

Sessions and Clients and Crashes, Oh My!

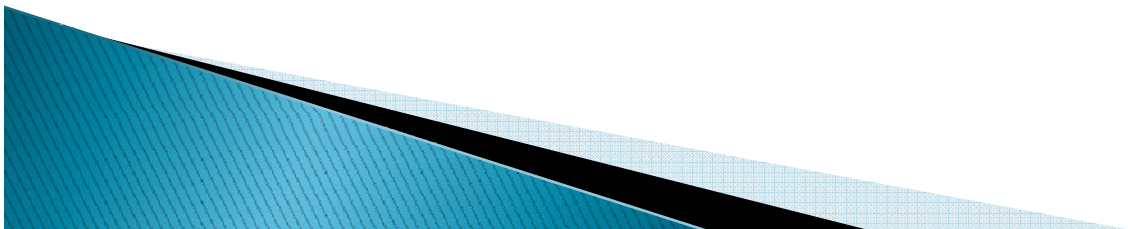


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Topics

- ▶ Introduction: Depth of the problem
- ▶ How a session (not a session variable) is created
- ▶ How a client variable entry (not a client variable) is created
- ▶ Client variable purge process
- ▶ How unexpected requests impact these
- ▶ Techniques/tools to detect this problem
- ▶ Techniques to remediate the problem
- ▶ Resources



About Charlie Arehart

Independent Consultant since Apr 2006

12 yrs CF experience (26 in Enterprise IT)

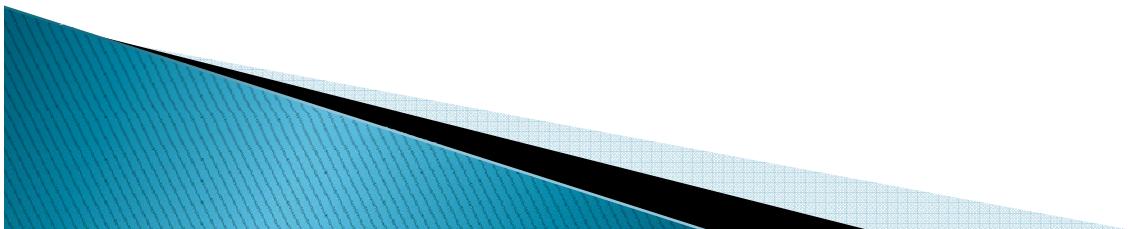
- Member, Adobe Community Experts
- Certified Adv CF Developer (4–8), Cert. Adobe Instructor
- Frequent speaker to user groups, conferences worldwide
- Run the Online ColdFusion Meetup (coldfusionmeetup.com)
- Living in Alpharetta, Georgia (Atlanta)

Web home at www.carehart.org

- Host ~300 blog entries, 70+ articles, 90+ presentations
- UGTV: recordings of 300+ presentations by ~200 speakers
- CF411.com – 700+ tools/resources in 100+ categories
- Consulting: available for CF troubleshooting, tuning; training
 - Remote or on-site

Note

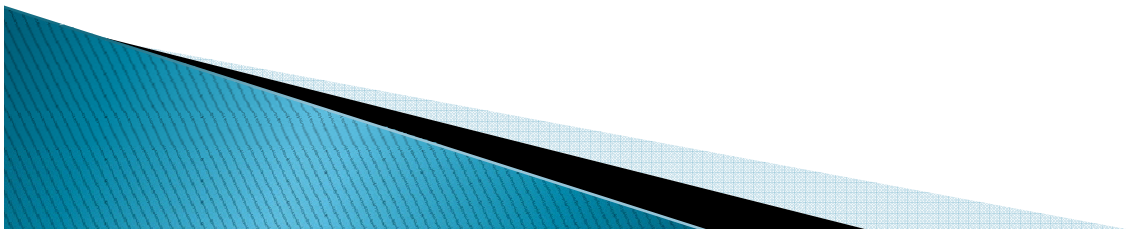
- ▶ This presentation slide deck was created to support an online presentation I did that was recorded for the ColdFusion Meetup
- ▶ Note that the slides here don't have much content, until the closing resource slides
- ▶ You'll really want to view the recording at
 - <http://experts.na3.acrobat.com/p56344520/>



Introduction: Depth of the Problem

Don't be fooled

- ▶ Problem isn't whether you "use" session variables or "use" client variables
 - Can still be negatively affected by this problem
- ▶ Must distinguish sessions from session variables, and client repository entries from client variables
 - Apps on your server, and/or your CF config, could be creating them though you don't realize it
- ▶ Even seeming "low traffic" site can be hurt
 - Sessions/Client entries can be created by
 - bots, spiders, rss readers, web service calls, hack attempts, server monitor/ping tools, load testing tools, etc.



How a session (not a session variable) is created



How a client variable entry (not a client variable) is created



Client variable purge process



How unexpected requests
impact these



Techniques/tools to
detect this problem



Techniques to remediate the problem



Resources

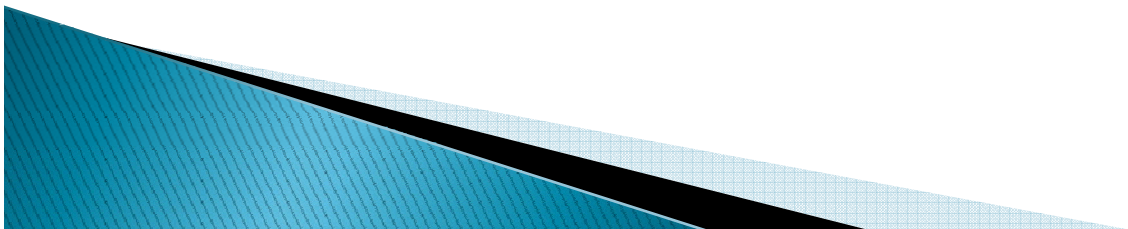
Related Blog Entries

▶ Mine

- Suffering CPU, DB, or memory problems in CF? Spiders could be killing you in ways you'd never dream
 - http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2006/10/4/bots_and_spiders_and_poor_CF_performance
- How to determine your current client storage value
 - http://www.carehart.org/blog/client/index.cfm/2008/12/2/determine_current_clientstorage_value

▶ Others

- Sessions and Cookies and Bots (oh my)
 - <http://www.coldfusionmuse.com/index.cfm/2005/11/28/session.bots>
- Pseudo-memory leak
 - <http://www.blogoffusion.com/index.cfm/2005/11/28/pseudomemory-leak>
- “RSS Ate My Server”
 - <http://instantbadger.blogspot.com/2005/12/rss-ate-my-server-spiralling-jrun.html>
- Large Mistake In My Session Management Logic
 - <http://www.bennadel.com/blog/249-Large-Mistake-In-My-Session-Management-Logic.htm>
- Security bug with client variables
 - <http://russ.michaels.me.uk/index.cfm/2007/12/7/Security-bug-with-client-variables>



Other Resources

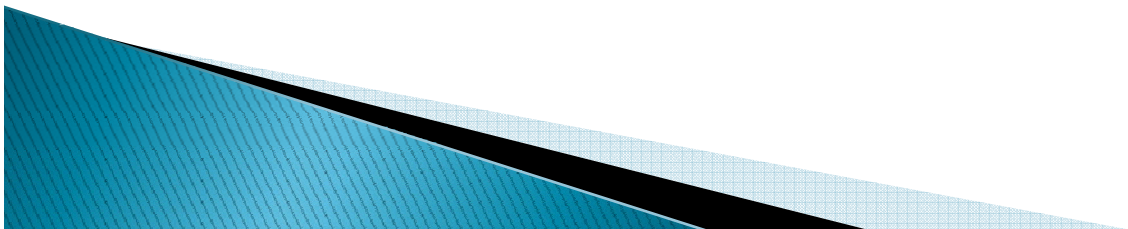
- ▶ Related Adobe Technotes
 - Deleting client variables stored in the Registry
 - http://www.adobe.com/go/tn_17881
 - How client variables are purged
 - http://www.adobe.com/go/tn_18514
- ▶ Articles
 - Monitoring Your CF Environment with the Free Log Parser Toolkit
 - http://www.carehart.org/articles/#2006_4
- ▶ Of course, I'm happy to help as well via my consulting services (carehart.org/consulting)



Conclusion

Summary

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- ▶ Techniques/tools to detect this problem
- ▶ Techniques to remediate the problem
- ▶ Resources



Questions On Presentation

- ▶ Charlie Arehart
 - charlie@carehart.org
- ▶ I'd really appreciate your feedback
 - <http://carehart.org/feedback/>
- ▶ Available for ColdFusion troubleshooting, setup, implementation consulting
 - Also system admin and tuning support, developer productivity coaching, and more
 - Remote or on-site
 - For as little as days, hours, even 15 minutes
 - <http://carehart.org/consulting/>