KEEPING CF (AND JAVA) UPDATED: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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TOPICS

- Updating CF
  - Why and when you should do it
  - How simple it should be, since CF10
  - Some common challenges and their solutions; best practices
  - Resources with more info
- Updating the JVM that CF uses
- Updating the CF web server connector (wsconfig)
- With demos of each, along the way
Sadly, some people never update their CF, their jvm, or web server connector

To be clear, I’m referring here to updating CF vs upgrading/migrating
- There are usually several/dozens of updates to CF within a given version
- Not talking here about moving between one CF version to another (like 2016 to 2018)
- Will discuss briefly upgrading JVM version (in addition to just updating it)

Slides available online for you now or later:
- carehart.org/presentations
Why and when you should do it
- See the technote in each update
- Link offered in Admin Update UI, or available online (and for manual update)
  - coldfusion.adobe.com/2017/11/finding-more-about-applying-coldfusion-updates/

How simple it should be, since CF10
- Demo
- But what about when it doesn’t “work”, and other challenges? …
On the need to update after initial download/install of CF

Why you SHOULD enable “check for updates” in the CF Admin updates page

On the need to apply (before others) CF2018 update 4 or CF2016 update 11
  - Otherwise, typically, you need only apply the latest (not in sequence)
  - But do check out the technotes of those you skip

When you can’t see the buttons or links

Checking the logs after an update, to ensure no errors

When CF update fails

When CF update can’t stop the CF Service

Manually applying

CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND BEST PRACTICES
MY RESOURCES WITH MORE INFO

- coldfusion.adobe.com/2017/11/finding-more-about-applying-coldfusion-updates/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/03/problems-applying-cf-update-check-first/
- carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2016/9/6/solve_common_problems_with_CF_updates_in_10_and_above
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/08/know-release-notes-page-summarizes-key-changes-cf-updates/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/11/how-to-implement-a-special-cf-hotfix/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/06/note-need-apply-latest-many-cf-updates/
Why and when you should do it
- JVM updates are about quarterly

How simple it should be
- Download JVM installer, install it (NOT in the CF JRE, overwriting what’s there)
- Change CF to use that (in CF Admin or jvm.config’s java.home line)
- Restart CF
- Demo

Video walkthrough of updating the JVM
- youtube.com/watch?v=aW2tL1GMXB0

Even though it should be that simple, there are again various challenges ...
Where to find JVM installers:
- adobe.com/support/coldfusion/downloads.html

Not every CF version supports the latest JVM versions (more in a moment)
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/04/updates-available-java-8-11-apr-16-2019/#table

What about Java 12, 13, and up (for now)?
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/10/coldfusion-now-supports-java-12-already-eol-use-java-13-11/

Specific challenges when changing from one JVM version to another
- Adobe recommends you delete or rename class files compiled by CF with the old JVM
- Found in wwwroot/WEB-INF/cfclasses and stubs folder in your cfusion or [instancename] folder

How updating JVM may fix problems with calls to https via cfhttp, sched tasks, etc.

I updated the JVM and now CF won’t start
- carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2014/12/11/help_I_updated_CFs_JVM_and_it_wont_start
- Bonus topic: whether and how to upgrade your TLS/SSL certs in cacerts, covered in that post

CHALLENGES, SOLUTIONS, AND BEST PRACTICES
Why should do it
  - When would you know that you should do it?
  - How simple it should be (especially since CF2016)
    - Demo: UI and command line

Challenges, solutions, and best practices
  - Specific challenges with CF2018 update 8+ and CF2016 update 14+
    - carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2020/3/20/how_and_why_sites_may_break_after_Mar_2020_CF_updates
  - Note that “upgrade” does NOT backup settings, like “remove” does
  - Be sure to update all connectors (see config/wsconfig folders)
  - Much more:
    - carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2013/9/13/why_you_must_update_cf10_webserver_connector
    - carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2019/11/13/when_how_update_cf_web_connector
BONUS TOPICS

- Updating CF9 or earlier
  - carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2014/3/14/cf9_and_earlier_hotfix_guide

- Updating the CF PMT

- Updating FusionReactor
  - carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2018/9/13/Keeping_FusionReactor_updated
Sometimes people just want someone else to “do the updates” for them
- Or they hit a problem and they just can’t easily solve it

I’m available to help
- On a short-term basis
- Remotely, via screenshare
- With satisfaction guaranteed or you won’t pay for the time

And I can of course help with about any CF-related challenge

For more, see carehart.org/consulting
SUMMARY

- We all should be careful to keep CF, the JVM, and the wsconfig updated
- If done carefully, it’s a few minute job
- If there’s trouble, usually there’s a simple resolution
- I’ve shared here all the main tips I share when I help people
- If you just want direct help (or to have me do it for you), reach out to me