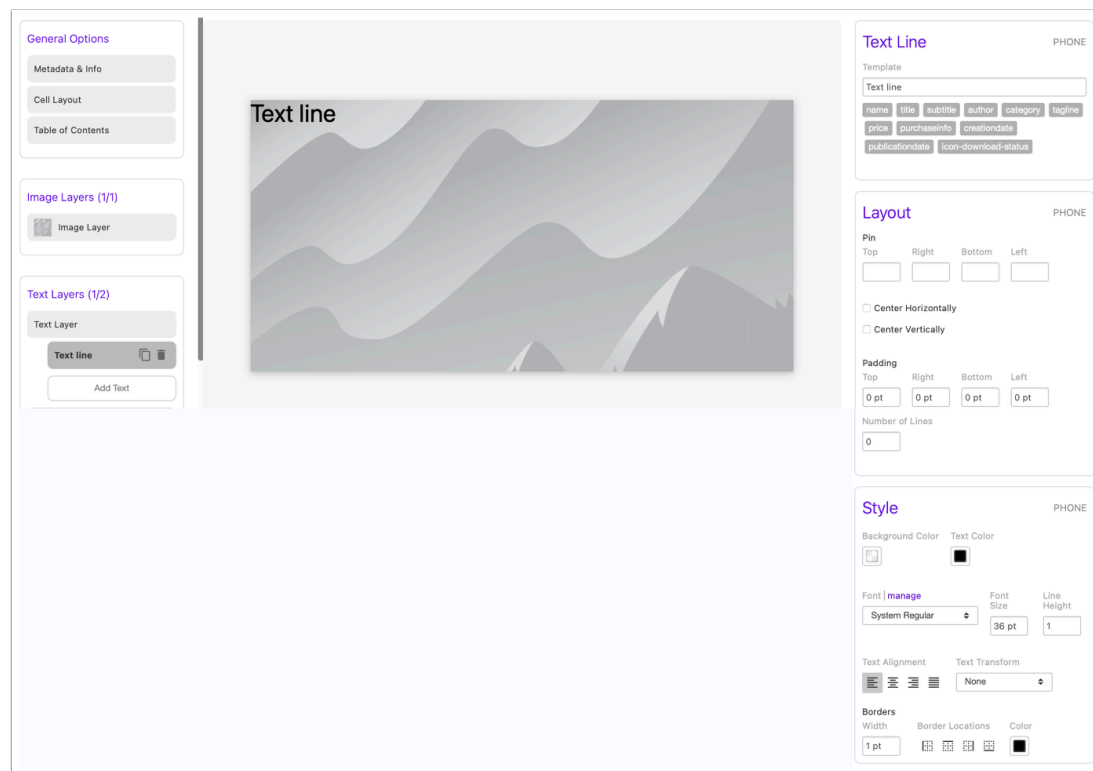


Defines how a Text Layer for the cell should be handled:

- **Position & Relative Size:** You can define where the Text Layer needs to be placed in your cell and how large it is relative to the cell.
- **Padding:** Set padding for extra spacing around the Text Layer.
- **Background Color:** Choose a background color for this Text Layer.

Note that you can add another Text Layer with specific properties. E.g. add another Text Layer at the right side of this cell with another background color (see next screenshot).

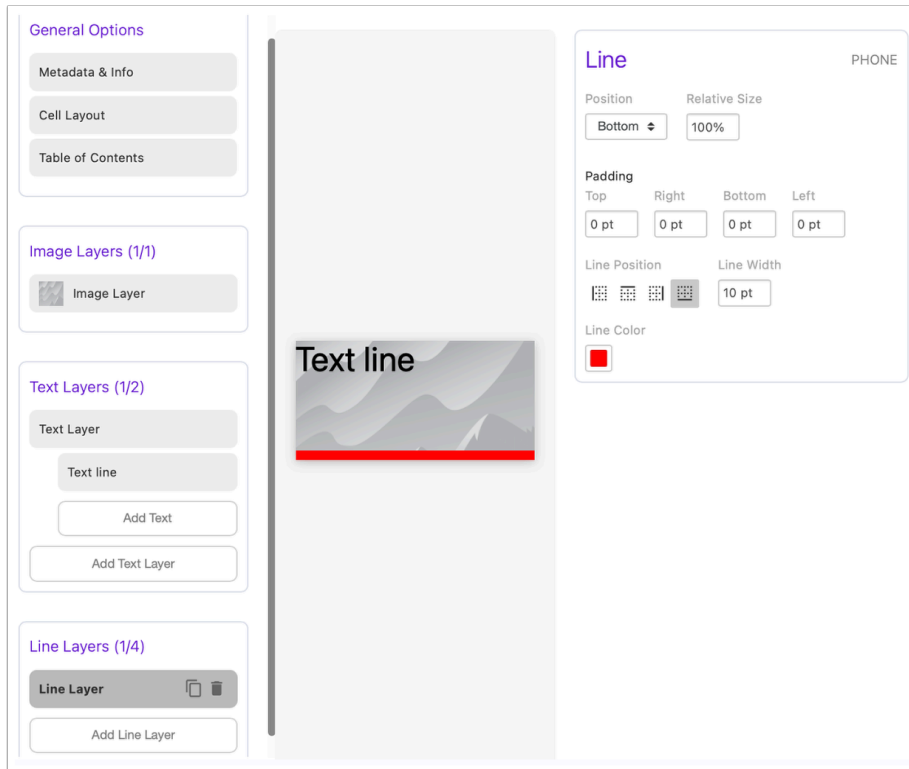
## 4.2.6. Text Lines



- **Text Line:**
  - **Template:** Adds several placeholders according to what you want to see displayed in the cell. If this text is fixed, you can also enter your own text line.
- **Layout:**
  - **Pin:** You can choose to which side(s) the Text Line needs to be pinned.
    - Empty = No pin.
    - A value in `pt` = A pin with the selected distance (`0-...`).
  - **Padding:** Defines spacing around the title (in the background color).
  - **Number of lines:**
    - `0`: If multiple lines are needed to fill in all the text, lines will be added. If no more lines can be added, the text will be truncated with `...`
    - `>1`: The text will be filled in in the defined amount of lines. If the text has overset, the text will be truncated with `...`
- **Style:**
  - **Background Color:** Fills a background color for your Text Line.
  - **Text Color:** Defines the color of your text.
  - **Title Font:** Selects a font (requires that you have added [custom fonts](#)).
  - **Font Size:** Adjusts the font size.
  - **Line Height:** Defines the spacing from 0,5 to... of your lines but always check with your font size and cell height.
  - **Text Alignment:** Aligns the text.

- **Text Transform:** Has 4 options: None (leave unchanged), Upper Case, Lower Case or Title Case.
- **Borders:** Applies borders to your Text Line.

## 4.2.7. Line Layers



You can add an extra line to your cell (up to 4 line layers), completely independent from the rest of your layout.



### NAMING YOUR ITEM STYLES

As most apps use several item styles, giving an clear and unique name for each and every item style is key. Think about the combination of your item style names with those of your grid style names too. This will make your work much easier later on!

## Related content

- [Grid styles](#)
- [Content Items](#)
- [Check how your item style looks on a mobile device](#)

# How to migrate from legacy Cell Styles (pre-TP10) to Item Styles

## 1. About Item Styles

Since version **10** of Twixl Publisher, we moved from the legacy 'Cell Styles' to the new 'Item Styles'. Item styles offer a lot more possibilities, but the requirement is that your app needs to be built using Twixl Publisher 10 or higher.

**Important: if your Twixl app was built with a version older than TP10, you will need to make sure your app is updated first using the latest release.**

The following table explains the matrix of versions:

| Twixl Platform                                                             | App Version (iOS and/or Android) | Result in the app                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cell Styles</b> (you didn't migrate the app on the Twixl Platform yet). | Version <b>9.x</b> or lower      | All Cells will be rendered correctly                                                                |
| <b>Cell Styles</b> (you didn't migrate the app on the Twixl Platform yet). | Version <b>10.x</b> or higher    | All Cells are backwards compatible and will be rendered correctly.                                  |
| <b>Item Styles</b> (you migrated the app on the Twixl Platform).           | Version <b>9.x</b> or lower      | No Cells will be visible, because Item Styles can only be rendered in a 10+ version of a Twixl app. |
| <b>Item Styles</b> (you migrated the app on the Twixl Platform).           | Version <b>10.x</b> or higher    | Both converted Cell Styles and new Item Styles will be visible in a 10+ version of a Twixl app.     |

## 2. How to migrate if your users are on an app built with TP10 or higher ?

If all the users of your app are on a Twixl version 10 or higher, then you can just go ahead and select '**migrate your app to 'item styles'**' on the main page for your app on the platform. You can use the report 'Views by Twixl version' to verify this.



This app uses the legacy option "cell styles".

Apps with "cell styles" will no longer be supported after June 30th, 2022.

We strongly advise that you **migrate your app to "item styles"**.

Once you've done that, you can take advantage of the extra features that are possible when using '[Item Styles](#)'. As always, it is recommended that you plan regular updates of your Twixl app, based on the latest Twixl release, as this guarantees support for newer iOS or Android versions, newer devices, bug fixes, etc.

### 3. How to migrate if your users are on an app built with a version older than TP10?

Make sure you read each step carefully!



#### IN SHORT: WHAT'S IMPORTANT:

- You'll need to be able to serve your content to both versions of your app: version **9.x** or lower and version **10+** or higher. This way you can migrate easier and avoid errors.
- There is one big keyword: **testing!**

#### 3.1. Create a copy of your existing app on the Twixl platform

The first thing to do, is to create a duplicate of your existing app on the Twixl platform:

1. The new copy will be connected to your version **10+** build of the app. Rename the app, as an internal reminder that this will be the new version of your app. E.g.: add a suffix **v17**.
2. The existing copy will continue to serve your version **9** of the app. Rename the app, as an internal reminder that this will be the new version of your app. E.g.: add a suffix **v9**.



#### DEVELOPMENT vs. PRODUCTION

We strongly advise you to create a Development version first. This will make it easier to test your newly updated app on your own devices first. In your Production app, select '**Copy to Development**' to create the new app to test.

## 3.2. Migrate the new app on the Twixl Platform to 'item styles'

In order to use the new Item Styles, you'll need to convert the copied v10+ app on the platform.



This app uses the legacy option "cell styles".

Apps with "cell styles" will no longer be supported after June 30th, 2022.

We strongly advise that you [migrate your app to "item styles"](#).

## 3.3. Adapt your Browse Grids and Item Styles (optional)

If you want (and if necessary) to make use of the new layout options, you can now adapt the Item Styles. See:

- [Styling: Grid Styles](#)
- [Styling: Item Styles](#)

## 3.4. Test your app built with the latest version of Twixl Publisher

As always, **testing** is the most important thing. You can test your new app as follows:

- Test and preview with the Twixl App. See the following articles:
  - [Preview article-based app in iOS Simulator](#)
  - [Preview an app on a mobile device](#)
- For iOS, create an Ad Hoc or TestFlight build and test your new design. See:
  - [Building your app](#)
  - [iOS app build types](#)
  - [Android app build types](#)



### 3.5. Create your final production build and submit the app

After testing, it's time to create a final build of your Production App and submit that build to the stores.

When the update is published and most or all of your users have updated to the latest release, you can delete the old 'cell style' version of your app. You can use the report 'Views by Twixl version' to verify how many users are on the latest version.

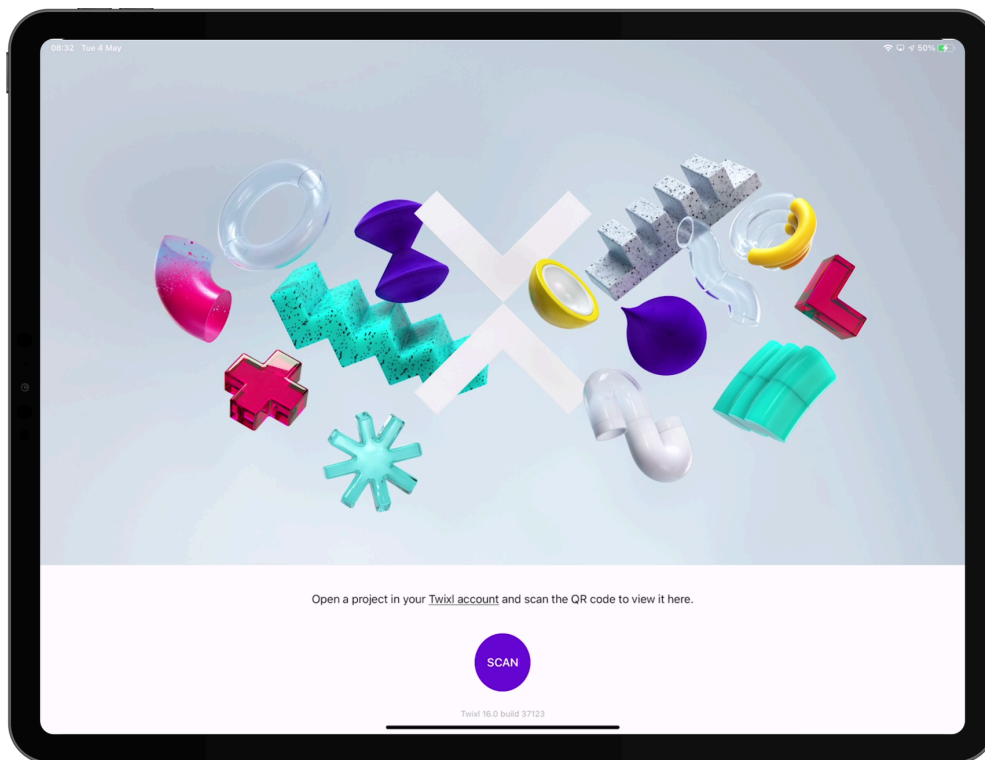
# Previewing your interface

# Preview an app on a mobile device

⚠ There are two ways to preview your app content:

1. [Preview your app in the iOS Simulator.](#)
2. Preview an app with the Twixl app.

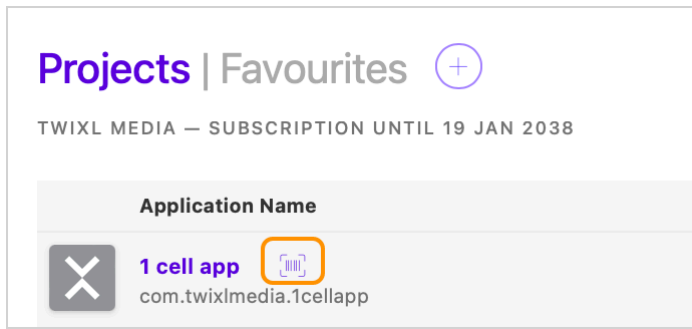
The **Twixl App** allows you to preview your apps and check what your browse pages and article details will look like without first needing to create a real test app. You just need to scan a QR code. The article below shows you how.



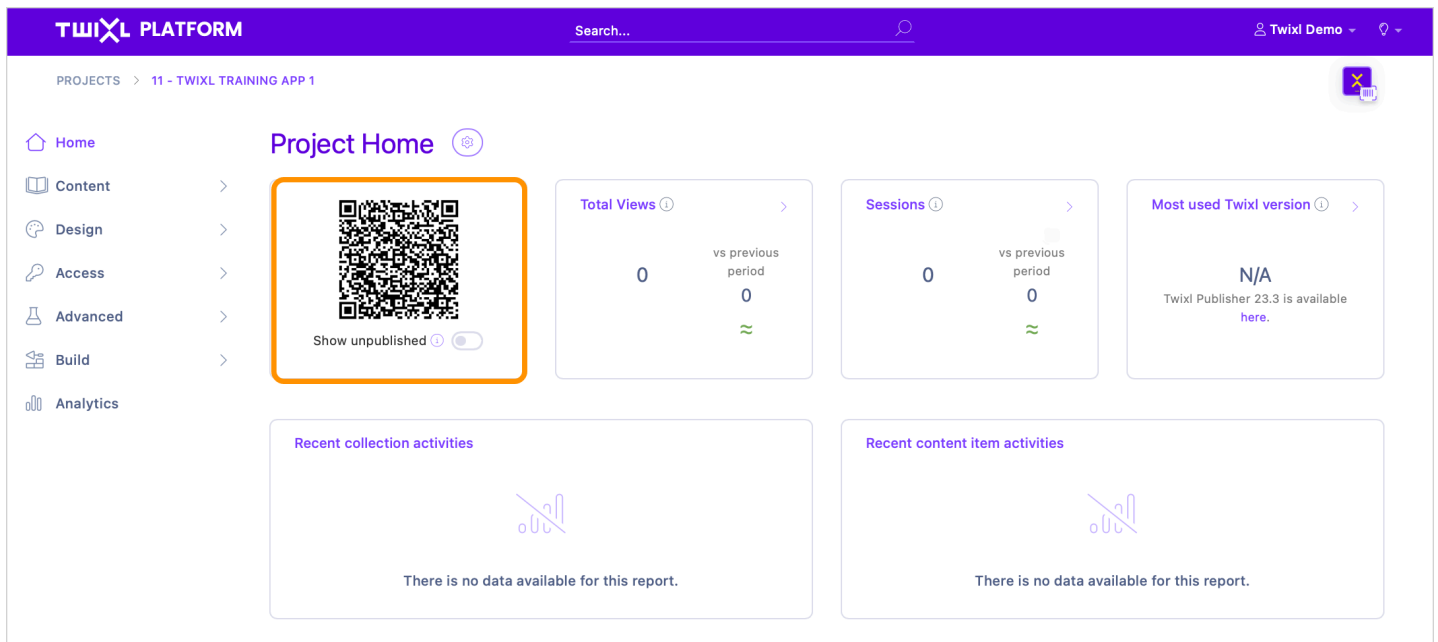
## Previewing your app

When you are logged in on the [Twixl Platform](#) as an *Administrator* or *App Administrator* (see [Manage your Team](#)), you have 3 options:

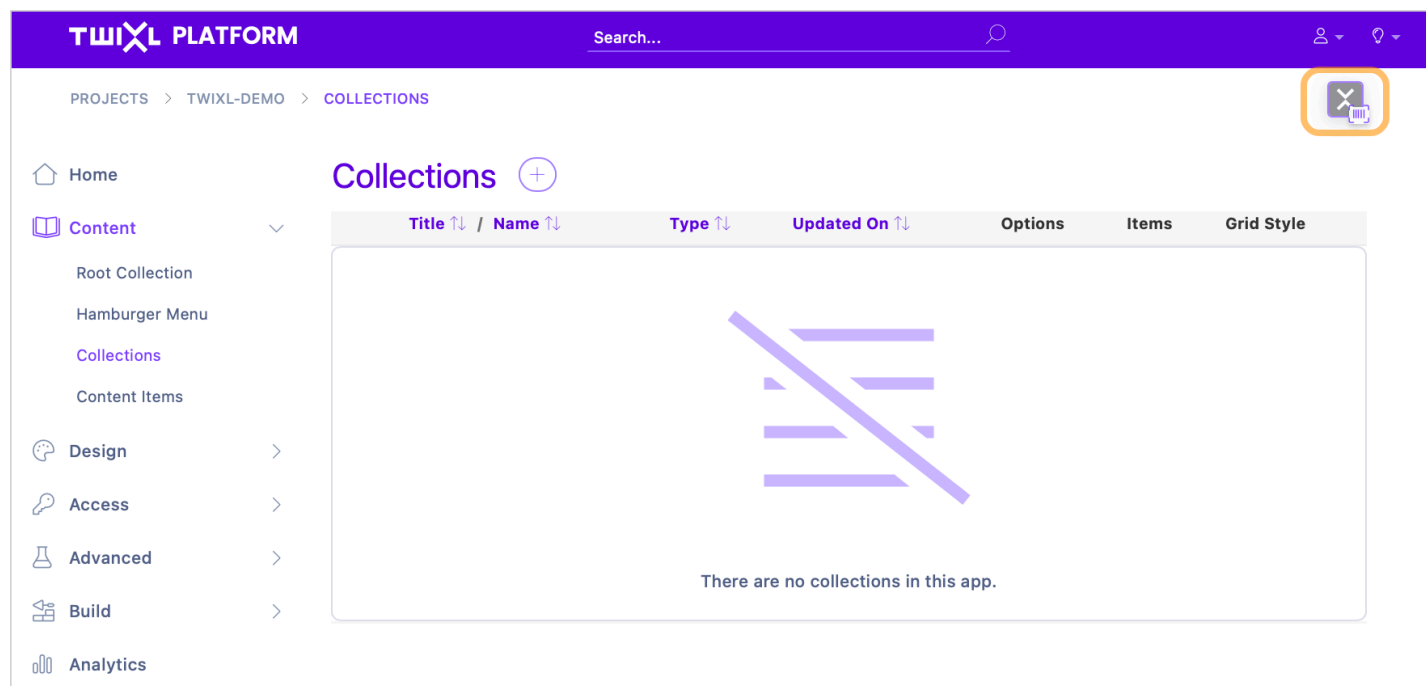
1. On the Projects page, hover the app title you want to preview and click the QR-code icon.



2. In App Home, you can see the **QR code** right away.



3. Click the QR code icon on every page of the app project and a pop-up will show the QR code.



Just below the QR code, you can check 'include unpublished articles' so content items that have not been published yet will also be included in the preview.

Open the **Twixl app** on your mobile device (*Android* or *iOS*), tap **SCAN** and scan the **QR-code**. Your app will display the preview in the **Twixl App**. The Root Collection will open and you can check how content is displayed.

You can make adjustments Collections, Grid Styles, Item Styles or any content/setting and these will be reflected in the app after a refresh.

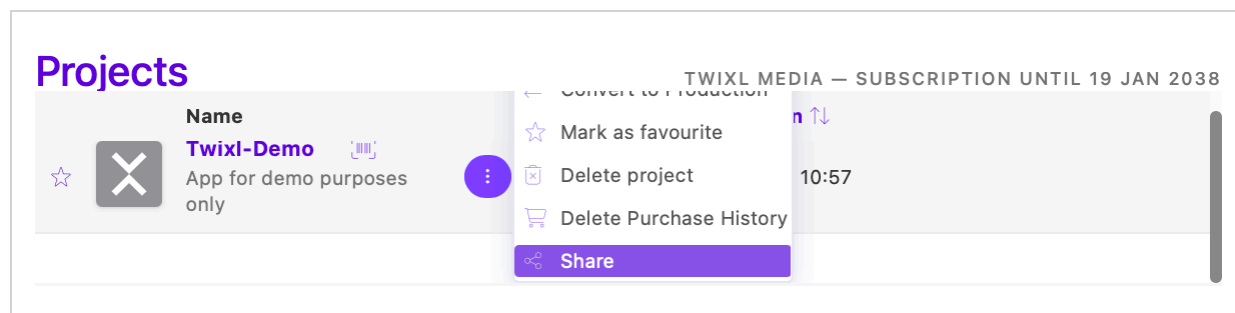
**i** To refresh the Twixl app, you can just perform a pull-to-refresh action. Most content and collection changes will show immediately. For some elements a short delay of some minutes is possible.

## Sharing your app

For an Administrator or an App Administrator, it's also very easy to share an app with e.g. a customer, a copywriter, etc. You have 2 options:

1. You can use the traditional *App Reviewer* user. See [Manage your Team](#) for more info. This option is an additional way to give somebody a more permanent access to an app. The *App Reviewer* needs to login on the Twixl platform and there he/she will find an overview of all the assigned apps, with easy access to the **QR codes**.

- You can also share your app with anyone without creating an *App Reviewer* user. In Projects > Click More Actions icon > Select Share icon > fill in the required fields and share your app! The recipient will receive clear instructions via email.



### Share Application

Enter the recipient's email address \*

Additional Message

Cancel
Share

# Preview an app in the iOS Simulator

You can preview a complete test app in the iOS Simulator. Find out how in the article below.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Requirements

- A Mac with Twixl Publisher installed
- Xcode

### 1.2. Advantages

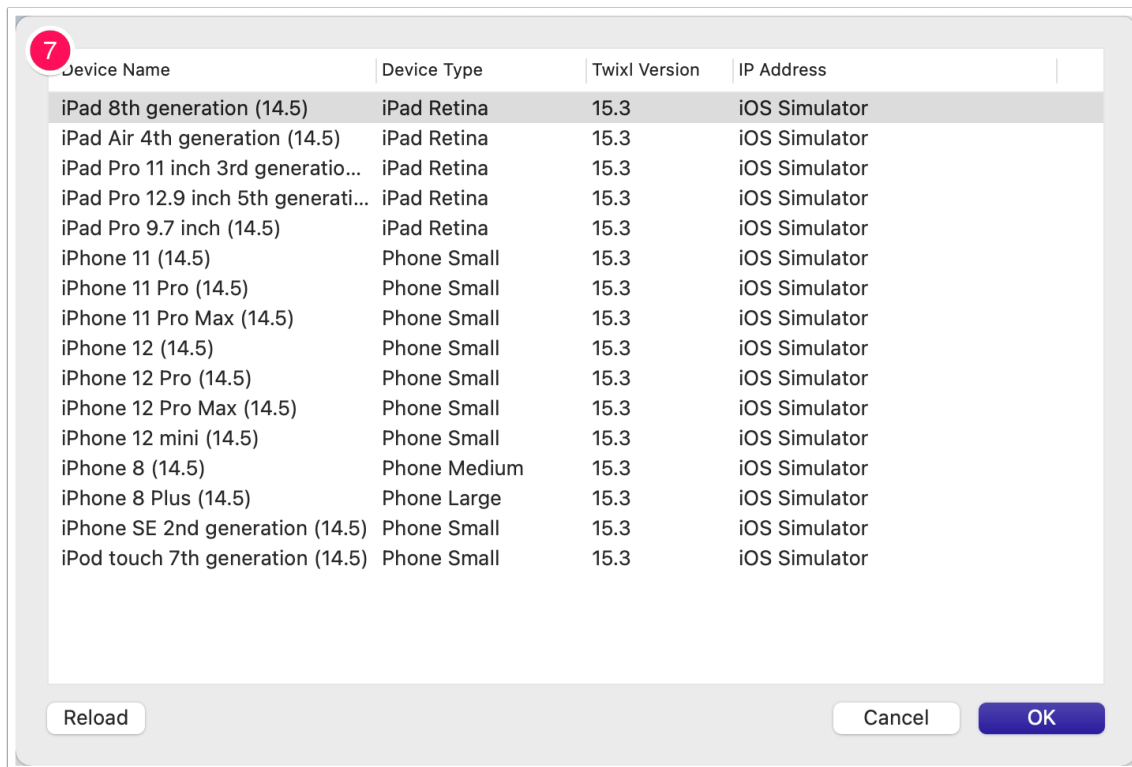
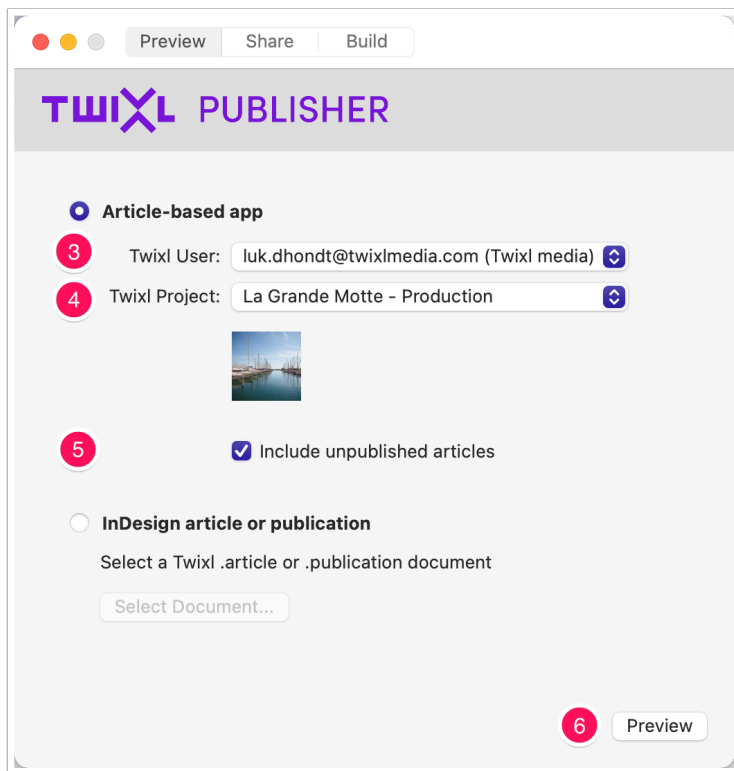
- You don't need to have access to a physical device to preview your article-based app.
- The app will react and behave in exactly the same way as an app deployed in the App Store.
- The app can be tested on different types of iOS devices (iPhone and iPad).
- A preview in the iOS Simulator can be initiated right from the Twixl Platform.

### 1.3. Disadvantages

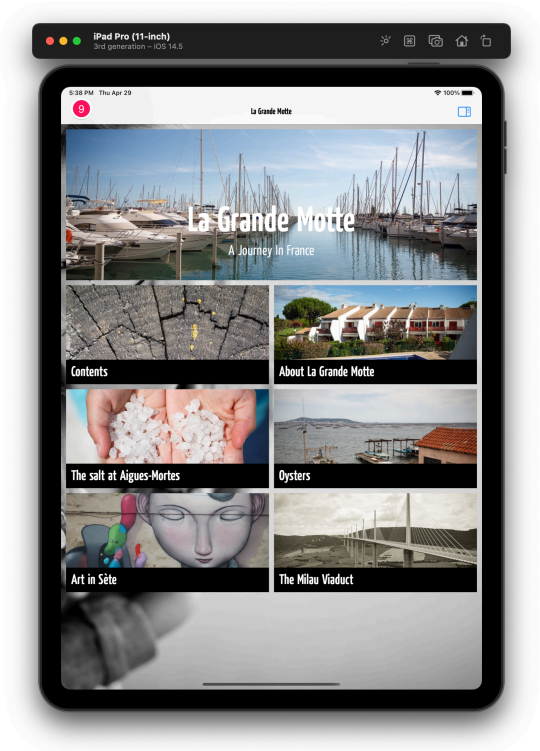
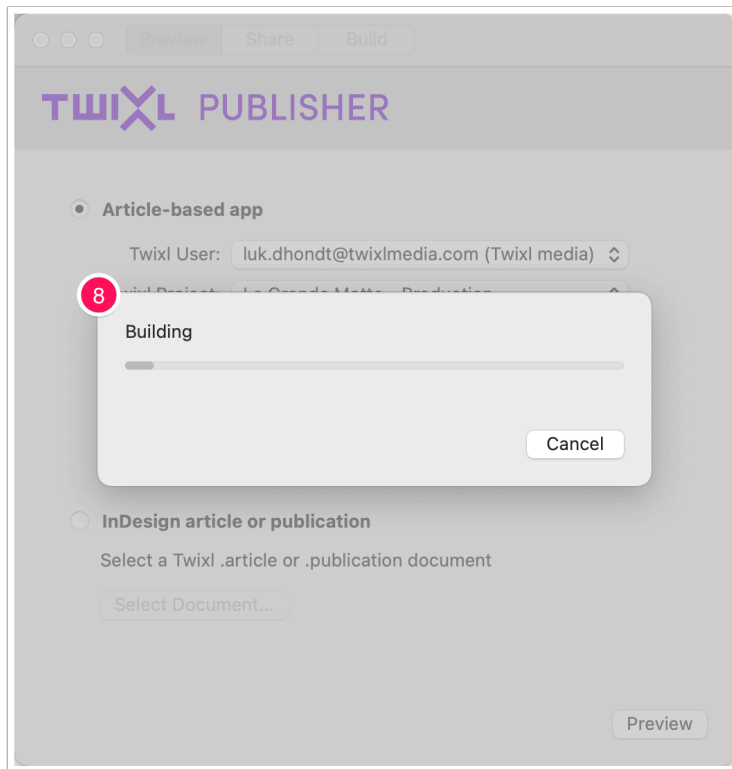
- This solution works only on a Mac
- It does not allow you to preview on Android devices

## 2. How do I do this?

1. Launch the *Twixl Publisher macOS App*, and make sure you have added your Twixl platform account under Preferences.
2. Click the *Preview* tab.
3. Select the correct *Twixl User*.
4. Select the correct *Twixl Project* (your Twixl App).
5. Select whether you want to include *unpublished articles* or not.
6. Click *Preview*.
7. Choose the desired *iOS Simulator* and *iOS version* and click *Continue*.
8. Wait for the *Twixl Publisher macOS App* to finish the build.
9. You can now test your app in the *iOS Simulator*.







# More features

# Background Images

Background images are a great way to bring depth or personalization into your app.

## 1. Where are Background Images used?

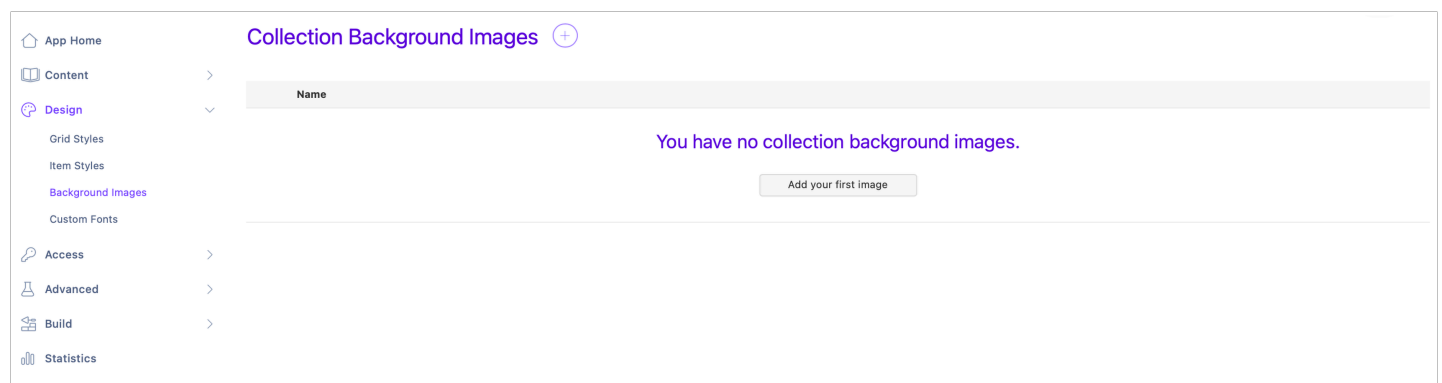
In addition of one background color in a collection, you can add more depth, create an atmosphere or even insert your house style by using background images in your app.

Background images can be used as some sort of wallpaper in collections that are in browse view mode. This means the thumbnails of all content items in that collections will be shown in a browse grid and the background image will be behind the grid of thumbnails.

## 2. How to use background images?

First of all, upload your images in a repository so you can use these in the grid styles of your app.

- In the left menu > Design > Background Images



- Click on the "+" icon to add your background image
- In the drop zone, you can drop one or more .jpg or .png files or select files from your drives.

## Add Collection Background Images

Drop images here to upload

Drag-and-drop any JPEG or PNG image file here  
or [click here](#) to select one or more files from your hard drive.

Upload

Cancel

Once you click 'Upload', these files can be used in the [grid style](#) editor. In the editor, you can Add or Edit a style. The images you uploaded will be available under the section 'Background Image'.

If you select an image, you'll get a preview of the result (how much you'll see of the image will also be dependent on your padding settings).

Because different grid styles can have a different background image, you can choose to use different backgrounds for different collections. You can also use different images for tablet / phone / browser.

TABLET | PHONE | BROWSER

Copy to Phone

Copy to Browser

Value

40 pt

Colors

TABLET

Text

Background

Background Image

TABLET

Background Image

Aurora Borealis.jpg

Options

TABLET

☒ Allow horizontal swiping between content items  
When enabled, users will be able to swipe horizontally from content item to content item. If disabled, navigation will only be possible by using links or buttons.

☒ Show scrollbars  
When enabled, scrollbars will be automatically shown when needed.

Info

TABLET

Save

Save & Continue

Cancel

# Custom Fonts

If you need to get your app in line with the corporate identity or you want the app to stand out with a unique style, you can upload custom fonts or use Google fonts within the app.



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

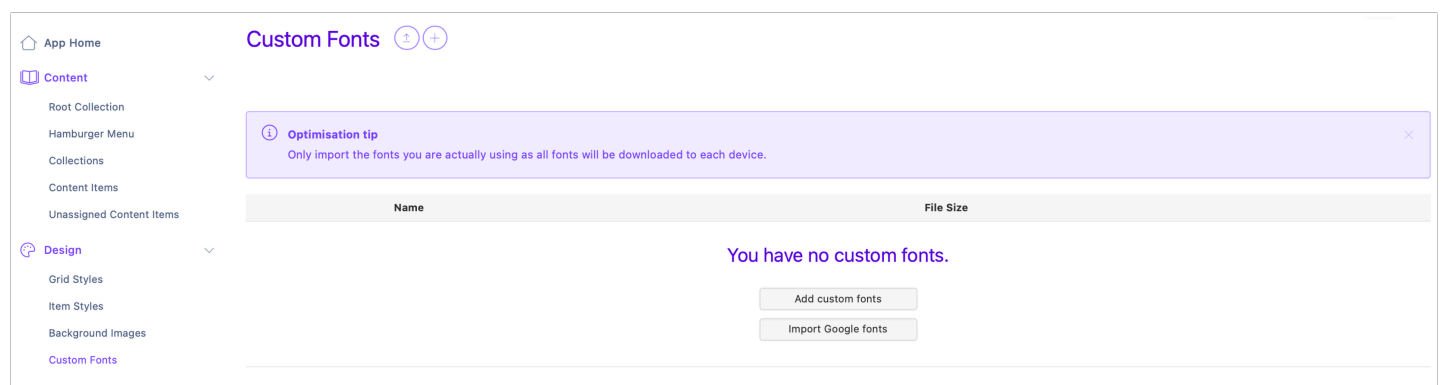
Only import the fonts you are really using as all fonts will be downloaded to each device and it will make your app larger in memory.

## 1. Working with Custom Fonts

Does your company or customer use a specific or custom made font and is the company style design requiring to use this font within the app? Working with custom fonts is very easy within Twixl Publisher.

First, upload the custom font to the Twixl Platform via the menu on the homepage of your app before adding it to a style.

- In the left menu > Design > Custom Fonts and click on the "+" icon



- Drag and drop your font file here or select the file on your drive.
- Add this font to your list of fonts on the Twixl Platform by confirming via 'Upload'.

Add Custom Font

*Make sure you have the proper licenses for your fonts which allow you to distribute them digitally.*

Drop fonts here to upload

Drag-and-drop any OpenType or TrueType fonts here or [click here](#) to select one or more files from your hard drive.

Upload
Cancel

Once the font has been uploaded, you will be able to select it if you edit the application options or define them in the item styles.



### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- You can either add Truetype (.ttf) or OpenType (.otf) fonts.
- Make sure you have the proper licenses for your fonts that allow you to distribute them digitally.

## 2. Working with Google Fonts

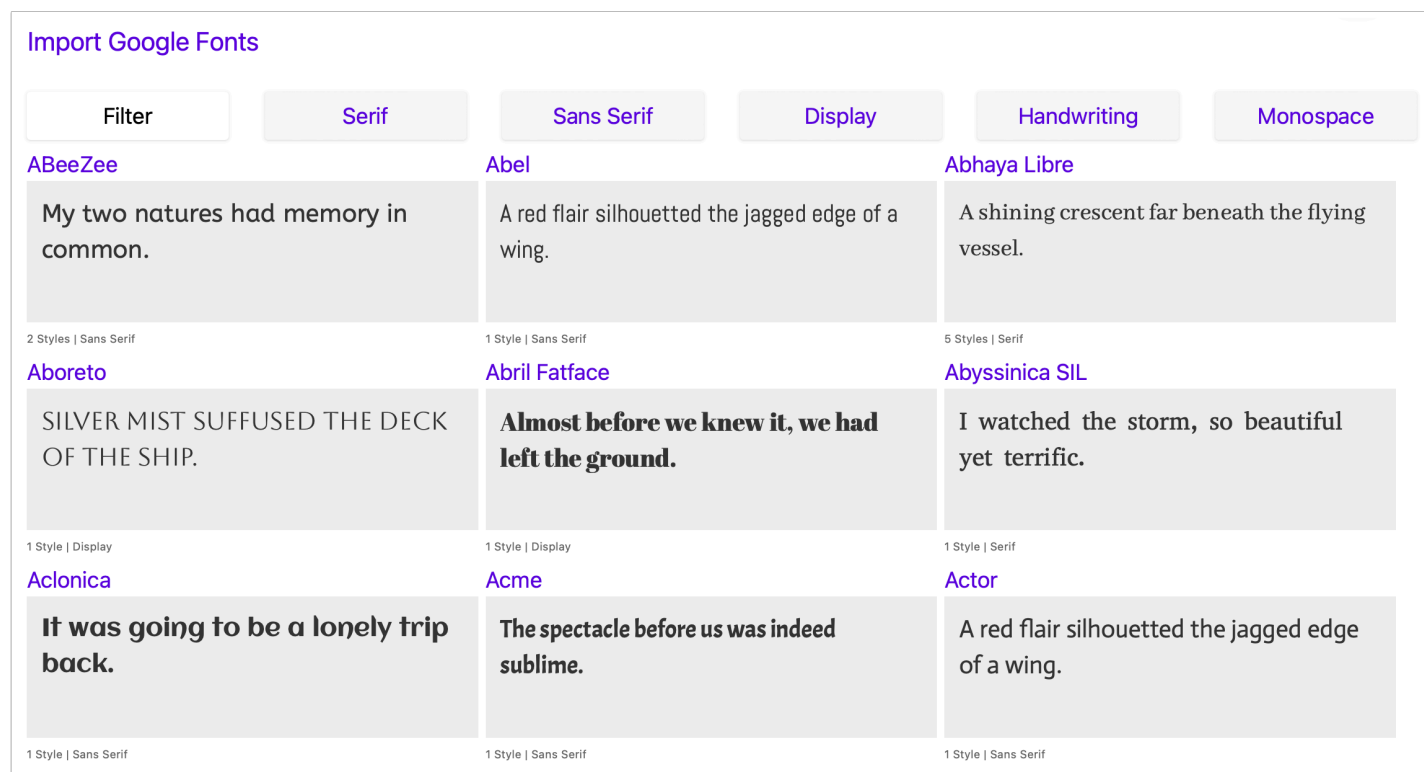
If you don't have a custom font but want to theme your app, the Google Fonts option is a great feature.

All Google Fonts you want to use in your app first have to be imported in the Custom Fonts section.

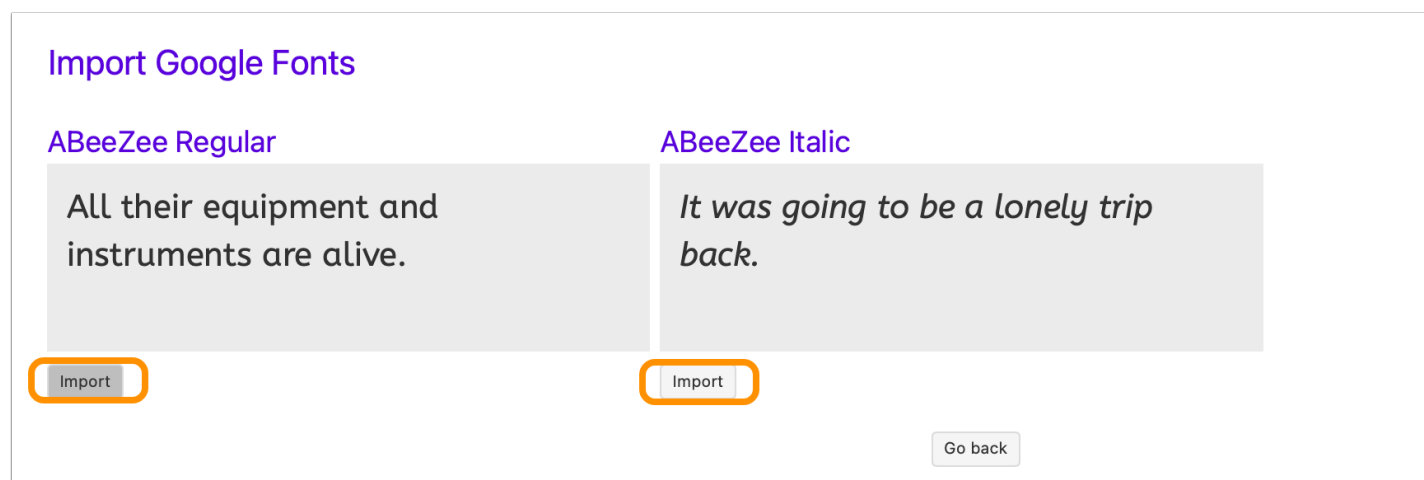
- Select the upload icon next to the Custom Fonts title > this will open the Google Fonts Interface



- Search for or filter a specific Google Font > 'Import' the font



- Click on the Google Font you want to add and click on 'Import'



### EXTRA INFO ABOUT GOOGLE FONTS:

Google Fonts are free to use, even for commercial usage!  
If you want to learn more about Google Fonts, see [this web site](#).

# Accessibility Features in Twixl apps

Both iOS and Android support a number of Accessibility features. Below is an overview of what is supported in your Twixl apps (requires 15.3 or higher).

## 1. VoiceOver (iOS) & Talkback (Android)

From [Apple's web site](#): "VoiceOver is a screen reader that interacts with objects in your apps so users can drive the interface even if they can't see it. Ensure that the user interface elements in your apps are accessible and useful."

From the [Android web site](#): "Fully interact with what's on your screen through sound and touch. Use TalkBack to hear everything from notifications to app names to how much battery life you have left."

In your Twixl apps, nothing needs to be configured to support this. VoiceOver and Talkback are supported for the following:

- Reading PDF articles
- Reading HTML articles
- User Interface elements (buttons, alerts, ...)
- Text in browse grid cells
- The Settings screen
- The Paywall screen

NOTE: At this time, interactive InDesign content is not supported.

## 2. Dynamic Type (iOS) & Font size and display size (Android)

With this feature, people can choose their preferred text size and the OS will switch fonts automatically as needed.

In your Twixl apps, nothing needs to be configured to support this. Dynamic Type and Font&Display size are supported for the following:

- Reading PDF articles
- Reading HTML articles
- User Interface elements (buttons, alerts, ...)
- Text in browse grid cells
- The Settings screen
- The Paywall screen



NOTE: At this time, interactive InDesign content is not supported.

### 3. How to use?

Accessibility features are activated on a device level. Therefore, nothing has to be changed by the end-user in your app itself. Please refer to the [Apple](#) and [Google](#) help pages on how to activate and use the accessibility features on iOS and Android devices.

 For more general information on mobile accessibility guidelines and tips, check international initiatives as [W3C](#).