Sessions and Clients and Crashes, Oh My!

Charlie Arehart
Independent Consultant
charlie@carehart.org

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Topics

- Introduction: Depth of the problem
- How a session (not a session variable) is created
- How a client variable entry (not a client variable) is created
- Client variable purge process
- How unexpected requests impact these
- Techniques/tools to detect this problem
- Techniques to remediate the problem
- Resources
About Charlie Arehart

Independent Consultant since Apr 2006
12 yrs CF experience (26 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, 70+ articles, 90+ presentations
- UGTV: recordings of 300+ presentations by ~200 speakers
- CF411.com – 700+ tools/resources in 100+ categories
- Consulting: available for CF troubleshooting, tuning, training
  - Remote or on-site
This presentation slide deck was created to support an online presentation I did that was recorded for the ColdFusion Meetup.

Note that the slides here don’t have much content, until the closing resource slides.

You’ll really want to view the recording at:

http://experts.na3.acrobat.com/p56344520/
Introduction: Depth of the Problem
Don’t be fooled

- Problem isn’t whether you “use” session variables or “use” client variables
  - Can still be negatively affected by this problem
- Must distinguish sessions from session variables, and client repository entries from client variables
  - Apps on your server, and/or your CF config, could be creating them though you don’t realize it
- Even seeming “low traffic” site can be hurt
  - Sessions/Client entries can be created by
    - bots, spiders, rss readers, web service calls, hack attempts, server monitor/ping tools, load testing tools, etc.
How a session (not a session variable) is created
How a client variable entry (not a client variable) is created
Client variable purge process
How unexpected requests impact these
Techniques/tools to detect this problem
Techniques to remediate the problem
Related Blog Entries

- **Mine**
  - Suffering CPU, DB, or memory problems in CF? Spiders could be killing you in ways you'd never dream
  - How to determine your current client storage value
    - http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2008/12/2/determine_current_clientstorage_value

- **Others**
  - Sessions and Cookies and Bots (oh my)
  - Pseudo-memory leak
  - “RSS Ate My Server
  - Large Mistake In My Session Management Logic
  - Security bug with client variables
Other Resources

- Related Adobe Technotes
  - Deleting client variables stored in the Registry
    - http://www.adobe.com/go/tn_17881
  - How client variables are purged
    - http://www.adobe.com/go/tn_18514

- Articles
  - Monitoring Your CF Environment with the Free Log Parser Toolkit
    - http://www.carehart.org/articles/#2006_4

- Of course, I’m happy to help as well via my consulting services (carehart.org/consulting)
Conclusion
Summary

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- Client variable purge process
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- Techniques to remediate the problem
- Resources
Questions On Presentation

- Charlie Arehart
  - charlie@carehart.org
- I’d really appreciate your feedback
  - http://carehart.org/feedback/
- Available for ColdFusion troubleshooting, setup, implementation consulting
  - Also system admin and tuning support, developer productivity coaching, and more
  - Remote or on-site
  - For as little as days, hours, even 15 minutes
  - http://carehart.org/consulting/