

KEEPING CF (AND JAVA) UPDATED: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



Charlie Arehart, Independent Consultant
CF Server Troubleshooter
charlie@carehart.org
@carehart (Tw, Fb, Li, Slack, Skype, GitHub)

Updated Apr 25, 2022

- ▶ 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

TOPICS

- ▶ 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 2021)
 - ▶ Will discuss briefly upgrading JVM version (in addition to just updating it)
- ▶ Slides available online for you now or later:
 - ▶ *carehart.org/presentations*

PREFACE

- ▶ 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? ...

UPDATING CF

- ▶ 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 sometimes to apply some updates before others
 - ▶ Normally, you need only apply the latest (not in sequence)
 - ▶ Even then, do check out the technotes of those you skip
 - ▶ Example: CF2018 update 4 or CF2016 update 11 (download verification w/in CF Admin)
- ▶ 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

- ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2017/11/finding-more-about-applying-coldfusion-updates/
- ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/03/problems-applying-cf-update-check-first/
- ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/11/solving-error-cf-update-failed-signature-verification/
- ▶ 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/

MY RESOURCES WITH MORE INFO

- ▶ 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 ...

UPDATING THE JVM THAT CF USES

- ▶ 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 cfusion (or instance) wwwroot/WEB-INF/cfclasses , as well as sibling cfc-skeletons and rest-skeletons folders
 - ▶ And also stubs folder in your cfusion or [instancename] folder
- ▶ How updating JVM may fix problems with calls to https via cfhttp, sched tasks, etc.
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/06/error-calling-cf-via-https-solved-updating-jvm/
- ▶ “Help, 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 you 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

UPDATING THE CF WEB SERVER CONNECTOR (WSCONFIG)

- ▶ Updating CF9 or earlier

- ▶ carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2014/3/14/cf9_and_earlier_hotfix_guide

- ▶ Updating the CF PMT

- ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2019/03/running-cf-2018-pmt-manually-applied-recent-update/

- ▶ Updating FusionReactor

- ▶ carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2018/9/13/Keeping_FusionReactor_updated

BONUS TOPICS

- ▶ 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*

IF YOU MAY WANT DIRECT HELP...

- ▶ 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

SUMMARY