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InterLake engagiert sich ehrenamtlich beim Münchener IT- und Medienverband FIWM, dem unser Geschäftsführer Sven Slazenger als Vorstandsmitglied angehört, sowie in der Macromedia ColdFusion User Group Central Europe, die unter unserer Leitung seit 1998 ein deutschsprachiges Forum für über 700 Macromedia Entwickler in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz bietet.

Weitere Informationen zu diesen beiden Initiativen erhalten Sie bei Sven Slazenger (slazenger@interlake.net)

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InterLake is also an active member of the non-profit Munich IT- and Media Association FIWM. With InterLake CEO Sven Slazenger we provide one of the board members of the FIWM. We are also the founders (1998) of the Macromedia ColdFusion User Group Central Europe, the German language forum for Macromedia Developers from Austria, Germany and Switzerland and one of the largest Macromedia Communities worldwide.

For further information please contact Sven Slazenger (slazenger@interlake.net)



ColdFusion MX General FAQ

24-April-02

The questions and answers presented below provide information about availability and functionality in ColdFusion MX and related Macromedia products. Since the primary products discussed in this FAQ have not yet been released, the information is subject to change.

General Information

What is Macromedia ColdFusion MX?

ColdFusion MX is the rapid server scripting environment for creating Rich Internet Applications. Combining highly approachable scripting, effortless connectivity to enterprise data, and powerful built-in search and charting capabilities, ColdFusion MX enables developers to easily build and deploy dynamic web sites, content publishing systems, self-service applications, commerce sites, and more.

Is ColdFusion MX the upgrade from ColdFusion Server 5?

Yes. ColdFusion MX is the next major version of ColdFusion. To find the most appropriate upgrade path for you, see the ColdFusion MX Upgrade Guide.

How can I evaluate or learn ColdFusion MX?

Macromedia offers two ways to evaluate ColdFusion MX. Each copy of Dreamweaver MX and Macromedia MX Studio includes a free copy of ColdFusion MX Server Developer Edition, a full-featured server for development use only. Macromedia also offers free 30-day trial versions for ColdFusion MX Server Enterprise Edition and each of the products in the ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers product line. At the time of product announcement, the ColdFusion MX Preview Release will be available for download as a Macromedia MX free product evaluation. The final release trial version will be available soon.

What is Macromedia MX?

Macromedia MX is a new, tightly integrated family of products designed to enable the creation of more intuitive and responsive rich Internet content and applications. Macromedia ColdFusion MX is the server product in this new family.

What are the major features of ColdFusion MX?

ColdFusion MX is built on a completely new architecture based on the J2EE standard and offers an impressive array of new features. Some of the highlights include:

- **ColdFusion Components** - Create self-documenting, reusable application components callable from CFML pages or Macromedia Flash or as web services.
- **XML Handling** - Easily integrate with XML data using built-in XML document parsing, XSL transformations, and automated serialization of data into XML.
- **Web Services** - Integrate external web services into your applications or publish your own web services using a standards-based web services engine.
- **Macromedia Flash Remoting** - Rapidly build rich client applications with a fast, secure protocol for passing server data to Macromedia Flash MX.
- **Expanded Graphing** - Easily produce professional business graphics with expanded graph types, support for multiple data series, and offline scheduling.
- **Java Application Server Deployment** - Develop and deploy ColdFusion applications on Macromedia JRun, IBM WebSphere Application Server, Sun ONE Application Server, or BEA WebLogic Server.
- **Macromedia Flash MX Integration** - Easily track errors while working in the newly released Macromedia Flash MX authoring environment, with full support for ColdFusion debugging information.

Please see the comprehensive list of new ColdFusion MX features.

What is ColdFusion Markup Language (CFML)?

ColdFusion Markup Language (CFML) is the tag-based server scripting language for rapid web development. Processed entirely on the server, CFML is easy to learn yet powerful enough to handle the most demanding web application logic. CFML uses a syntax that closely resembles HTML and XML, so it is ideally suited to programming applications that use these markup languages. For new developers, tag-based CFML syntax makes complex programming easy. Advanced developers can easily extend and customize CFML through custom tags, reusable components, and user-defined functions as well as take advantage of structured exception handling and integration with Java, C, C++, COM, CORBA, and EJB.

Who should use ColdFusion MX?

ColdFusion MX is designed for developers building dynamic web sites and Internet applications. Easy-to-use visual tools and an intuitive server scripting environment dramatically flatten the learning curve for new developers. At the same time, advanced features such as ColdFusion Components, integrated debugging, XML handling, Java integration, web services, and more make ColdFusion ideal for advanced developers creating complex web applications.

How does ColdFusion MX work with Macromedia Dreamweaver MX?

Dreamweaver MX is the primary development tool for users building applications with ColdFusion MX. Dreamweaver MX provides complete support for the new features in ColdFusion MX, including ColdFusion Components, XML, web services, server-side ActionScript, enhanced charting, and integrated debugging. Using the visual features in Dreamweaver MX, developers new to ColdFusion can quickly build simple applications and gradually learn more advanced development concepts. The powerful new coding features in Dreamweaver MX also make it an ideal environment for advanced users.

How does ColdFusion MX work with Macromedia Flash MX?

ColdFusion MX provides the ideal environment for developing rich client applications that connect to server-side data. With native connectivity to Macromedia Flash Player, built-in support for server-side ActionScript, and integrated debugging within the Macromedia Flash MX authoring environment, ColdFusion MX provides the easiest way to develop Rich Internet Applications with Macromedia Flash.

What are the different editions of ColdFusion MX?

There are two product lines in the ColdFusion MX product family. The servers in the Macromedia ColdFusion MX Server product line include the entire infrastructure necessary to run ColdFusion applications, including an embedded Java server based on Macromedia JRun technology. ColdFusion MX Server comes in two editions: Professional and Enterprise. The members of the Macromedia ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers product line allow you to add ColdFusion MX capabilities to supported J2EE application servers. Currently, we plan to offer editions for Macromedia JRun, IBM WebSphere Application Server, Sun ONE Application Server, and BEA WebLogic Server.

How does ColdFusion MX run on other application servers?

The ColdFusion MX runtime environment is a Java application that takes advantage of the many powerful services in the J2EE platform to connect to databases, manage security, and process application requests. When one of the products in the ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers product line is installed on top of an existing Java application server, it uses that server's J2EE infrastructure to compile and execute ColdFusion applications. Developers can then develop and deploy ColdFusion pages as well as manage ColdFusion MX server settings using the ColdFusion Administrator. For more information about the architecture of ColdFusion MX, see the ColdFusion MX white papers.

What is the difference between ColdFusion MX Server Professional and ColdFusion MX Server Enterprise?

ColdFusion MX Server Professional Edition helps you build advanced web sites and departmental applications in record time. The Enterprise Edition includes additional Java

interoperability, performance, management, and security features to meet the needs of large-scale web sites, hosting environments, and mission-critical applications that require maximum security and reliability. For a complete feature comparison, please see the ColdFusion Feature Comparison Matrix.

What printed documentation is included with ColdFusion MX?

ColdFusion MX includes the following printed documentation:

- Installing ColdFusion MX
- CFML Quick Reference
- Using Server-Side ActionScript in ColdFusion MX
- Getting Started Building ColdFusion MX Applications
- Administering ColdFusion MX
- Migrating ColdFusion 5 Applications

By registering your ColdFusion MX product, you can also receive the following documentation at no cost:

- CFML Reference
- Developing ColdFusion MX Applications with CFML

Which databases are supported?

ColdFusion MX supports most major databases, including Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, IBM DB2, Sybase, and Informix. For a complete list of supported databases, please see the system requirements section.

Which web servers are supported?

ColdFusion MX supports most major web servers, including IIS, Apache, and iPlanet. For a complete list of supported web servers, please see the system requirements section.

Which operating systems are supported?

ColdFusion MX supports most major operating systems, including Microsoft Windows, Solaris, Linux, and HP-UX. For a complete list of supported operating systems and versions, please see the system requirements section.

What is the ColdFusion Administrator?

The ColdFusion Administrator is a complete suite of server administration, monitoring, and reporting tools. With the ColdFusion Administrator, server managers can visually monitor, configure, tune, and maintain ColdFusion servers, applications, and clusters.

Is ColdFusion MX backward compatible with previous releases of ColdFusion?

Yes. We believe that most ColdFusion 5 applications will run on ColdFusion MX without modification. We are documenting any incompatibilities that we become aware of and are providing migration information and tools as appropriate.

What tools is Macromedia providing to help customers migrate to ColdFusion MX?

With a few exceptions, ColdFusion MX is compatible with previous releases of ColdFusion Server. The ColdFusion MX documentation includes a full report on known compatibility issues. In addition, ColdFusion MX includes a new Code Compatibility Analyzer that enables ColdFusion developers to quickly identify areas of their current applications that may require tweaking to run on ColdFusion MX.

Pricing and Availability Information

When can I purchase ColdFusion MX?

You can pre-order many ColdFusion MX products. We expect the ColdFusion MX Server product line to be available for purchase some time in May 2002. We expect ColdFusion MX for IBM WebSphere Application Server, ColdFusion MX for Sun ONE, and ColdFusion MX for JRun to be available by mid-summer 2002. We expect ColdFusion MX for BEA WebLogic Server to be available in late 2002. To be notified when ColdFusion MX products become available, sign up for early notification.

What are the pricing and editions for ColdFusion MX?

The ColdFusion MX product family will be available as two product lines: ColdFusion MX Server and ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers. See the Product Lines and Editions page for pricing.

I already own a version of ColdFusion Server. What are my upgrade options?

For information on upgrade options, please see the Upgrade Guide.

How do I register my ColdFusion MX product?

To register ColdFusion MX, visit www.macromedia.com/software/register.

I just purchased ColdFusion Server 5. Do I have to pay full price for the new version?

If you purchased ColdFusion Server 5 either as a stand-alone product or as part of a bundle between March 29, 2002 and May 29, 2002, you may qualify for a free upgrade. Requests must be received by July 15, 2002. Please read our ServiceNote on our web site for information on obtaining your free upgrade.

Java/.NET Information**Which J2EE application servers will ColdFusion MX support?**

The ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers product line includes products that support Macromedia JRun, IBM WebSphere Application Server, Sun ONE Application Server, and BEA WebLogic Server.

What are the details of Macromedia's relationship with IBM?

IBM and Macromedia are collaborating in the development and marketing of ColdFusion MX for IBM WebSphere Application Server, a new product that adds ColdFusion MX capabilities to IBM WebSphere Application Server. IBM will be reselling ColdFusion MX for IBM WebSphere Application Server to its customers worldwide through the IBM Passport Advantage licensing program as well as offering technical support for the product. Macromedia will also offer this product through its normal sales channels.

What are the details of Macromedia's relationship with Sun Microsystems?

Sun is collaborating with Macromedia in the development and marketing of ColdFusion MX for Sun ONE, a new ColdFusion MX product that adds ColdFusion MX capabilities to Sun ONE server software products, including Sun ONE Application Server. Macromedia will sell the new product through our normal sales channels, and Sun is helping us to fund marketing activities to drive demand for the product.

What are the benefits of the new ColdFusion MX architecture?

Moving to the new Java technology-based architecture in ColdFusion MX provides a variety of benefits to ColdFusion developers, including broader deployment options, seamless interoperability with Java and .NET technologies, and native support for content encoded in double-byte languages (such as Chinese and Japanese).

Will I have to learn Java or JSP to use ColdFusion MX?

No. ColdFusion MX fully supports the ColdFusion Markup Language (CFML) and extends the ease of use and productivity that characterizes ColdFusion. In fact, one of the goals of ColdFusion MX is to make it possible for more people to take advantage of the power of Java application servers without having to learn complex technologies such as the Java language, JavaServer Pages (JSP), Java servlets, and Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB).

Will I need to buy JRun to use ColdFusion MX?

No. ColdFusion MX Server provides the complete infrastructure for deploying ColdFusion applications, including an embedded server based on JRun technology. Using ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers, however, does require a separately purchased Java application server.

If I get ColdFusion MX Server, will I be able to use all of the features in JRun?

No. ColdFusion MX Server provides direct access to a subset of the J2EE APIs. Users that need access to the full range of capabilities in the J2EE platform should purchase a full J2EE-compliant application server such as Macromedia JRun or IBM WebSphere and the appropriate product in the ColdFusion MX for J2EE Application Servers product line.

Which features of JRun does ColdFusion MX Server support?

ColdFusion MX Server Enterprise Edition enables you to import JSP tag libraries and use them like ColdFusion custom tags, to use CFINCLUDE to include servlets and JSPs and their variables within CFML pages, and to execute arbitrary servlets and JSPs using the embedded servlet engine.

How does ColdFusion MX integrate with Microsoft .NET?

All editions of ColdFusion MX provide high performance while running on Windows Servers, including Windows .NET Server. In addition, ColdFusion MX integrates with the key servers in the .NET product family, including IIS, SQL Server, and Exchange. ColdFusion MX also provides advanced support for key .NET framework technologies, including .NET web services and the COM component model.

Additional Information**What happened to ColdFusion Studio 5?**

ColdFusion Studio is no longer available as a separate product. Dreamweaver MX now combines the most popular code-editing features of ColdFusion Studio together with the visual design tools of Dreamweaver. Dreamweaver MX also includes Macromedia HomeSite+, which has the combined functionality of ColdFusion Studio 5 and Macromedia HomeSite 5 plus some additional features to support ColdFusion MX, such as support for new ColdFusion MX tags.

Is HomeSite 5 available separately?

Yes. HomeSite 5 will continue to be available for purchase separately.

What happened to Macromedia Dreamweaver UltraDev?

Dreamweaver MX combined all of the features of Dreamweaver UltraDev and Dreamweaver 4 into one integrated, productivity-enhancing product—all for the price of \$399.

What tool should developers use to write applications for ColdFusion MX?

Dreamweaver MX is the premier development environment for ColdFusion MX. Dreamweaver MX offers complete support for the new features in ColdFusion MX as well as a powerful combination of code-editing and visual development features. For the best value and to take advantage of the full range of Macromedia development tools, developers should purchase Macromedia Studio MX, which includes Dreamweaver MX as well as Macromedia Flash MX, Fireworks MX, and Freehand 10.

Does ColdFusion MX include Macromedia Spectra?

No. Portions of the core Macromedia Spectra architecture have been implemented as part of ColdFusion MX. However, Macromedia Spectra remains a separate product.

What elements of Macromedia Spectra technology are found in ColdFusion MX?

ColdFusion MX includes a new feature called ColdFusion Components (CFCs). CFCs allow developers to write encapsulated, reusable code on which they can perform activities (invoke methods). This is similar to the way developers work with content objects in Macromedia Spectra. Unlike content objects, however, CFCs do not manage their own storage.

Will Macromedia Spectra run on ColdFusion MX?

Macromedia Spectra 1.5.1 customers will need to upgrade their existing Macromedia Spectra applications to run on the ColdFusion MX platform. To this end, we plan to release Macromedia Spectra 1.5.2 for ColdFusion MX—available as a free electronic download to Macromedia Spectra 1.5.1 customers. By running on ColdFusion MX, Macromedia Spectra customers who choose to migrate to ColdFusion MX will be able to take advantage of the new features provided in the ColdFusion MX platform, such as enhanced Java and .NET integration and Unicode support.