# Hidden Gems in ColdFusion Builder

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### About the presentation

- Not an "Intro to CFBuilder"
  - There are many important features I won't discuss
- Still, many many tips to share
  - No time to detail each of them
  - Will often point to URL with more info
- Presentation PDF posted at carehart.org/presentations

### Audience

- May include those new to/expert in Eclipse
  - May be coming from CFEclipse
    - · May never have gotten into it, or tried and passed on it
  - May be coming from Dreamweaver/HomeSite+/CFStudio
- There are some things that address each group
  - And there are some that fail to satisfy each group
- Be patient with this talk
  - You may already know some of these things
  - You may even think of things I didn't share
  - Feedback welcome, as always

#### Session Outline

- Hidden Gems in Working with Files
- Hidden Gems in Editing
- Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE
- Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting
- Hidden Gems in Connecting to CF Servers
- Hidden Gems in Editing Code on Remote Servers
- Miscellaneous Hidden Gems
- Some Gotchas
- Resources for Learning More

### **About Charlie Arehart**

#### **Independent Consultant**

- 13 yrs CF experience (27 in Enterprise IT)
- Member, Adobe Community Experts
- Certified Adv CF Developer (4–8), Cert.
   Adobe Instructor
- Frequent speaker to user groups, conferences worldwide
- •Run the Online ColdFusion Meetup (coldfusionmeetup.com)
- · Living in Alpharetta, Georgia (Atlanta)

#### Web home at www.carehart.org

- Host ~300 blog entries, 80+ articles,
  90+ presentations
- UGTV: recordings of 500+ presentations by ~250 speakers
- CF411.com 1,200+ tools/resources in 125+ categories
- Hosting courtesy of EdgeWeb Hosting
- Consulting: available for CF troubleshooting, tuning; training
  - · Remote or on-site

### **About CFBuilder Editions**

- Available standalone and as plug-in
  - Most features should work the same
    - But be aware there can be differences
- Bundles Aptana Studio (commercial plugin)
  - Many important features come from that
- Note that installing own Aptana may conflict
  - Also, different base editions of Eclipse can impact
- Of course, works with any version of CF

#### Windows vs Mac OS X

- When I refer in talk to CFBuilder Preferences
  - it's in Window>Preferences on Windows but in Adobe ColdFusion Builder>Preferences on Mac
  - I'll just start with Preferences> to avoid confusion
    - But note that Window menu option does exist on Mac, used for other things, like Window>Show View
- And of course, if I say ctrl+click something, on Mac that's command+click
- OK, on with the tips...
  - Will focus on those I've bolded and italicized

### Hidden Gems in Working with Files

- You don't HAVE to work in projects
  - Available File tab (Window>Show View>File)
  - Has full access to file system
  - Also available FTP support (more on this later)
- You CAN now open files from the OS
  - And it doesn't open entire new workbench
  - http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2009/7/28/cfbuilder\_tip\_opening\_files\_from\_outside\_editor

# Hidden Gems in Working with Files (cont.)

- Alternative ways to find/open file
  - ctrl+shift+r or Navigate>Open Resource
    - lets you type name to find any matching
  - Open CFC toolbar button
    - (2 to the right of "Print" button)
    - Similar to "open resource" but limits to display of CFCs
  - Both these presume chars typed are at front of filename/path
    - Can use \* or ? In chars to do wildcards

# Hidden Gems in Working with Files (cont.)

- Switch among open files
  - Ctrl+f6 either toggles back and forth among opened files or hold down ctrl to see list to choose from
  - Ctrl+e opens list of editors, with just file names, not paths. Can either mouse down and select or type letters to filter and select
    - Ctrl+shift+e is slightly different and useful
  - Common eclipse shortcut, shift+tab/ctrl+shift+tab doesn't work as expected
    - Switches between source and internal browsing
  - Ctrl+pgup/dn moves among opened tabs
    - Alt+left/right moves among opened tabs, not obvious order
  - Ctrl+q takes you back to last file being edited

# Hidden Gems in Working with Files (cont.)

- For a file you open often, bookmark it
  - Select file in navigator, then Edit>Add Bookmark on main menu
  - Can also bookmark lines within files, to open and jump to that line
- Finding currently open file in Project navigator tree
  - Right-click and choose Show In>Navigator
- To always sync navigator and opened file
  - In top right of Navigator view, click two-arrowed icon (Link with Editor)
    - Or click down arrow on its right and choose Link with Editor

#### Hidden Gems in Working with Files /Editing

- Local history poor man's version control
  - Eclipse keeps tracks of changes (made in IDE)
  - Right-click text or file, Compare With>Local History
  - How far back are changes saved?
    - Preferences>General>Workspace>Local History
    - Beware max file size setting, limits files tracked this way
- Find/search across multiple files
  - Ctrl+h or Search>Search
  - Can choose between entire workspace (all projects)
    - Or selected resource (if one is selected in navigator)

### Hidden Gems in Editing

- Quickly open included files, called CFCs, more
  - Ctrl+hover (command+hover on Mac) + click on link
    - To open included file, invoked CFC/method/UDF
    - Whether in tag or script or using "new" keyword
    - Can even jump to specific method
  - Also html tags, like <script src=>
  - Obviously won't work for paths stored in variables
  - Also won't work even with hard-coded paths if outside relative path
    - If project is not connected to a Server or linked folders
    - Also, if it doesn't work at all, try closing and reopening file
  - More info
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/code\_hyperlinking.html

#### Split window

- Use Window>New Editor
- Can then right-click on tab to move to be above/below, side by side
- Turning on word wrap
  - Preferences>HTML>Editors (no need to expand)
    - Then click Advanced tab
    - · and click on Enable word wrap option
  - Also an available plugin
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/08/enable\_w ord\_wrap.html

- Turning on line numbers
  - Right-click on gutter, "show numbers"...or...
  - Preferences>general>editors>text editors
- Wish tab would insert spaces instead?
  - Preferences>General>Editors>Text Editors (don't expand)
    - Click Insert spaces for tabs
  - Preferences>HTML>Editors (don't expand)
    - Choose Tab Insertion, Use Tabs/Use Spaces
- Filter feature, in Preferences dialogue
  - Also useful in many other places in IDE
- Creating new blank page, without file name
  - File>New>Other>Untitled Files>Untitled HTML File
  - Note that to use CFML editing features, must close and reopen as CFML editor

- Be sure to explore (all in docs, and some blogs)
  - Refactoring
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/refactoring\_in\_c oldfusion\_buil.html
  - Snippets. Two places:
    - Window>Show View>Other>HTML Standard Views>Snippets
    - Window>Show View>Snippets (CF Snippets, with trigger text, launched with ctrl+j)
    - Sharing them:
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/08/use\_your\_snippe ts\_across\_ides.html
      - http://blog.mxunit.org/2009/12/sharing-your-cfeclipsecoldfusion.html
  - Outline view (Windows>Show View>Outline)

- As well as these (discussed in docs)
  - Content assist in many places
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/content\_assist\_tips.html
    - Discussed as both code assist and smart assist in docs
    - Note available Ctrl+space to request assist anytime
  - Code folding
    - Equivalent of code collapse in DW, HS+
  - Editing more than just CFML
  - And much more, discussed in docs, other resources

# Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE

- Code assist is quite configurable
  - When, when not to assist, how fast, colors, shortcuts, etc.
  - See Docs, "Code Assist" chapter:
    - http://help.adobe.com/en\_US/ColdFusionBuilder/Using/WS0 ef8c004658c1089-554789f8121af8f0c8c-7ffb.html
- Keyboard shortcuts configurability: 2 kinds
  - Preferences>ColdFusion>Editor Profiles>Editor>Keys
  - Preferences>General>Keys
  - Also, CFB may overtake keys familiar in Eclipse/CFEclipse (ctrl+3, ctrl+shift+L, ctrl+j)
    - Remember filter feature—can type name of keystroke (like "shift+f2") in **General>Keys** to find assignment and change

- Critical: finding that CFB doesn't create closing tags when/how you prefer?
  - Preferences>ColdFusion>Editor Profiles>Editor>Typing
    - Can control what chars auto-close (quotes, brackets, #'s)
    - Can control Auto-close Tags just as Dreamweaver allowed:
      - When typing '> of start tag
      - When typing '</' of end tag</li>
      - Never (curiously, this is default)
- Leads nicely to available "editing profiles"
  - Can choose between Default, Eclipse, Dreamweaver
  - Preferences>ColdFusion>Editor Profiles
  - Can control Code Assist, Colors, Keys, Syntax checking, Typing, Outline
  - More in docs and at http://sandeepp.org/blog/?p=113

- Configurable CFML dictionaries
  - For different versions of CF, different CFML engines
  - See Preferences>ColdFusion>Editor Profiles>Editor>Code Assist
  - See docs, "Code Assist" chapter
  - In future, may be more easily customizable
- "Recently opened files" setting
  - Preferences>General>Editors then Size of recently opened files list

- Setting URL Prefix for internal browsing
  - Those who don't care for defining a CF Server in CFB may miss being able to browse internally
  - Beta 2 added URL Prefix option for browsing, etc
    - Without needing to have defined a server and linked your project to a server
  - Can now right-click project/folder in , Set URL Prefix
  - Applies also to debugging
  - To browse internally, use Ctrl+tab/Ctrl+shift+tab
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/previewin g\_a\_file\_in\_123\_steps.html

- Look into other useful Eclipse-specific features for configuring the IDE
  - Fast Views
  - Detached Views
  - Moving, maximizing, resizing views
    - Just remember that you can adjust them
  - Can customize, save new perspectives
  - Can restore/reset perspective if it gets messy
- Certainly much more, but need to move on

### Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting

- Problems with memory? What are 3 tips?
- Can view current memory use by CFB (and can request GC within it)
  - Preferences>General then click Show heap status
- Close projects if you're not using them
- Can (perhaps should) increase default heap size
  - Especially if running w/ FlashBuilder, other plugins
  - http://www.adrocknaphobia.com/post.cfm/update-yourcoldfusion-builder-beta-settings-for-flash-builder-4-beta

- Wondering why things are slow? Find out!
  - Some may know common Eclipse troubleshooting views
  - Window>show view>
    - Console shows various Eclipse operations
    - Problems shows syntax errors in code, and more
    - Server shows what's going with CF server processing
    - · Other>General>Error Log shows errors with IDE itself
  - But many may miss the most important view!
    - Other>General>Progress shows background processing (indexing of CFCs, FTP operations, much more)
- CFB may seem slow at startup, due to "building server settings"
  - May see operations in Progress view:
    - "indexing CFCs of server xxx", "indexing files from webroot"
    - Can change to NOT do this during startup using Preferences>ColdFusion>Server Settings

- Try creating a new workspace
  - File>Switch Workspace
  - If things aren't working as expected, and you've used previous versions of CFBuilder or Eclipse
- Try starting CFBuilder (or Eclipse) with the -clean argument
  - Yes, this and other Eclipse.exe command-line arguments can be used with cfbuilder.exe
  - Note also -perspective arg to open a given perspective
    - See http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2010/6/18/ cfbuilder\_flashbuilder\_command\_line\_perspective\_specification

- Also note available Workbench error log
  - may help understand some problems
  - Help>Product Details>Configuration Details>View error log (opens log in browser window)
    - On OS X, it's under Adobe ColdFusion Builder>About Adobe ColdFusion Builder>Configuration Details>View error log
    - (Indeed, in older Windows versions, it was at Help>About ColdFusion Builder>Configuration Details>View error log)
- Adobe is also now recommending obtaining a stack trace (using a given tool) for knotty problems
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/10/cfbuildercfb \_performance.html
  - http://forums.adobe.com/message/2328981#2328981

- "Things to watch out for while installing CFB"
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2010/03/things\_ to\_watch\_out\_while\_inst.html
- Mac users may find that...
  - Time Machine is the culprit
    - Not saying "don't use it", but find if it's the issue and report details to Adobe
    - For more thoughts, see
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/10/issues\_on\_m ac\_-\_some\_tips.html
  - CFB Internal Firefox conflict
    - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/11/cfb\_perfor mance\_on\_mac\_-\_how\_i.html

# Hidden Gems in Connecting to CF Servers

- Option to configure "Server" for Project
  - No time to get into all the challenges of connecting to servers, local or remote
    - Benefits are <u>FAR</u> more than just starting/stopping
  - See CFBuilder docs for much more (important) explanation
    - See also Adobe Team blog entries
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/09/what\_does\_not\_work\_in\_content.h tml
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/server\_manager.html
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/remote\_server\_setup\_is\_it\_real.html
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/remote\_server\_setup\_-\_multiser.html
      - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/08/importing\_rds\_server.html

# Hidden Gems in Connecting to CF Servers (cont.)

- Beta 2 added important changes for Server config (see docs)
  - Adds virtual Host support
    - Can configure server settings to use web server virtual hosts
    - Applies to browsing, debugging, code assist, more
  - Adds support for non–JRun servers
    - Can now point to other than JRun (JBOSS, WAS etc) when configuring server settings
      - Can't start-stop-restart the server, but do get other benefits (recall previous page)
  - Adds various other bug fixes for server connection

# Hidden Gems in Editing Code on Remote Servers

- Yes, CFBuilder supports FTP (and SFTP/FTPS)
  - and no, you don't NEED to use Projects
- For projects, can set during project creation
  - or in project properties (right-clicking file/text in project
- Can also do without projects, in Files view
  - Right-click to edit text or file or folder, choose Synchronize>Create New Synchronize Connection
- But wait, there's more (I know some will wonder something)...

# Hidden Gems in Editing Code on Remote Servers (cont.)

- If using File tab with file opened from FTP server, yes, a save will save to the remote
- If using Navigator tab with file opened from local
  - Save does not save to remote
  - But there is an available shortcut to upload
    - Right-click on text, Synchronize>Upload
- There are also options to sync many files at once
  - Right-click on text, Synchronize>Synchronize
  - Or available Sync Explorer view (don't miss!)
    - Window>Show View>Other>HTML Standard Views>Sync Explorer
  - Note that "Team Synchronize" is instead about CVS
- How to Edit FTP server configurations
  - Window>Show View>Other>HTML Standard Views>Sync Manager

#### Miscellaneous Hidden Gems

- Don't miss available web services browser
  - In Window>Show View>Services Browser View
  - Allows browsing, building of code to call web svcs
  - Not much doc at all. See:
    - http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2009/8/7/cfbuilder\_browsing\_web\_services
- Linked folders (outside of project location)
  - See doc section, and:
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/08/link\_folders.html
- More about CFML debugging
  - See CFB docs and:
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/debugging\_in\_cfbuilder.html
  - See my presentations on CF step debugging
    - http://www.carehart.org/presentations/

- Can turn off splash screen in Preferences>ColdFusion>Startup
- To do find/replace within file, use Edit>Find, (ctrl+f) not Search>Search (ctrl+h)
  - The former does just within file operations
  - The latter does cross-file/project operations
    - Warning: people used to using ctrl+h to do file find/replace from other tools may inadvertently do replace across entire workspace. Ouch!
  - If doing Search>Search, note that using "\*.\*" for search of all filenames/filetypes will not work. Must use just "\*"
- Apply cfnature to project
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/2009/07/apply\_cf\_nature.html

- Tailview view has option to color-code logs
  - Window>Show View>TailView
  - Use "color settings" properties (top right of view)
  - Can assign color to string, regex
  - Can export/import to share with others
- Beta 2 also added...
  - SQL editor
    - While inside CFQUERY, right-click and choose SQL Editor or use Ctrl+alt+s
  - Context-sensitive CFML help (F1 on tag, function)
    - Didn't seem to work on Mac for me, though
      - Also, help opened in Mac can't be copy/pasted.
      - Workaround: http://onflash.org/ted/2007/08/flex-buildertip-preferences-general.php
  - See docs for more on each

- Beta 3 added...
  - Standalone deploys on Eclipse 3.5.1 (Galileo)
  - Code Assist for ColdFusion ORM
    - Provides Code Assist for many ColdFusion ORM settings
      - See "Code Assist for ColdFusion ORM" in Using Adobe CF Builder
  - Enhanced SQL Editor
    - Now lets you execute SQL statements and display the results within the SQL Editor
      - See "Using SQL Editor" in Using Adobe CF Builder
  - Extensions view
    - · Use to install, uninstall, import, and reload extensions
      - See "Using the Extensions view" in Using Adobe CF Builder
  - Support for Ext/JS 3.0 libraries
    - Can now import Ext/JS 3.0 libraries with samples
      - See "Import Ajax libraries" in Using Adobe CF Builder

- Beta 3 also added...
  - AIR application development
    - Can create projects, run or debug, package, and sign the AIR application
      - See "Developing AIR applications" in Using Adobe CF Builder
      - Gotcha: http://www.12robots.com/index.cfm/2010/7/28/Enabling-Access-to-the-Adobe-AIR-Tools-in-ColdFusion-Builder
  - Optimizing ColdFusion Builder performance
    - Preference options affect the performance of CF Builder
    - For faster editor performance, can apply preset editor preferences
      - See "Optimizing ColdFusion Builder performance" in Using Adobe CF Builder
  - ColdFusion Builder Help system
    - Now uses Adobe Community Help Client Adobe's nextgeneration Help experience. An AIR app.
      - See "ColdFusion Builder Help System" in Using Adobe CF Builder

- Many other useful Eclipse features to investigate
  - Linked resources (as opposed to Linked Folders)
    - Preferences>General>Workspace>Linked Resources
  - Can compare files to each other
    - · select them, then and right-click and choose Compare with
  - Can get net-based features working if behind firewall/proxy
    - See Preferences>General>Network Connections
  - Incremental find (Edit>Incremental Find Next)
  - Piano Keys Feature (alternating shaded/white lines in editor)
  - File>New>Other>HTML Projects>Existing Hosted Site
  - Tasks can add tasks for file, line, or not associated with anything
- Many available additional plug-ins for Eclipse
  - Version control, database integration, lots more

### Some Gotchas

- To hide/show carriage return and other unusual ("hidden") characters suddenly appear, toggle ctrl+. (that's a period)
- Features lost when editing file not in a project
  - (Meaning: files opened using files tab, not navigator)
  - Local history
  - Recent files list
  - Perhaps more

#### Definitely far more gems you can find

- This has not been the ultimate list
  - We have only 50 minutes
  - We have different audiences
  - We have different tools under the covers
    - Eclipse, Aptana, CFBuilder
  - Goal certainly wasn't to show all, or even most, features
- You can find many more tips and hidden gems
  - Besides CFB docs, many resources available on Eclipse, Aptana
    - Can learn much from those
  - Can even learn from CFEclipse resources
    - Just beware some CFE-specific things were not ported

#### **CFBuilder Resources**

- CFBuilder Installation Guide
  - http://help.adobe.com/en\_US/ColdFusionBuilder/Installing/index.html
- CFBuilder User Guide
  - http://help.adobe.com/en\_US/ColdFusionBuilder/Using/index.html
- CFBuilder Forum/List
  - http://forums.adobe.com/community/coldfusion/coldfusionbuilder
- CFBuilder Adobe Team Blog
  - http://blogs.adobe.com/cfbuilder/
- CFBuilder Bug Tracker
  - http://cfbugs.adobe.com/bugreport/flexbugui/cfbugtracker/main.html
- Akbarsait's list of CFBuilder tutorials and resources
  - http://www.akbarsait.com/cfbuildertutorials.cfm
- Others have done talks on CFBuilder, recording links offered at http://www.carehart.org/ugtv/

### Other Resources

- Eclipse, Eclipse Getting Started resources
  - http://www.eclipse.org
  - http://www.eclipse.org/resources/?category=Getting%20Started
    - See especially Basic Tutorial to learn Eclipse
- Eclipse Tips and Tricks
  - Help>Help Contents>Workbench User Guide>Tips and Tricks
- Aptana Studio resources
  - http://www.aptana.org/
- I may develop more resources
  - More detailed discussions as blog entries (carehart.org/blog)
  - May also develop half-day class on CFB gems
  - And/or daylong class on Intro to CFB

### CFBuilder free for Education

- For learning purposes only
  - not for production purposes
- Includes all qualified students, faculty and staff of eligible education institutions
- More at:
  - https://freeriatools.adobe.com/cfbuilder/

# Summary

- Hope everyone here has learned at least some new gem
  - Remember, we have different audiences here
  - Is there anyone who didn't learn a single thing new?

### **Questions On Presentation**

- Charlie Arehart
  - charlie@carehart.org
- I'd really appreciate your feedback
  - http://carehart.org/feedback/
- Available for ColdFusion troubleshooting
  - Remote or on–site
  - No time minimum, satisfaction guarantee
  - http://carehart.org/consulting/