

WhosOnCFC Documentation

Overview

WhosOnCFC is a ColdFusion component for monitoring user activity on your web site. It is not meant to replace a reporting tool such as Google Analytics but to show you in real time users visiting your web site, what page they initially came in on, the referrer if any, what page they are viewing now, how many pages they have viewed as well as other information. Also included are tools to help you visualize the data that WhosOnCFC tracks. The jView utility is a jQuery based tag that shows you a list of sessions and allows you to mouse over the session to view that sessions data. The timeline viewer makes use of Todd Sharp's cfTimeline tag to show your sessions in chronological order. The older viewer written using the CLayout tag has been removed and is no longer supported.

Installing & Configuring WhosOnCFC in Your Application

Installing and configuring the component is a very easy process. I have provided a sample application that should work out of the box, as is. Just extract the contents of the folder into your web root and it will work, as is. If you are implementing WhosOnCFC with a current application you only need to copy the contents of /com/kisdigital into your web root. This is the location of the component itself. Here is the sample configuration file and a brief explanation of the options:

<--- Excerpt from Application.cfm --->

```
<cfif not isdefined("application.whosoninit") or isdefined("url.reinit")>
```

```
    <cfset session.user="Guest" />
```

```
    <cfscript>
```

```
        // Configure WhosOnCFC settings
```

```
        whosonconfig=structNew();
```

```
        // How many hours do we want WhosOnCFC to track
```

```
        whosonconfig.trackTime=24;
```

```
        // How many hours do we want WhosOnCFC to track bots
```

```
        whosonconfig.botTrackTime=3;
```

```
        // Supply a CSV list of FULL IP addresses you wish to ignore
```

```
        whosonconfig.ignoreIPs="";
```

```
        // How many minutes to wait before timing out a session
```

```
        whosonconfig.defaultTimeout=30;
```

```

// URL for botlist.xml, leave blank if you do not wish to use the XML file

whosonconfig.botListUrl='http://whosoncfc.kisdigital.com/botlist.xml';

// How many clientid's allowed from 1 IP address before it assumes its a bot
whosonconfig.ipBlockListThreshold=5;

// Minutes to retain history
whosonconfig.storeHistory=10;

// Supply a CSV list of user-agents to ignore
whosonconfig.botList="";

// Supply a CSV list of files or directories you want ignored. Ex: '/admin/,/test/
myfile.cfm'
whosonconfig.ignorePages="";

// Whether or not to keep track of bots {true/FALSE}
whosonconfig.showBots=false;

// Do we want to track geophysical location (true/FALSE)
whosonconfig.geoTrack=true;

// Do we want to keep a history of pages the client visited? (true/FALSE)
whosonconfig.pageHistory=true;

// Whether or not we want to use the internal block list (FALSE)
whosonconfig.useBlockList=false;
</cfscript>

<cfset
application.whoson=createObject('component','com.kisdigital.whoson').init(whosonconfig)
/>

<cfset application.lastInit=Now()>
<cfset application.whosoninit=1>
</cfif>

```

- **trackTime:** This is the amount of time WhosOnCFC will track a session, by default it will track sessions for 24 hours. You can adjust this time up or down.

- **botTrackTime:** This is the amount of time WhosOnCFC will track bots and crawlers which it tracks for 3 hours by default. You can adjust this time up or down.
- **ignoreIPs:** This is a CSV list of FULL (xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx) IP addresses you wish to ignore. Easily avoid tracking yourself or others that come from a known IP.
- **defaultTimeout:** As noted above, defaultTimeout is the number of minutes past the LastUpdated value WhosOnCFC will wait before removing a session from the active session list.
- **botListUrl:** This is the full URL to the XML file containing a list of user-agents you do not want to track. By default it uses the botList located on <http://whosoncfc.kisdigital.com>. You can change this to the botlist.xml file on your server, or leave it blank if you do not want to use an XML file.
- **ipBlockListThreshold:** This feature is not currently implemented.
- **storeHistory:** How long you wish to retain user history. By default we retain the last 10 minutes of page history.
- **botList:** If the botListUrl is not specified you can optionally pass a CSV list of user-agents you do not want to track here. Leave empty if you specified the botListUrl.
- **ignorePages:** A comma separated list of files and directories you do not want WhosOnCFC to track. This can be whole directories, a full path to a file, or any file of a given name.
- **showBots:** A boolean value specifying whether or not you want bots to be tracked. Sessions marked as bots will be hidden from view on the user list, but may be viewed using the Enhanced Viewer or the Timeline View.
- **geoTrack:** A boolean value specifying if we want to try to find the physical location (country and city, state) of the session. Currently this feature is hardwired on because some of the functionality of WhosOnCFC requires this information. I am working to get this resolved.
- **useIpBlockList:** This feature is not currently implemented.

If you move whoson.cfc from its default location you will have to modify the createObject to mirror your installation. For instance, if you have a folder under your webroot named /cfcs and you move whoson.cfc into that directory with the rest of your cfcs you would need to modify the createObject line as so:

```
<cfset application.whoson=createObject('component','cfcs.whoson').init(whosonconfig)
/>
```

Other than setting your personalized options, that is the only editing that might be necessary. The component actually gets stored in the application scope and all the supporting utilities expect application.whoson to exist, so please do not change this unless you want to modify all the supporting utilities as well.

Also of note, as of WhosOnCFC version 2.2.4 I have moved from Application.cfm to Application.cfc to keep up with the times. I have left the reference to Application.cfm here because it still gives a good explanation of configuring the component. You can reference the included Application.cfc to move the relevant code into the correct member function in Application.cfc to get WhosOnCFC up and running in your projects.

So My Component is Configured. What is Next?

Once we have WhosOnCFC configured, how do we actually track something? On each and every ColdFusion page that is viewed we collect some basic information about the request and call the WhosOnPageTracker() function. That information is then passed along to the component which then checks to see if it is currently tracking the session. If not, it inserts the client into the active user array, otherwise it updates the current page, page count, last updated time, and the page history.

<--- Excerpt from Application.cfm --->

```
<cfscript>
    thisRequest=structNew();
    thisRequest.thisClient=session.sessionid;
    thisRequest.thisUser=session.user;
    thisRequest.Referer=CGI.HTTP_REFERER;
    thisRequest.IP=CGI.REMOTE_ADDR;
    if(CGI.PATH_INFO is CGI.SCRIPT_NAME){
        thisRequest.CurrentPage=CGI.SCRIPT_NAME;
    }else{
        thisRequest.CurrentPage=CGI.SCRIPT_NAME & CGI.PATH_INFO;
    }
    thisRequest.QueryString=CGI.QUERY_STRING;
    thisRequest.ServerName=CGI.SERVER_NAME;
    thisRequest.Prefix="http://";
    if(CGI.HTTPS is "on") thisRequest.Prefix="https://";
    thisRequest.UserAgent=CGI.HTTP_USER_AGENT;

    thisRequest.trackedUser=application.whoson.WhosOnPageTracker(whoson=thisRequest);
    if(session.user is not thisRequest.trackedUser) session.user=thisRequest.trackedUser;
</cfscript>
```

So this script block sets up the information we want to track and then calls the WhosOnPageTracker() function passing the thisRequest structure detailing the information about the request. If you are not interested in using the basic security provided by WhosOnCFC you can comment out the last line. Currently it can handle

HTTP, HTTPS and Search Engine Safe URLs by parsing out the CGI.PATH_INFO variable.

These two code blocks are all that is required to get the component up and running. The first initializes WhosOnCFC if it does not exist or if you pass reinit as an url parameter. The second code block gathers information about the request and passes it to the tracker.

Interacting With WhosOnCFC

So now I am tracking users, how can I interact with WhosOnCFC? Well here are a list of exposed methods and the data that is returned:

- **application.whoson.usersOnline():** Returns the number of active sessions currently being tracked.
- **application.whoson.getUserList():** Returns a list of user currently being tracked.
- **application.whoson.WhosOnline(showAll=true/FALSE, showHidden=true/FALSE):** This function returns a query object of users you specify. If you pass showAll=true it will show all sessions whether they are active or not. If you would like to see hidden (bot) sessions pass showHidden=true.
- **application.whoson.getMaxCounts():** Returns a structure containing the maximum number of users tracked since the last reset and the date and time the record was set.
- **application.whoson.getCurrentControlSet():** Returns a structure describing the parameters of the current configuration. This can be used to get general information about your configuration and the included utilities use to control some of their behaviors as well.

Using the Included Utilities

The jQuery viewer will work as is where ever you decide to place it.

The timeline viewer will work as is where ever you decide to place it.

A Note on Security

If you would like to hide files or directories from WhosOnCFC remember to use the ignoreFiles option in the WhosOnCFC configuration. I do suggest hiding the viewer and timeline directories, but it is not required.

Closing Thoughts

I have tried to be very thorough testing WhosOnCFC. If you encounter any problems, need help getting things configured, or just have comments, questions or suggestions please let me know. I will be happy to help in any way I can. Feel free to email me: robert@kisdigital.com.

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