

MOVING TO CF2025

CHEERS & CHALLENGES



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Slide deck:
carehart.org/presentations



- ▶ This talk combines two that I offered at CF Summit in June
 - ▶ Hidden Gems in CF2025, a year later
 - ▶ This is where most of the “cheers” can be found
 - ▶ Migrating apps to ColdFusion 2025 from earlier versions
 - ▶ This is where most of the “challenges” can be found
- ▶ PDFs of those and this talk can be found on my site
 - ▶ As well as recordings of those past talks
- ▶ Slides: carehart.org/presentations



INTRO

- ▶ Cheers: new and changed features
 - ▶ Features, coding changes, install and admin, and more
- ▶ Challenges: removals, compat issues, etc
 - ▶ Whether upon install or as of CF updates
- ▶ Tools & Resources

TOPICS

- ▶ 30 years CF experience, presenter to most CF conferences
- ▶ 20 years 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()

- ▶ CF2025 released Feb 2025, maybe you've not yet moved--or did recently
 - ▶ Can't cover here ALL that is new or changed, or challenging
 - ▶ But I think I'll highlight a lot more than you may realize is there—cheers or challenges!
- ▶ Key resources (each linking to other pages with more detail):
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/whats-new-cf-2025.html
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/content/coldfusion-docs/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/whats-new.html (about the major "update 8", as we will discuss)

BACKGROUND

CHEERS: NEW AND CHANGED FEATURES IN CF2025



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- ▶ Focusing first on things as of initial CF2025 release
 - ▶ Significant new features for processing CSVs, spreadsheets, and charts
 - ▶ Support for MS “Entra”, “Exchange Online” via Graph API (not related to GraphQL)
 - ▶ Important also for coming Oct ‘26 and Apr ‘27 removal by MS of EWS support
- ▶ Resources (beyond the substantial docs)
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/02/revolutionizing-spreadsheet-csv-handling-in-coldfusion-2025-real-world-use-cases
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/02/data-visualization-made-easy-with-cfchart/
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/transitioning-exchange-online-integration-to-microsoft-graph-api-in-coldfusion/
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/02/oauth2-0-in-coldfusion/
 - ▶ *Spreadsheets & CSV Processing* (Adobe video)
 - ▶ youtube.com/watch?v=7GUNmO0fBaA&list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI
 - ▶ *Unleash the power of Revamping CFCharts for modern applications*
 - ▶ youtube.com/watch?v=W06xW8RZRLE&list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI
 - ▶ *Microsoft Graph Integration in ColdFusion: Unlocking data with Oauth* (Adobe video)
 - ▶ youtube.com/watch?v=jspE0gQtvgo&list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI

IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUSINESS PROCESSES

- ▶ Support for trailing commas in arrays, structs, function arguments/function calls, etc
- ▶ Support for multiple exception types in a single catch
- ▶ New “Null Coalescing” operator (??), adding to “safe navigation” (?.), “elvis” (?:)
- ▶ Optional support for browser CSP (“content security policy”) protection, disabling inline js and css generated by CF tags, unless allowed by new “nonce” capability
- ▶ New ability to name java jar path directly on cfunction/createobject
- ▶ Case-sensitive deserialization: deserializeJSON() offers new preserveCaseForStructKey
- ▶ New argument for deserializeJson, to deserialize to a query
- ▶ And a couple dozen more
- ▶ Resources (beyond the docs)
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/trailing-commas-in-coldfusion/
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/simplifying-error-handling-in-coldfusion-handle-multiple-exceptions-in-a-single-catch-clause/
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/02/language-enhancements-in-coldfusion-2025-release-part-1/
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/language-enhancements-in-coldfusion-2025-release-2/

CODING IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ Perf enhancements in compile time, query of query, structs, spreadsheets, charts
- ▶ New admin page: Settings>SSL Certificate, to enable admin to use https
- ▶ CCS can support https; can now add nodes manually using command line
- ▶ Many CF container improvements (faster startup, secrets & configs), CCS support
- ▶ And still many more, including nearly 200 bug fixes (in initial CF2025 release)
- ▶ More (beyond docs):
 - ▶ coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/different-ways-of-enabling-ssl-for-coldfusion-administrator-running-on-internal-coldfusion-port-for-coldfusion-2025/
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-release-notes.html
 - ▶ Performance Enhancements (Adobe video)
 - ▶ youtube.com/watch?v=qJ8_ZZmF-5M&list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI
 - ▶ What's new in containers (Adobe video)
 - ▶ youtube.com/watch?v=AG4MFnrwXTE&list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI
 - ▶ My "Hidden Gems in CF2025" talk

VARIOUS OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ CF2025 supports (comes bundled with) Java 21, Tomcat 10.1
- ▶ As for upgrades to such things as AntiSamy, BouncyCastle, CKEditor, ESAPI, etc.
 - ▶ See CF2025 version number changes in my original “Hidden Gems in CF2025” talk
- ▶ Windows 2025 and macOS Tahoe support added in new installer with update 8
- ▶ And that’s our cue to move on to talking about things as of CF updates...

ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

“CHEERS” (IMPROVEMENTS) PER CF UPDATES



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- ▶ There have been 14 updates since CF2025 was released
 - ▶ Only update 8 added new/changed features
 - ▶ And all BUT update 8 included security improvements
- ▶ Technote available for each
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-updates.html
- ▶ Most significant was update 8 in May '26: virtually a new CF release
 - ▶ But was indeed offered as “another update”
 - ▶ Again, significant documentation on all its new features:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/whats-new.html

NEW FEATURES, AS OF UPDATES

- ▶ Update 8's most significant feature was new (optional) AI integration capabilities
 - ▶ Could spend an entire day on all those new features alone
 - ▶ Indeed, there's an entire track today (at CF Summit East) devoted to that broad topic
- ▶ But there was indeed more to update 8
 - ▶ Support for adding passkeys to your apps; also password hashing with argon 2
 - ▶ Support for "sets" (several new built-in and member functions)
 - ▶ And over two dozen other small but important language improvements
 - ▶ Improvements also to CF Code Security Analyzer, and to CF Builder
 - ▶ And more
- ▶ Resources (beyond the docs)
 - ▶ Adobe playlist of update 8 videos (mostly on AI):
youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3iywAijqFoXFfMGtR9CV5Dot4CtHxwdO

UPDATE 8, AI AND MORE

- ▶ I'd mentioned that all updates but u8 were security updates
- ▶ Of course, improved security is good, but it can lead to compat issues
- ▶ Mostly tightening up CFML features that might be creatively exploited
 - ▶ Java "deserialization" (with new serialfilter.txt for whitelisting classes)
 - ▶ Calling into CFML "remote methods" and manipulating args in unexpected ways
 - ▶ XML that can be downloaded or whose elements make calls out
 - ▶ Naming of DB tables in some CFML tags, names of stored procedures, DSNs
 - ▶ Use of bytecode for CFML templates
- ▶ Will discuss this some more in next section on CF2025 "challenges"...

SECURITY "IMPROVEMENTS" PER CF UPDATES

CHALLENGES: REMOVALS, COMPAT ISSUES, ETC.



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- ▶ Many “old” language elements and features removed finally in CF2025
 - ▶ Most things have been marked for removal (“deprecated”) for many releases
 - ▶ Some are removed for sake of security, or due to changes forced by libraries
- ▶ Some may affect few people/little code, while others may affect many/much
 - ▶ Just depends on whether you (or past coders) use/used these things
- ▶ See guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/deprecated-features.html
- ▶ Let’s review some key removals ...

SUBSTANTIAL REMOVALS FROM 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”
 - ▶ These preceded CF11 which enabled “all tags as script”
 - ▶ Examples: **new query()** ... or **createObject("component", "query")**
 - ▶ Loaded a query.cfc previously found in `\cfusion\CustomTags\com\adobe\coldfusion`
- ▶ CF9 had added: **query, storeproc, http, mail, ftp, pdf**
 - ▶ CF9.01 added: **pop, ldap, imap, feed, dbinfo**
 - ▶ CF10 added: **collection, index, search**
- ▶ Related “service-layer CFCs” (CFaaS, for calling these from outside CF) also removed
 - ▶ 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 other things removed that you might find still used in older code:
 - ▶ UI tags: **cfspdydataset**, **cfmenu**, **cfmenuitem**, **cftree**, **tooltip**, **cfcalendar**, **cfclient**, **cfformitem**, **cfformgroup**, **cftable**, **cfcol**, **cfmediaplayer**
 - ▶ **cfinput – autosuggest** and related attrs, as well as **passthrough**, **sourcefortooltip**
 - ▶ Consider alternatives in HTML5, jquery, and the like
 - ▶ See ideas at Ray Camden's 2014 repo: github.com/cfjedimaster/ColdFusion-UI-the-Right-Way
- ▶ Some less-used features removed:
 - ▶ Mobile feature set (introduced in CF11, never really took off)
 - ▶ Flash/Flex-related features (and admin settings)
 - ▶ XML Forms
 - ▶ COM/dCOM
 - ▶ Sybase DB support and Solaris installer
 - ▶ Support for encoded templates, cfencode tool
 - ▶ See decode tool here: github.com/disccomp/cfdecrypt

FEATURES REMOVED IN CF2025

- ▶ Key Adobe change regarding lifecycle of deprecation/removal:
 - ▶ Feature marked as “**Deprecated**” in CF 2025 will move to “**Deprecated and Unsupported**” in CF 2025+1,
 - ▶ Then will be “**Removed**” in CF 2025+2
- ▶ Some key things marked deprecated in CF2025
 - ▶ CAR feature (use cfsetup instead, added in CF2021)
 - ▶ Sandbox Security feature
 - ▶ Use of MS Access and ODBC, DB2
- ▶ Let's move on to next big “challenge” for CF2025...

MORE ON REMOVALS/DEPRECATION

- ▶ As of CF2025, CF license is subscription-based: no longer “perpetual” license
 - ▶ Pricing really hasn’t changed, for those who would have upgraded to each CF release
- ▶ Doesn’t affect those on CF2023 (which gets updates to May 2028), or earlier
- ▶ Free trial and developer editions DO still exist
- ▶ New 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 (lots of detail):
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/coldfusion-new-licensing-activation.html
 - ▶ See the several sections shown on the left of that initial one

MAJOR LICENSING CHANGE

- ▶ Let's move on now to discussing challenges introduced by CF updates
- ▶ Again, there have 14 so far, mostly about security
- ▶ See technotes for each of the updates
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-updates.html
- ▶ Some introduce breaking changes (sacrificing compatibility for security)
 - ▶ And most of those have a JVM arg to revert the behavior, trade security for compat
 - ▶ New docs page lists these
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/jvm-arguments-coldfusion-2025.html
 - ▶ Also one for CF2023/2021:
 - ▶ guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/install-and-configure-coldfusion/new-jvm-arguments-2023-2021-coldfusion-updates.html
- ▶ Let's look briefly at some key areas with compat changes from updates to CF2025
 - ▶ Note again that all would have applied to CF2023 or earlier, IF KEPT UPDATED...

CHALLENGES AS OF CF UPDATES

- ▶ Again, jvm args available to revert changes affecting:
 - ▶ **remote method args (update 2)**
 - ▶ **java deserialization (update 5)**
 - ▶ **QofQ “group by” and parallel processing (update 8)**
 - ▶ **“unsafe” sql table identifiers, SP names in cfstoredproc, cfinsert, etc (updates 11, 13)**
 - ▶ **Xml parsing (several updates)**

KEY UPDATE COMPAT ISSUES

TOOLS



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- ▶ You may feel overwhelmed by all these changes...
 - ▶ *“How will we ever find all these changes?”*
- ▶ There are tools to help
- ▶ First note that the free CF Builder VSCode extension from Adobe can help
 - ▶ May 2026 update of CFBuilder adds detection of cf2025 removals
- ▶ Next is the CF Admin “Compatibility Code Analyzer” (Debugging & Logging)
 - ▶ Sadly, does not detect “removed” features, like:
 - ▶ Use of tags-as-script CFCs, cfaas CFCs
 - ▶ Use of `htmlEditFormat`, `parameterExists`, `getTemplatePath`, etc
 - ▶ Does help with detecting any other CHANGED code
 - ▶ Remember: can run your own local copy of CF for free, point this tool at your code

ADOBE TOOLS TO HELP WITH COMPAT ISSUES

- ▶ For a price, you may find this a better tool
- ▶ Foundeo's (Pete Freitag) 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 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)
- ▶ Pete is also here as a sponsor at CF Summit East
- ▶ And finally...

FIXINATOR CAN DO 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)
 - ▶ *cfmLfiddle.com* (new)

FIDDLES TO PLAY WITH CF2025 CODE

RESOURCES



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- ▶ Other videos from CF2025 intro webinar series that I'd not yet mentioned:
 - ▶ *Adobe ColdFusion (2025 release) - What's new and Exciting!*
 - ▶ *Security and Stability in ColdFusion*
 - ▶ *Smart language additions in ColdFusion*
 - ▶ *VS Code plugin changes*
 - ▶ Playlist (different from earlier one, which was about Update 8 webinars):
 - ▶ youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3iywAijqFoUG3eRXeE2RHZ8OaekGpjtI
- ▶ Watch for more in future at AdobeColdFusion youtube page:
 - ▶ youtube.com/adobecoldfusion

RESOURCES: ADOBE VIDEOS ON CF2025

► Other Adobe CF2025 intro articles I'd not yet mentioned:

- coldfusion.adobe.com/2024/12/important-notice-upcoming-deprecations-and-removals-in-coldfusion-2025-release/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2024/12/tomcat-upgrade-with-adobe-coldfusion-2025-release-what-has-changed/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/cloud-user-lifecycle-management-in-coldfusion/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2024/05/thread-management-with-jdk21-whats-changing-and-features-to-look-forward-to/
- coldfusion.adobe.com/2025/03/thread-interrupts-in-coldfusion/

► One last thing: 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

RESOURCES: ADOBE ARTICLES ON 2025

- ▶ Lots of new, changed features in CF2025: some major, some minor
- ▶ Lots to cheer, some challenges
 - ▶ For some, migration is trivial; for others it's difficult; most are in middle
- ▶ Hope this talk has opened your eyes to the cheers & the challenges
- ▶ I can help:
 - ▶ Answering quick email questions, or consulting in as little 15 mins
 - ▶ Leveraging new features
 - ▶ Solving compat and other problems: identifying causes and alternatives
 - ▶ Leveraging tools like the CF Compat (and Security) Code Analyzer, Fixinator
 - ▶ And of course clarifying anything from this talk

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?

SUMMARY (CONT.)



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