MOVING TO CF2025
CHEERS & CHALLENGES



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Slide deck:
carehart.org/presentations

INTRO

- 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



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TOPICS

- 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



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- 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()

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BACKGROUND

- 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)

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CHEERS:
NEW AND CHANGED FEATURES IN CF2025



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IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUSINESS PROCESSES

- 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*

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- 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 cfobject/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

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VARIOUS OTHER 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

ARCHITECTURAL 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…

“CHEERS” (IMPROVEMENTS) PER CF UPDATES

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NEW FEATURES, AS OF UPDATES

- There have been 14 updates since CF2025 was released
  - Only update 8 added new/changed features
  - And all BUT update 8 included security improvements
  - Update 12 also updated Tomcat to 10.1.57 (a few earlier updates had also updated it)
- Technote available for each update
  - *guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/coldfusion-2025-updates.html*
- Most significant was indeed update 8 in May '26: virtually a new CF release
  - But was offered simply as "an update"
  - Again, significant documentation on all its new features:
    - *guides.adobe.com/coldfusion/en/docs/introduction-to-coldfusion/whats-new.html*
  - …

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UPDATE 8, AI AND MORE

- 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*

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CHALLENGES: REMOVALS, COMPAT ISSUES, ETC.



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SUBSTANTIAL REMOVALS FROM CF2025

- 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 …

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- **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

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ALSO REMOVED: "TAGS AS SCRIPT" CFCS, SERVICE-LAYER CFCS

- 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/*

FEATURES REMOVED IN CF2025

- Some other things removed that you might find still used in older code:
  - UI tags: **cfsprydataset, 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*

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MORE ON REMOVALS/DEPRECATION

- 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…

MAJOR LICENSING CHANGE

- 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

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CHALLENGES AS OF CF UPDATES

- 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…

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KEY UPDATE COMPAT ISSUES

- 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)**
- **And more …**

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KEY UPDATE COMPAT ISSUES (CONT.)

- All that said, this month's update 14 (and update 26 for CF2023) has been a doozy
- It has incorporated SEVERAL new "security improvements" that must be considered
  - **Outbound network security policy/ssrf protection**
    - Which may break scheduled tasks on local URLs
    - Can also affect cfdocument processing, and more
    - New cfusion/lib/security-settings.json file for declaring allowlists, denylists, more
  - **Regex changes**
    - Including bugs, some resolved via a special hotfix available at tracker, CF-4234761
  - **New c++CFX, cfreport path protection**
    - New `cppcfxlibrarypaths` and `reporttemplatepath` settings in cfusion/lib/pathfilter.json file
  - **New RDS, cdocument, and other path protection**
  - And more
- See update technote for considerable details

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TOOLS



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ADOBE TOOLS TO HELP WITH COMPAT ISSUES

- 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

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FIXINATOR CAN DO COMPAT CHECKING

- 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…

FIDDLES TO PLAY WITH CF2025 CODE

- 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)

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RESOURCES

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RESOURCES: ADOBE VIDEOS ON CF2025

- 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*

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RESOURCES: ADOBE ARTICLES ON 2025

- 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

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SUMMARY

- 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

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SUMMARY (CONT.)

- 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?

