

MIGRATING APPS TO COLDFUSION 2025 FROM EARLIER VERSIONS



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Slide deck:
carehart.org/presentations



- ▶ Some general CF migration tips
- ▶ Compat issues introduced in CF2025
- ▶ Compat issues introduced in CF2023 (if skipping from CF2021)
- ▶ Compat issues introduced by updates to CF2025, CF2023, CF2021
- ▶ Migration tools and resources (yes, tools exist to help!)

TOPICS



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- ▶ How easy will such a migration be?
 - ▶ Of course, will depend on how many CF versions back you're jumping from
 - ▶ For some the move may be trivial
 - ▶ For others it may seem difficult (but challenges may be over-stated)
 - ▶ For most, it will be somewhere in the middle
- ▶ Goal of this talk is to help get you over various common humps
- ▶ Slides: carehart.org/presentations



INTRO

- ▶ I focus on CF server troubleshooting, as an independent consultant
 - ▶ Do you/your team have any CF-related problems?
 - ▶ **I help solve most in less than an hour**, explaining we go
 - ▶ **Satisfaction guaranteed**
 - ▶ More on rates, approach, online calendar, etc at carehart.org/consulting
- ▶ But to be clear, I'm not selling anything in this session! 😊

ME.ABOUT()

- ▶ Errors often blamed on “the new CF version”, when other reasons are cause...
- ▶ Common problem: failing to bring CF admin/ java settings used in previously
 - ▶ See my talk carehart.org/presentations/#migrating_admin
- ▶ Maybe a CF update was applied but an error occurred
 - ▶ Maybe a problem “new to CF2025” would happen if earlier CF version is updated
- ▶ Maybe the new CF runs on a more recent Java version than you used before
 - ▶ CF2025 runs on Java 21, CF2023 on Java 17, CF 2021 and earlier on Java 11
 - ▶ Some java changes can affect your CF app
- ▶ ...

DON'T BLAME CF UNFAIRLY

- ▶ Another common cause: moving to new server as part of “migration”
 - ▶ New IP address may not be recognized by other servers, such as DB, mail, api, etc
 - ▶ Failing to setup web server in same way it was setup on previous server
 - ▶ Failing to establish file permission changes that had been made on previous server
 - ▶ Changing the OS that CF runs on, or DB, or web server, etc
- ▶ You may find that running PREVIOUS CF version on new box would fail same way

DON'T BLAME CF UNFAIRLY (CONT.)

- ▶ New/changed features in CF2025 covered elsewhere (not a “what’s new” talk)
 - ▶ See CF docs, of course (What’s new, CFML Reference, Developer Guide)
 - ▶ Blog posts from CF Team, at time of each release, at CF Portal: coldfusion.adobe.com
- ▶ See my “Hidden Gems” talks for each release, at carehart.org/presentations
 - ▶ I cover language changes, as well as install, admin changes
 - ▶ Also underlying library version changes, OS and DB support, licensing/pricing, differences between Ent & Std, and more
- ▶ Did one last year (elsewhere) for CF2025 (available on my site)
 - ▶ Then reprised and expanded AND compressed it, presented here yesterday

WHAT WE WON'T COVER

COMPAT ISSUES INTRODUCED IN CF2025



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- ▶ CF has long had “deprecated features” page
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/deprecated-features.html
- ▶ Has long listed features that were “deprecated” (should no longer use) & when
 - ▶ Meant may eventually be REMOVED in coming release, so you should reconsider it
- ▶ This page used to also identify features that were “retired”
 - ▶ Meant feature was “removed” but could be “added back”
- ▶ In Dec 2024 they announced they would no longer “retire” features
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2024/12/important-notice-upcoming-deprecations-and-removals-in-coldfusion-2025-release/
 - ▶ ...

ACCELERATION OF DEPRECATION/REMOVAL IN CF2025

- ▶ The post also announced key changes to definition of terms:
 - ▶ “Deprecated”: recommended against using it, will get bug/security fixes
 - ▶ “Deprecated **and Unsupported**”: will ONLY get security fixes
 - ▶ “Removed”: no longer available (this is new—and no further “retired” features)
- ▶ Also announced specific change about lifecycle of deprecation to removal:
 - ▶ Feature marked as “**Deprecated**” in CF 2025 will move to “**Deprecated and Unsupported**” in CF 2025+1, then “**Removed**” in CF 2025+2
- ▶ More important, they did start removing things with CF2025
 - ▶ And you may hit some of them right out of the gate...

CHANGE IN DEPRECATION/REMOVAL LIFECYCLE STARTING IN CF2025

- ▶ **parameterExists()** -- use `isDefined()`, instead
- ▶ **htmlEditFormat()** -- use `encodeforHTML()` instead
- ▶ **gettemplatepath()** -- use **getBaseTemplatePath()** instead
- ▶ **CFHEADER statustext** attribute
- ▶ **Axis1** web services (publishing/consuming): now only **Axis2** (added in CF10)
- ▶ **CFMX_COMPAT** encryption / hash algorithm (removed also as default algorithm in CF2023 and 2021 per updates) ... can use "MD5", but should choose better
- ▶ **cfthread action="terminate"** and **ThreadTerminate()**
- ▶ And other generally less-widely used features, function args, tag attributes

LANGUAGE ELEMENTS REMOVED IN CF2025

- ▶ CFCs that supported “tags as script”
 - ▶ From before CF11 which enabled “all tags as script” (and queryexecute)
 - ▶ Might see it as **new query()** ... or **createObject("component", "query")**
- ▶ CF9 had added: **query, storeproc, http, mail, http, ftp, pdf**
 - ▶ CF9.01 added: **pop, ldap, imap, feed, dbinfo**
 - ▶ CF10 added: **collection, index, search**
- ▶ The CFCs were previously found in `\cfusion\CustomTags\com\adobe\coldfusion`
- ▶ Related “service-layer CFCs” (CFaaS) also removed (for calling these from outside CF)
 - ▶ Previously in `\cfusion\wwwroot\CFIDE\services`
- ▶ Must change to using script equivalents introduced with CF11
- ▶ More (covered nicely in a section of Pete Freitag’s post on cf2025 breaking changes):
 - ▶ petefreitag.com/blog/coldfusion-2025-breaking/

ALSO REMOVED: TAGS AS SCRIPT CFCs,
SERVICE-LAYER CFCs

- ▶ Some less used:
 - ▶ Mobile feature set (introduced in CF11, never really took off)
 - ▶ Flash/Flex-related features (and admin settings)
 - ▶ XML Forms
 - ▶ COM/dCOM
- ▶ Some you may still use:
 - ▶ UI tags: **cfsprydataset**, **cfmenu**, **cfmenuitem**, **cfree**, **tooltip**, **cfcalendar**, **cfclient**, **cfformitem**, **cfformgroup**, **cfTable**, **cfcol**, **cfmediaplayer**
 - ▶ **cfinput** – **autosuggest** and related attrs, as well as **passthrough**, **sourcefortooltip**
 - ▶ Consider jquery alternatives and the like. See also ideas at Ray's (old) site: *static.raymondcamden.com/cfuitherightway/*

FEATURES REMOVED IN CF2025

- ▶ For decades, CFML templates could be “encoded” to obfuscate code
 - ▶ Done using cfencode tool in cfusion/bin
 - ▶ Was called cfcrypt originally, but was never “encryption” so was renamed
- ▶ In CF2025, not only has that cfencode tool been removed...
 - ▶ But so has the ability to RUN such encoded templates! Will now get error:
 - ▶ *“ColdFusion no longer supports files encoded with cfencode”*
 - ▶ May seem disastrous to those who have “only the encoded templates”, not source
- ▶ This change was also brought to CF2023 and 2021 with May 2025 CF updates
 - ▶ Those were given a JVM arg to undo this change:
-Dcoldfusion.cfencode.decryption.enable=false
- ▶ ...

REMOVED: SUPPORT FOR “CFENCODE”D TEMPLATES

- ▶ What if you have such encoded templates?
 - ▶ Good/bad news: there have long existed tools that could decode such files, such as:
 - ▶ github.com/disccomp/cfdecrypt
- ▶ As for FINDING any use of such encoded files:
 - ▶ do file search for string "Allaire Cold Fusion Template" or "Adobe Cold Fusion Template"

REMOVED: SUPPORT FOR
"CFENCODE"D TEMPLATES (CONT.)

- ▶ Things marked as “deprecated” as of CF2025 (use discouraged: find alternatives)
 - ▶ CAR feature (use cfsetup instead, added in CF2021)
 - ▶ Sandbox Security feature
 - ▶ Use of MS Access and ODBC, DB2
 - ▶ Tomcat “Legacy cookie processor”
 - ▶ ssh-rsa algorithm in fingerprint attribute in cfftp
 - ▶ Event gateway features: SMS and SAMETIME
- ▶ Let’s switch gears to other challenges of migrating to CF2025...

ANTICIPATING FUTURE REMOVALS

- ▶ While not affecting language or coding, still important to be aware of
- ▶ As of CF2025, CF license is subscription-based: no longer “perpetual” license
 - ▶ Free trial and developer editions DO still exist
 - ▶ Pricing really hasn’t changed, for those who would have upgraded each release
- ▶ License types: Named User License (NUL) vs Feature Restricted License (FRL)
 - ▶ Names don’t mean what the words connote: those apply more to other products
 - ▶ FRL also has variants for “offline”, “online”, and “isolated”
- ▶ Resources:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/coldfusion-new-licensing-activation.html
 - ▶ See also the several sections shown on the left of that initial one

LICENSING CHANGE

- ▶ Again, not focusing in this talk on what's NEW, just compat issues
 - ▶ See “What's new” doc
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/__references__/whats-new.html
 - ▶ (URL doesn't indicate version, but currently reflects cf2025)
 - ▶ Focuses not only what's “new” but also on many of these “changes”, links to more
 - ▶ See also release notes:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-release-notes.html
 - ▶ And its “known issues” section:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-release-notes.html#heading-id-generated-1

OTHER ISSUES

COMPAT ISSUES INTRODUCED IN CF2023

(If moving from CF2021 or earlier, or from early update of CF2023)



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- ▶ This will be brief: transition to CF2023 from CF2021 was pretty smooth
 - ▶ Only “removal” was AIR (Adobe Integrated Runtime), dropped by Adobe in 2019
 - ▶ Nothing was “deprecated” or “retired” as of CF2023 (again, see deprecation docs)
- ▶ See also the release notes for a couple of then “known issues”
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/adobe-coldfusion--2023--release-notes.html#known-issues
- ▶ Again, though, beware of changes introduced per UPDATES
 - ▶ As we will discuss in a moment ...

MIGRATION FROM TO CF2023 FROM 2021

- ▶ If **skipping** from CF2021, 2018, or earlier
 - ▶ Will need to be aware of compat issues in each of those
 - ▶ Their impact will also depend on how UPDATED that old release was, for you
- ▶ I've discussed these issues more in my past talks:
 - ▶ *"Migrating apps to ColdFusion 2023 from earlier versions"* (and 2021 version of talk)
 - ▶ See also my "hidden gems" talks for each past CF version
- ▶ Recordings and PDF slides for all these are at carehart.org/presentations

WHAT IF YOU'RE "SKIPPING" FROM CF2021 ?

COMPAT ISSUES FROM UPDATES



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- ▶ Many CF updates are only security fixes or bug fixes
 - ▶ But some introduce breaking changes, usually for justifiable security reasons
- ▶ Fortunately, they may offer a mitigating jvm arg to revert some breaking change
 - ▶ You have to weigh cost of changing code vs risk of removing protection
- ▶ Newly available doc pages listing available JVM args:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/jvm-arguments-coldfusion-2025.html
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/new-jvm-arguments-2023-2021-coldfusion-updates.html

OVERVIEW OF COMPATIBILITY IMPACT OF CF UPDATES

- ▶ Typically, when Adobe updates CF, they update all then-current versions
 - ▶ Updates in 2026 affected CF2025 and CF2023; updates in 2025 also affected CF2021
 - ▶ Updates from 2024 only directly affected CF2023 and CF2021, but were built-into CF2025
- ▶ Will look at them from most recent to older (given our primary focus on CF2025)
- ▶ Doc page listing updates for each version:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-updates.html
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2023-updates.html
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/troubleshoot-issues/__references__/coldfusion-2021-updates.html

OVERVIEW OF COMPATIBILITY IMPACT OF CF UPDATES

- ▶ Jun 2026: CF2025 update 9, CF2023 update 20 (n/a: no breaking changes)
- ▶ May 2026: CF2025 update 8 (no update to CF2023)
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting QofQ, cfthrow, runAsync, mongoDB**
- ▶ Apr 2026: CF2025 update 7, CF2023 update 19 (n/a)
- ▶ Jan 2026: CF2025 update 6, CF2023 update 18 (n/a)

UPDATES IN 2026 (AFFECTING CF2025 AND CF2023)

- ▶ Dec 2025: CF2025 update 5, CF2023 update 17, CF2021 update 23
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args blocking “java deserialization” (unless whitelisted in serialfilter.txt), others affecting ddx, websockets, dsn props**
- ▶ Sep 2025: CF2025 update 4, CF2023 update 16, CF2021 update 22 (n/a)
- ▶ Jul 2025: CF2025 update 3, CF2023 update 15, CF2021 update 21
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting parsing of XML with “external entities”**
- ▶ May 2025: CF2025 update 2, CF2023 update 14, CF2021 update 20
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting remote method args, blocking system probe feature**
 - ▶ Change blocking sched tasks writing output file if not whitelisted in pathfilter.json
- ▶ Apr 2025: CF2025 update 1, CF2023 update 13, CF2021 update 19
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args requiring lowering cfhtmltopdf timeout**
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args requiring blocking CFML as bytecode, affecting dsn props**
 - ▶ These were already built-into CF2025 already

UPDATES IN 2025 (AFFECTING CF2025 CF2023, AND CF2021)

- ▶ Dec 2024: CF2023 update 12, CF2021 update 18
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting CF PMT UUID**
- ▶ Oct 2024: CF2023 update 11, CF2021 update 17
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting cftp use of sftp**
- ▶ Sep 2024: CF2023 update 10, CF2021 update 16 (n/a)
- ▶ Aug 2024: CF2023 update 9, CF2021 update 15 (n/a)
- ▶ Jun 2024: CF2023 update 8, CF2021 update 14
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting default CFMX_COMPAT algorithm for encryption/hashing, and blocking meta tags in cfdocument html**
 - ▶ Jvm arg for CFMX_COMPAT is NOT available in CF2025, but can change code to use “MD5” for compat
- ▶ Mar 2024: CF2023 update 7, CF2021 update 13
 - ▶ **Changes/jvm args affecting implicit scope searching, and blocking protocols other than http in iframe within cfdocument html**
 - ▶ Jvm arg for implicitscopesearch IS available in CF2025!

UPDATES IN 2024 (AFFECTING CF2023 AND CF2021, EMBEDDED IN CF2025)

OTHER COMPAT INFO TO CONSIDER



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- ▶ Note that Adobe offers for each release a “Migration Guide” PDF...
 - ▶ adobe.com/content/dam/cc/us/en/products/coldfusion/coldfusion-2025/pdf/CF2025_migration_guide.pdf
 - ▶ But most of the doc is about installation, configuration, administration settings
- ▶ Again, the deprecated features page in docs
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/deprecated-features.html
- ▶ And CF docs offer more on new and changed language features
 - ▶ Both the “CFML Reference” and “Developing ColdFusion Applications”
- ▶ Also, I can help: something of CF “reference librarian”
 - ▶ I also help folks understand and resolve problems, whether migration or other

MIGRATION-ORIENTED RESOURCES

- ▶ I've shared in this talk problems that Adobe has addressed
- ▶ May want to check the Adobe CF bug tracker site, *tracker.adobe.com*
- ▶ Don't search using the box at the top, but click the "search" menu item
 - ▶ In that search form, choose "coldfusion" as the product
 - ▶ Can choose "cf2025" for version and provide no other terms, to see recent reports
 - ▶ Or put your search term in the "title" and/or "description" field to assess those results
- ▶ If you vote for or comment on a bug, you'll get notified of future replies/fixes

FIND STILL MORE ISSUES AT
TRACKER.ADOBE.COM

- ▶ When does/did public support (providing updates) end, for each recent version?
 - ▶ For CF2023, in May 2028
 - ▶ For CF2021, ended in Nov 2025
 - ▶ For CF2018, ended in 2023
 - ▶ For CF2016, ended in 2021
 - ▶ For CF11, ended in 2019
- ▶ More:
 - ▶ helpx.adobe.com/support/programs/eol-matrix.html#cd
 - ▶ carehart.org/blog/2025/11/7/cf2021_endoflife_nov_10
 - ▶ carehart.org/blog/2023/1/26/coldfusion2018_end_of_life_july_2023

END OF LIFE/SUPPORT OF VERSIONS

MIGRATION TOOLS AND RESOURCES



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- ▶ You may feel overwhelmed by all these changes...
 - ▶ “how will we ever find all these?”
- ▶ Note first that there is the CF Admin “Compatibility Code Analyzer”
 - ▶ In Debugging & Logging section
 - ▶ Even if “no admin access”, you can run your own local copy of CF for free
 - ▶ Can then just point the tool at your code, no need even to be able to “run it” locally
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/develop-coldfusion-applications/using-the-code-analyzer.html
- ▶ Updated for CF2025
 - ▶ But sadly, doesn't support finding things that are **removed**...

CF “COMPATIBILITY CODE ANALYZER”

- ▶ The Code Analyzer does not detect the following “removed” features:
 - ▶ Use of script CFCs, ColdFusion as a service (cfaas) CFCs
 - ▶ Use of `htmlEditFormat`, `parameterExists`, `getTemplatePath`, `ReleaseComObject`, `StoreSetACL`, and `StoreAddACL`
 - ▶ User of Event Gateway types: Data Management, Data Services Messaging, and Flash Media Server (FMS)
 - ▶ Use of `cfencoded` templates, etc.

- ▶ But it's not the only tool that can help with this task...

COMPATIBILITY CODE ANALYZER (CONT.)

- ▶ Pete Freitag's commercial CLI tool, Fixinator (more at fixinator.app)
 - ▶ Created in 2019 to offer code SECURITY scanning
 - ▶ In 2024 he added code compatibility scanning
 - ▶ petefreitag.com/blog/coldfusion-compatibility-scan/
- ▶ Like the other tool, this one doesn't need to be on a machine where code "runs"
 - ▶ It only needs to be able to statically scan the code
 - ▶ That said, it does send code to a secure cloud service (can pay more for local-only)
- ▶ Also, see Pete's helpful post on CF2025 breaking changes:
 - ▶ petefreitag.com/blog/coldfusion-2025-breaking/

FIXINATOR COMPAT CHECKING

- ▶ What if you want to “try something” against cf2025 without installing?
 - ▶ Or what if you installed 2025 but want to test if something “did work” on CF2023, etc.?
- ▶ There are multiple options to let you “fiddle with”/run CFML without installing CF
 - ▶ *Cffiddle.org* (new and improved)
 - ▶ *Trycf.com* (new and improved)
 - ▶ *adobecoldfusion.com* (new)
 - ▶ *github.com/JamoCA/cfmlFiddle* (new)

FIDDLES TO PLAY WITH CF2025 CODE

- ▶ Lots of migration issues to beware in any move, especially from older versions
 - ▶ A problem you hit may not be “new” to CF2025 but some version you skipped
 - ▶ Or updates you skipped in your previous CF instance
 - ▶ Or may be due to move to new server, or failing to bring in config settings
- ▶ For some migration to 2025 is trivial; for others difficult, most in middle
 - ▶ Hope this talk has opened your eyes, to be better prepared, whatever version
- ▶ I can help:
 - ▶ Answering quick email questions, or consulting in as little 15 mins
 - ▶ Solving problems: identifying causes and alternatives
 - ▶ Leveraging tools like the CF Compat (and Security) Code Analyzer, Fixinator

SUMMARY

- ▶ My contact info for follow-up:
 - ▶ Charlie Arehart
 - ▶ charlie@carehart.org
 - ▶ @carehart (Slack, Github, X, Fb, Li, etc.)
 - ▶ Slides: carehart.org/presentations
- ▶ With that, hope you enjoyed the talk!
 - ▶ Use QR code for slide deck
- ▶ ...time for questions? Adobe giveaway

SUMMARY (CONT.)



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