

CFML and the Open Source Landscape



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What is he on about?

- Open Source Software
 - What is it? Why should you care?
- The growing CFML Open Source community and what it offers
- How you can contribute...
 - ...with your own projects
 - ...with other people's projects



Who am I?

- Lead Developer, World Singles LLC
- CEO, Railo Technologies, Inc.
 - Fast Free Open Source CFML Engine
 - Development / Support Consultancy
- Nine years of CFML
 - Always been Java, always OO!
- Long history of IT before that (grey hair!)

What is Open Source?
(& why should I care?)

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Open Source Myths

- "Open Source Software" is "Free Software"
- First, a lot of free software is **not** Open Source
 - what you d/l is what you get
- Second, not all "open source" software is actually free!
 - SugarCRM 6 Pro vs Community UI
 - No redistribution (is it "open source"?)

Open Source Myths

- Even Open Source software costs money to develop and maintain (and use)
- The Open Source Community "pays"
- The Open Source Community "owns"
- <http://tinyurl.com/OpenSourceNotFree>

Open Source Myths

- "Open Source" is not "Quality Software"
- An active development community and thousands of eyes on the source code can mean bugs are found - and fixed - faster, sometimes even before a problem actually occurs in production
- Documentation can be variable tho'...

Open Source Myths

- "Open Source" is not "Supported"
- Where do you get most of your ColdFusion support?
- An active development community can be more responsive than a corporation's (often offshore) support department
- Then there's "Professional Open Source"



Define Open Source

- You get access to the source code (duh!)
- Copyright license is key to open source
- License allows free redistribution
- License allows derived works
- License protects author's code integrity



Open Source Licenses

- Many to choose from!
 - GPL - most open but also "restrictive"
 - LGPL - corporate-friendly GPL spin-off
 - ASL - do (almost) anything you want
 - CPL, MIT, BSD, MPL, EPL, TLA :)
 - <http://www.opensource.org/osd.html>



Foundations

- Apache Software Foundation
- Free Software Foundation
- Open Source Initiative
- Some languages / projects have their own



Why give code away?

- Increase adoption
 - Increase support revenue
 - Increase consulting revenue
- Leverage community contributions
 - Accept bug fixes and enhancements
- Karma points!

Not just "give away"

- To leverage the community you need
 - Clear open source license
 - Publicly accessible bug tracking system
 - Publicly accessible source control system
 - Process for community feedback

The Ghost of ColdFusion Past

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I see no open source...

- "You know we have a really great community here, but I can't tell you of ANY cold fusion open-source projects. Is open source cold fusion a pipe dream? Would anyone else be interested in contributing?"
- Adam Wayne Lehman, 2002 (long before he was ColdFusion Product Manager)

PHP?

- PHP has some great applications!
- Drupal (The Drupal Association)
 - <http://association.drupal.org>
- Wordpress
- phpBB
- Joomla
- MediaWiki - powers Wikipedia
 - Also powers Adobe's "labs" wiki

Python?

- Plone (The Plone Foundation)
 - <http://plone.org/foundation>
- Python Software Foundation
 - <http://www.python.org/psf/>

ColdFusion Exchange

- Mostly custom tags / small utilities
- Mostly paid (and/or encrypted)
 - A quarter are still commercial
 - Only 85 categorized as open source
- <http://www.adobe.com/cfusion/exchange/>

Why?

- Caveat: my opinion!
- PHP (and others) grew up as open source
- Came from Unix background
- ColdFusion was proprietary
- Originally Windows only

The Ghost of
ColdFusion Present

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Much Improved!

- Frameworks led the way
 - Fusebox, Mach-II, Model-Glue, ColdBox, ColdSpring, Reactor, Transfer etc
- RIAForge - Ray Camden / Adobe
 - Mostly CFML projects (~840)
 - Vast majority Apache Software License
 - Note: most OSS in the wild is GPL



Applications?

- Blogs
 - BlogCFC - Ray Camden
 - <http://blogcfc.riaforge.org>
 - Mango Blog - Laura Arguello
 - <http://www.mangoblog.org>

Applications?

- Wikis
- Canvas - Ray Camden
 - <http://canvas.riaforge.org>
- CodexWiki - Luis Majano, Mark Mandel
 - <http://www.codexwiki.org>

Applications?

- Forums
- Galleon - Ray Camden
 - <http://galleon.riaforge.org>

Applications?

- Content Management Systems
 - Mura - Blue River Interactive
 - <http://getmura.com>
 - FarCry - Daemon and many others
 - <http://www.farcrycore.org>
- Both were commercial products!

Team projects?

- Most CFML open source projects are still run by just one developer
- Starting to see more team-based projects
 - Again, frameworks leading the way
- github becoming more popular with CFers!
 - #32 most popular language on github
 - <https://github.com/languages/ColdFusion>

Tools and Resources

- CFEclipse - Denny Valiant, Mark Drew (and others before them) - <http://cfeclipse.org>
- General tools
 - <http://www.carehart.org/cf411/#tools>
 - Not all free / OSS but a very good list!

Defunct Resources

- ColdFusion Open-Source Update
 - Weekly blog posts by Brian Rinaldi
 - Someone may take this over (I hope!)
- 4CFF (For ColdFusion Foundation)
 - Not-for-profit started by Jason Delmore
- Smith Project?
 - Last update January 2008 (website down)

- Open BlueDragon
 - <http://openbluedragon.org>
 - Active team
 - Until recently, CFMX 7 compatible
 - Lots of CF8/CF9 cfscript added lately!
- Spun-off from New Atlanta's commercial BlueDragon Java product



CFML Engines

- Railo
 - <http://www.getrailo.org>
 - Active team
 - Mostly CF9 compatible w/extensions
 - Formerly a commercial product
 - Now a JBoss Community project
 - <http://jboss.org/railo/>



The Ghost of
~~ColdFusion~~ CFML
Future

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- Collaboration is the key aspect of successful Open Source projects
- CFML projects increasingly team-based
- Simple source control / bug tracking:
 - <http://riaforge.org>
 - svn, wiki, blog, forums, issues etc
- ...or use github (please!)

- Have a project idea?
- See if a similar project exists and join it
 - Collaborate and help it grow
 - Contribute your ideas
- Code in public - use a public repository
 - People can find it and help you
 - You can also ask for contributors

Sign me up!

- What can you do to help?
 - Most projects have a mailing list - join it!
 - Review documentation - offer suggestions
 - Better still, volunteer to write some!
 - Help test the "product" - file bugs
 - Better still, figure out how to fix the bugs and submit patches
- Don't just "use", "collaborate" instead!

- Offering svn **and** git:
 - <http://codesion.com> (open source plan)
 - <http://unfuddle.com> (free plan - limited)
 - <http://assembla.com> (open source plan)
 - <http://github.com> (free, very collaborative)

The Open Source Landscape - Summary

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More than source code

- Open Source = Source Code +
 - Copyright License +
 - Collaboration +
 - **Community**



Q & A ?

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