

# Digging Into The Developer Toolbox - Get Lazy: Automate!

cf.Objective() 2010 Presentation Submission

Every developer has their basic tool set - a robust IDE, source control and a good bug tracker. But what else is in your toolbox? In this presentation I will explore some additional tools that can increase your productivity and allow you to concentrate on developing applications. Some of the tools we will explore include:

**DOS** - Been around forever but how many people actually use it? We will explore some batch script basics!

**Keyboard Launchers** - clean up that messy desktop and stop hunting for icons!

**Virtual desktops** - Now that your desktop is clean - organize your applications into task focused areas.

**Cron** - replace the unreliable Windows Scheduled task with a simple to use task scheduler.

**Clipboard Managers** - quit typing the same things over and over. A clipboard manager can keep a long running history of what you type so you don't have to.

**AutoHotkey** - save time and type less! AutoHotkey can do simple text replacements and well as complex GUIs!

**Ant** - if we are talking about automation we have to talk about Ant! We will explore how to quickly get up and running with Ant and demonstrate some automation basics.

All of these tools are free, most are open-source and have similar equivalents available on all three platforms - Windows, Mac and Linux. In this presentation we will focus on Windows.

## About Jim Priest

Jim Priest is a husband, father of two, developer, and avid motorcyclist. He currently works for SRA International as a Configuration Manager and Senior Software Development Analyst. He works primarily with ColdFusion, JIRA and Ant, but also dabbles with Powerbuilder, as well as creating handheld applications in Visual CE.

Jim is an active participant in the ColdFusion community; co-managing the Triangle Area ColdFusion User Group (TACFUG) in the Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina area. In 2009 he helped organize CFinNC, the first ColdFusion conference in North Carolina. He also contributes to several ColdFusion related projects including CFEclipse and the Model-Glue framework. He posts regularly to his blog at <http://www.thecrumb.com>.

In his spare time he enjoys tinkering with Linux and flying remote control airplanes.