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)
  - That said, some features do not work unless a file is opened as a project (more on this later)

- **You CAN now open files from the OS**
  - And it doesn’t open entire new workbench
  - Note again, though, that that will not permit access to features that only work if file is opened within a project
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
  - (Nice to remember as alternative to familiar `ctrl+o`, which does something entirely unrelated to file opens)
- 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
  - If it doesn’t work at all, try closing and reopening file
  - More info
Hidden Gems in Editing (cont.)

- **Split window**
  - Select tab of file to split, use Window>New Editor
    - Or right-click on the tab and choose New Editor
    - This opens a new editor window for that file
  - Can then right-click on its tab to move
    - To be above/below, side by side with the other editor
    - Changes made in one are synced to the other

- **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
Hidden Gems in Editing (cont.)

- **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
Hidden Gems in Editing (cont.)

- Be sure to explore (all in docs, and some blogs)
  - Refactoring
  - Snippets. Two places:
    - Window>Show View>Other>HTML Standard Views>Snippets
    - Window>Show View>Snippets (CF Snippets, with trigger text, launched with \texttt{ctrl+j})
  - Sharing them:
  - Outline view (Windows>Show View>Outline)
Hidden Gems in Editing (cont.)

- As well as these (discussed in docs)
  - Content assist in many places
    - 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:

- **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
Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE (cont.)

- **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
      - 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
Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE (cont.)

- 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
Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE (cont.)

- 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
Hidden Gems in Configuring the IDE (cont.)

- 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 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 FAR more than just starting/stoping
  - See CFBUILDER docs for much more (important) explanation
    - See also Adobe Team blog entries
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
  - Window>Show View>Other>HTML Standard Views>File
Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting

- **Problems with memory? 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
Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting (cont.)

- **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
Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting (cont.)

- Consider disabling syntax checking
  - This setting causes CFB to check syntax while you type
  - Preferences>Coldfusion>Editor Profiles>Editor>Syntax Check
    - Note two options: Enable Syntax Checking and Display Syntax Errors Only on File Save

- On Mac, consider possible issues with File Preview
  - Especially if Activity Monitor shows WindowServer using high CPU
Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting (cont.)

- **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_specificatio
Hidden Gems in Troubleshooting (cont.)

- 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


“Things to watch out for while installing CFB”

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:

**CFBuilder supports CFML step debugging**
• See CFB docs and:
• 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
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

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.

See docs for more on each, and also ...
Miscellaneous Hidden Gems (cont.)

- **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
    - Note: you do have to have a Server defined for the project

- **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
Miscellaneous Hidden Gems (cont.)

- **AIR application development**
  - Can create projects, run or debug, package, and sign the AIR application
    - See “Developing AIR applications” in Using Adobe CF 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**
    - 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
• See resources later
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
- Also features lost if project not connected to a server
  - Many code assist features
  - Ability to ctrl-hover to open files in other than local directory
  - And 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 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/
CFBuilder Resources

- CFBuilder User Guide
- CFBuilder Installation Guide
- CFBuilder Forum/List
- Adobe CFBuilder Team Blog
- CFBuilder Bug Tracker
- Akbarsait’s list of CFBuilder tutorials and resources
  - http://www.akbarsait.com/cfbuilddertutorials.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)
  - [http://www.eclipse.org/resources/?category=Getting%20Started](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](http://www.eclipse.org/resources/?category=Getting%20Started)

- **Aptana Studio resources**
  - [http://www.aptana.org/](http://www.aptana.org/)
  - [https://aptanastudio.tenderapp.com/faqs](https://aptanastudio.tenderapp.com/faqs)
  - Note that if something suggests using Preferences>Aptana, use Preferences>HTML instead

- **I may develop more resources**
  - Blog entries (carehart.org/blog), talks, classes
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 and CFBuilder troubleshooting
  - Remote or on-site
  - No time minimum, satisfaction guarantee
  - Available “CFBuilder fixed fee solution for one problem”, up to a max of 2 hours
  - http://carehart.org/consulting/