

Flex 2.0 and Cold Fusion

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- About Kai and David
- Introduction to Flex 2.0
- Data exchange between Flex 2.0 and ColdFusion - setup and configuration
- Introduction to the Cairngorm 2.0 framework considering as example
- How to implement CFCs to work with Flex
- Demo (ZeroOne AgentMail)

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- Digital Solutions Architect at ZeroOne (NZ) Ltd.
- Fields of work:
 - Development, Training, Architectures
 - ColdFusion, Flex, Java, Flash
- Adobe Certified Professional
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- Flex developer at ZeroOne (NZ) Ltd.
- Fields of work:
 - Development
 - Flex, Flash ,Java
- Computer Scientist for Multimedia
- Studying Computer Science in Media in Furtwangen, Germany

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- I assume most of the people know ColdFusion – but how about Flex 2?
- Flex 2.0 was released just a few days ago (end of June) and provides a “new” way of developing Flash-based Rich Internet Applications by using MXML and ActionScript 3

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- There are different editions of the product:
 - Free SDK
 - Flex Builder 2 IDE
 - Charting Components
 - Flex Data Services
- This session is about hooking up Flex applications with ColdFusion, we are not going to cover the Flex Data Services

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- In general there are various possibilities of connecting Flex 2 applications to ColdFusion applications of the server-side
 - Flex calls a .cfm page via HTTPService, the .cfm page delivers XML data
 - Flex calls a CF-based web service method encapsulated in a CFC, that delivers structured data
 - Flex calls a CFC method via Remoting

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- In terms of communications efficiency, Remoting is the best way to go as it's a binary protocol -> that's what we're going to look into closer soon!
- SOAP web services could be an interesting option within a very heterogenic technical environment with a lot of different technologies and platform to be supported.
- XML is a simple and easy way to get data into a Flex application, but doesn't allow a real two-way communication between client and server.

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- To enable ColdFusion to communicate with Flex applications it is necessary to install the ColdFusion Updater 7.0.2 on an existing ColdFusion server
- The updater allows easy integration of Flex applications into an existing ColdFusion environment

- The ColdFusion updater installs
 - a new version of Flash Remoting
 - a new Flex Messaging Gateway to enable two-way communication between Flex and ColdFusion
 - the Flex Data Services Adapter to enable Flex Data Management Services

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- After installing ColdFusion 7.0.2 the configuration file for defining and modifying Remoting Services, Proxy Services, Message Services, and Data Management Services can be found under `WEB-INF/flex/services-config.xml` (relative to ColdFusion web root)

- Configure a ColdFusion destination for Flex

```
<!-- the destination -->
```

```
<destination id="ColdFusion">
```

```
  <channels>
```

```
    <!-- channel for this destination -->
```

```
    <channel ref="my-cfamf"/>
```

```
  </channels>
```

```
  <properties>
```

```
    <!-- definition of the CF source, can be set here or in FlexBuilder -->
```

```
    <source>*</source>
```

```
    [...]
```

```
  </properties>
```

```
</destination>
```

- Adjust a channel's server name and port if necessary, the default setting (auto detection) works as well

```
<channels>
  <channel-definition id="my-cfamf"
    class="mx.messaging.channels.AMFChannel">
    <!-- endpoint for a specific channel, default is auto detection -->
    <endpoint
      uri="http://{server.name}:{server.port}{context.root}/flex2gateway/"
      class="flex.messaging.endpoints.AMFEndpoint"/>
    <properties>
      [...]
    </properties>
  </channel-definition>
</channels>
```

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- If you make any changes to the services-config.xml file, make sure that you restart the ColdFusion service afterwards

- Install FlexBuilder 2.0
- Get the Cairngorm 2.0 files from <http://labs.adobe.com>
- Copy the Cairngorm2.zip file into a folder in your FlexBuilder workspace directory
- Install FlexBuilder ColdFusion Extensions

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- Example of setting up a ColdFusion/Cairngorm based Flex 2.0 project...

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- **Software:**

- ColdFusion 7.0.2 updater:
http://www.adobe.com/support/coldfusion/downloads_updates.html
- FlexBuilder 2.0 and FlexBuilder ColdFusion extensions:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/flex/>
- Cairngorm 2.0 framework: <http://labs.adobe.com/wiki/index.php/Cairngorm>
- CFEclipse: <http://www.cfecclipse.org/go/project/downloads>

- **Links:**

- Yahoo flexcoders group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/flexcoders/>
- flexcoders mail archive:
<http://www.mail-archive.com/flexcoders@yahoogroups.com/>
- <http://www.flex.org/>
- Darron Schall's weblog: <http://www.darronschall.com/weblog/>

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