





Getting Started with BoxLang As an Alternative CFML Engine



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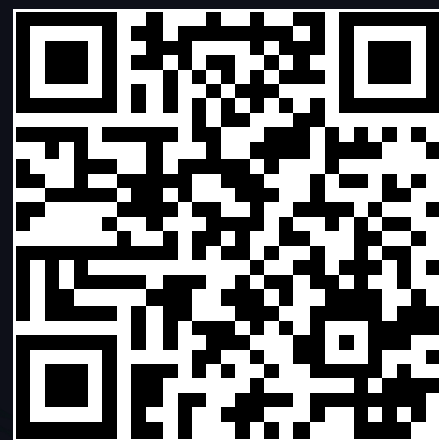
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- *About me:*
 - Stood on the corner outside 50 yrs ago, taking public transit to school
- *Interests:*
 - Managing my farm, loving my wife
- *Fun fact as a modern dev:*
 - Well, I'm a boomer...so there's that...which is skibidi



Intro

- The title says it all
 - We'll discuss just that
- Only have 45 mins
 - Will offer several resources for learning more
- Goal is to “whet your whistle”, get you on your way
 - Whether you're coming from CF or Lucee
- Slides for talk available online:
 - carehart.org/presentations



BoxLang Mythbusters

- Perhaps you've heard things, or formed opinions...
- Level 1
 - BoxLang is a language
 - True
 - BoxLang is a platform that supports multiple languages
 - True: CFML & Python for now, others planned (Groovy, and more)
 - ColdFusion is a language
 - False: CFML is the language, CF/Lucee are CFML engines
 - BoxLang is a CFML engine
 - True: it's that AND more (as this conference has shown)

BoxLang Mythbusters

- Level 2
 - BoxLang executes CFML
 - False-ish: technically, cfml is transpiled into BoxLang
 - You must to take a step to convert your cfml into BoxLang
 - False: it does it dynamically, or you CAN literally convert code
 - BoxLang includes a web server to run CFML-based web sites
 - False-ish: available BoxLang miniserver or CommandBox offer that
 - BoxLang can run all CFML
 - True-ish: it "tries real hard" to be able to, and improves daily

BoxLang Mythbusters

- Level 3
 - You must install bx-compatible-cfml module to run cfml
 - False: while you might need what it offers, you may well not need it
 - Running CFML without it is called BoxLang "Prime"
 - You may well need still other bx modules to support various CFML
 - BoxLang is free, even for production
 - True: no limits on cores, use as "saas", etc.
 - But several modules/features required paid BoxLang+ subscription
- Bottom line: BoxLang is an alternative CFML engine

What matters most: Can BoxLang run your code?

- Several ways to find out
- First can try sample code without installing BoxLang
 - <https://trycf.com/>
 - Gotcha: if you get an error, refresh page before running correction
 - Gotcha: if you visit from "run code" link on cfdocs.org, bx not offered
 - <https://try.boxlang.io/>
 - Big gotcha: is only for running BoxLang script, not CFML
 - <https://www.cfmlfiddle.com/>
 - Not an online fiddle, but a (new) locally runnable one
 - Supports CF, Lucee, and BoxLang

Demo

What matters most: Can BoxLang run your code?

- Second, by implementing/trying it, any of many ways...
 - BoxLang binary/installer
 - BoxLang miniserver
 - CommandBox BoxLang server
 - BoxLang Docker
 - Serverless Computing (AWS Lambda, Ggl CI Functions, etc)
 - BoxLang Digital Ocean App
 - Servlet Containers – Tomcat/Jetty/JBoss/Undertow
 - And more
- See BoxLang docs: <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/>

Demo

Your on-ramp to CommandBox?

- Some getting into BoxLang may be new to CommandBox
 - We haven't got time to introduce all its power
- Resources:
 - <https://commandbox.ortusbooks.com/>
 - <https://cfcasts.com/series/commandbox-zero-to-hero>
- See also especially
 - Getting started with BoxLang using CommandBox
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srglJc1OoGU>

CommandBox CFCConfig

- Until yesterday, BoxLang had no “admin” (still in preview)
- Can configure admin settings via files
- CFCConfig is tool, implemented within Commandbox
 - Can export admin settings from CF/Lucee to a json file
 - That can then be read and processed by BoxLang
- Resources:
 - <https://cfconfig.ortusbooks.com/>
 - <https://www.cfcasts.com/series/cf-config/>

Server.json

- Used to define characteristics of your CommandBox server
 - Can define rewrite rules, if needed
 - What JVM version to use, if needed
 - What BoxLang Modules to use (if needed)...more on this later
 - And much more
- Resources:
 - <https://commandbox.ortusbooks.com/embedded-server/server-json/working-with-server-json>

Demo

More on BoxLang modules

- BoxLang supports much CFML “out of the box”
 - For some features, must configure it to add “modules”
- `bx-compatible-cfml`
 - Enables closer match of behavior to ColdFusion or Lucee
 - Bridges differences from BoxLang's modern runtime
- Dozens more available modules
 - <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/boxlang-framework/modularity>
 - <https://www.forgebox.io/type/boxlang-modules>

BoxLang FeatureAudit feature

- CLI tool to scan you code, produce compat report
 - Boxlang featureaudit --missing
 - It may report thousands of lines...
 - But most may identify bx module that will provide support
 - Note: “-aggregate summary --quiet” arg ends with list of modules
 - Can run that at CLI or plug list into box configuration file
 - Can run w/in CommandBox cli via “boxlang cli featureaudit”
- More:
 - <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/getting-started/ide-tooling/cfml-feature-audit>

Demo

Reporting Issues

- if something doesn't work, bring it up!
 - Ortus Community site:
<https://community.ortussolutions.com/c/boxlang/42>
 - Ortus BoxTeam Slack: <https://boxteam.slack.com/>
- If they don't fix it quickly, persuade your org to pay for fix
 - May be far less than CF licensing or other migration efforts

Other Topics to Explore

- BoxLang VSCode Extension (also cursor, windsurf, etc.)
 - Coding help, debugger, more
 - Other IDEs also supported: IntelliJ, Vim, Textmate, others
- Resources:
 - <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/getting-started/ide-tooling>

Other Topics to Explore

- BoxLang Debugger
 - Step debugging of CFML (and boxlang, of course) in IDE
- Resources
 - <https://www.ortussolutions.com/blog/vs-code-boxlang-extension-the-boxlang-debugger>
 - <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/getting-started/ide-tooling/boxlang-debugger/commandbox-debugging>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtAI9LccZUA>

Other Topics to Explore

- New BoxLang AI capabilities
- New MatchBox: run BoxLang (and so CFML) on Rust
- And so much more that BoxLang brings
 - Some aspects new, many existing since release last year

BoxLang: Learning more

- <https://boxlang.ortusbooks.com/>
- <https://learn.boxlang.io/>
- <https://cfcasts.com/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/OrtusSolutions>
- Yesterday's talk by Jon Clausen:
 - "Top 10 reasons to migrate to BoxLang"

Summary

- BoxLang is both a language AND a platform on which to run CFML
 - Ortus is supremely dedicated to supporting, evolving it
- Incredible features have been added from the start and ongoing
 - Some will be focused on BoxLang “the language”
 - Many will apply just as well to CFML running atop BoxLang
- BoxLang CFML compatibility is high and improving all the time
 - If something doesn't seem to work, ask about it
 - Ortus and community are very receptive and helpful
- Enables you to deploy CFML in powerful new ways!
 - Either get started, or start keeping a close eye on it!

Thank You!

Building a *Dynamic* Future Starts Here, with you! 🚀

