

BlogCFC

License and Credits

BlogCFC is free for any use, commercial, private, educational, etc. I request the following if you use my blog:

- 1) Please link back to my blog at <http://ray.camdenfamily.com>.
- 2) If you find any bugs, or have any suggestions, please email me at ray@camdenfamily.com. You can also go to the BlogCFC Forums at <http://ray.camdenfamily.com/forums/forums.cfm?conferenceid=4>. You may also go to the BlogCFC Project page at <http://ray.camdenfamily.com/projects/blogcfc.cfm>.
- 3) If you *really* like the blog, you can always send me something from my wishlist, located here: www.amazon.com/o/registry/2TCL1D08EZEYE

BlogCFC makes use of code from Paul Hastings (paul@sustainableGIS.com). Paul was a great help in adding localization to the blog. Many thanks go to him. We also make use of a custom tag (coloredCode) from Dain Anderson (webmaster@cfcomet.com). Many other people have helped with contributed bug fixes and ideas.

Installation

When you unzip the installation package, you will have three main directories, client, org, and install. The client folder represents the main blog application. If your web site will only contain the blog, then obviously this folder will be your web root. The org folder should be placed under web root. This folder contains the CFCs used by the blog application. The install folder contains miscellaneous files to help you install the blog. This folder should be removed from your web root.

Next, decide which database you want to use. In the install folder you will find a mysql.sql file, a sqlserver.sql file, and a MS Access database. These are the three database types supported by BlogCFC. Pick the one you plan on using it and set up a database. Set up a datasource pointing to your database. Open the blog.ini file from /org/camden/blog/blog.ini. Find the default section, dsn key, and edit the value. Note – for MySQL, only the 4.x release is supported. **Note: The blog.ini file is described in more detail later in this document. READ THIS: The blog.ini file is cached. This means if you visit the blog and make a change to the ini file, it will NOT be reflected. To refresh the blog's cache, visit your blog with ?reinit=1 at the end of the URL.**

Note to folks using non-Latin languages: Your DSN needs to be set up correctly. See this blog entry by Paul Hastings for more information:

<http://www.sustainablegis.com/blog/cfg11n/index.cfm?mode=entry&entry=F9553D86-20ED-7DEE-2A913AFD8651643F>

Also – for those using SQL Server – you may want to edit the collation settings, or remove them, in order for your database to work correctly. Those using SQL Server with an English blog should (probably) not need to worry.

While in the CF Admin, setup a mapping. This mapping should be named "org" and should point to where you extracted the org folder. You may also place the org folder under the client folder. This should remove the need for any mapping.

At this point, your blog should actually be working, but obviously you will have no entries. In order to add entries, you need to enable design mode for the blog. This is done by simply going to your blog (let's say <http://localhost/blog>) and adding ?designmode=1 to the URL. You will be prompted to login. Use admin for the username and admin for the password. You should change this password **immediately** or sometime soon. There is no interface to do this so you will have to manually edit the password in the database.

Once you are logged in, you will see a new menu at the top of the page. To add a new entry, simply click **Add New Entry**. This will pop open a new window where you can create an entry. Since this is your first entry, you will have to manually enter a category. Once done, simply click the **Save** button and your entry will be stored. The blog will reload and you should see your entry added.

Layout Options

The look and feel of your blog is controlled by files in the client directory. The main file you will want to examine is /tags/layout.cfm. This, along with /includes/styles.css, control most of the look and feel of the blog. Other files you may want to look at: index.cfm controls the display of entries. If you wanted to modify how an entry is shown, you would modify this file. The file /tags/podlayout.cfm controls the display of pods (right hand content).

Editor Options

When working with blog entries, there are two special tags that you can use to enhance your entries:

`<more/>`: Sometimes a blog entry may be very long. It is preferable to show only a portion of the entry on the main blog and have the detailed link contain the entire entry. By using the `<more/>` tag in your blog entry, any text after the `<more/>` tag will only show up on the individual entry display. You **must** include the closing / in the tag.

`<code>`: The code tag allows you to wrap sets of code that you want to show up in your entry. For example:

This is a sample entry. Blah blah blah. Here is some code...

```
<code>
<cfif thisTag.executionMode is "end">
    <cfexit>
</cfif>
```

</code>

This is more text in the entry.

Any code inside the <code> block will be escaped (< and > tags changed to < and >), color coded, and will have line breaks changed to
 tags.

Pods

"Pods" is simply my term for the blocks of content in the right hand column. These tags are loaded by the /tags/layout.cfm file. To ensure a common look and feel, each pod file should use the /tags/podlayout.cfm file. This controls the size and tabular look of the pods. There are five pods included in the zip. You can modify/add/delete these to suit your tastes.

Caching

The blog makes use of scopeCache, a custom tag I developed to enable easy RAM caching. You should be aware, however, that this caching means changes to layout may not be reflected immediately. You can either disable the tag in the index.cfm file, or you can simply enable design mode. Caching is based on URL and will be automatically refreshed whenever you add, edit, or delete an entry. Basically, you need not worry about it unless you are working on the layout.

There is one caching issue that you should be aware of when writing content. You are allowed to write posts with dates in the future. This allows you to write an entry in the morning and have it show up at night. The default cache will live for one hour. That means if you post an entry for 30 minutes from now, it will not show up until the cache is cleared.

Security Options and Multi-User Blogs

Blog 3.5 added support for multiple blogs and users per dsn. To add, edit, or delete users, you must edit directly in the database itself. Any user defined in the tblUsers table will have access to all the blogs that exist in the database. You can use the blog.ini file to limit users to particular blogs. Please see the Blog Ini section for more information.

Internationalization

BlogCFC makes use of a resource bundle CFC developed by Paul Hastings (and with slight modifications by myself). All strings (things like button labels, etc) are controlled by a properties file in the includes directory. By default, the blog uses main_en_US.properties. If you specify another locale in the Blog ini file, then the Blog will attempt to load that particular resource bundle. To create a new resource bundle in your language, copy the en_US file and make sure you translate each and every setting.

The Blog INI File

In the Installation section, I described editing the Blog INI file (org/camden/blog/blog.ini) to set the DSN. There are other settings you should edit as well. Here is a typical set of entries:

```
[default]
dsn=blogdev
owneremail=ray@camdenfamily.com
blogURL=http://ray.camdenfamily.com/index.cfm
unsubscribeURL=http://ray.camdenfamily.com/unsubscribe.cfm
blogTitle=BlogDev
blogDescription=The Dev Blog
blogItemURLPrefix=mode=entry&entry=
blogDBType=MSSQL
locale=en_US
users=admin
commentsFrom=
mailserver=
mailusername=
mailpassword=
pingurls=
offset=-1
allowtrackbacks=1
trackbackspamlist=phentermine,casino
blogkeywords=
```

The section name, [default], refers to the name of the blog. If you have only one blog, leave this as default. If you have more than one blog on a server, you will want to copy the [Default] section and give it a new name, like [Other Blog]. You will then want to edit the Application.cfm file in the client folder and modify these lines:

```
<!-- Edit this line if you are not using a default blog -->
<cfset blogname = "Default">
```

The dsn obviously points to the datasource for your blog. Each blog must have its own datasource.

Owneremail should be your email address. This is used when comments are posted to your blog.

BlogURL should point to the URL of your blog. BlogURL MUST include the index.cfm file at the end. So if your blog is located at blog.org, do not simply use: http://www.blog.org. Instead, use the full URL: http://www.blog.org/index.cfm.

unsubscribeURL is the URL of your unsubscribe page. This is normally the same as BlogURL, but using the file unsubscribe.cfm instead.

blogTitle and blogDescription are used in the RSS feed and in the main layout's top title bar.

blogItemPrefix is used by the RSS feed and should not be modified. So why did I make it a setting in the INI file? I don't know. This will most likely be removed in the future.

blogDBType should either be MSSQL (for SQL Server), MYSQL (for MySQL), or MSACCESS (for Access).

Locale is the locale setting for your blog. This is not a standard ColdFusion locale value, but a standard Java locale.

Users are the users allowed to use the blog. If you do not specify a list of users, any user in the admin table can use the blog.

By default, comments are emailed out using a "from" address of the person who sent the email. If you set a value for commentsFrom, the email will instead be marked with that address. What that means is that when a user posts a comment to a blog entry, each email sent to the unique users of the thread will get an email from the address specified in that setting.

By default, the blog will send emails using the mail server specified in the ColdFusion Administrator. If you want to override that setting, use the mailserver, mailusername, and mailpassword settings. You do not need to specify the username and password if your mail server doesn't require authentication.

The pingurls setting lets you add ping support to your blog. This is described later in this document in the Ping section.

The offset property allows you to offset the posted dates of your blog entries. So if your blog server is in EST and you live in the CST timezone, you can use offset=-1 to have the times of blog entries reflect your timezone.

The allowtrackbacks property should be 1 or 0 to reflect true or false for allowing trackback support on your blog. Trackbacks are a way for people to link to your blog entries in a way so that they show up in your entries as well. Unfortunately, trackbacks tend to be spammed quite a bit. If you simply do not want to deal with trackback spam, just disable the feature.

Talking about spam – there are two ways to fight trackback spam in BlogCFC. You will get an email every time someone adds a new trackback. In that email will be a link you can click to delete the trackback. The "nuclear" option is the trackbackspamlist. If any word from this list appears in the trackback, the trackback entry will **not** be added to your blog. The person adding the trackback will **not** get a warning, but will simply not see their trackback show up.

The blogkeywords setting will be used in the meta tag of your blog. This should describe, in general, the content you plan on blogging about.

Comment Notification

By default, when a user posts a comment to a thread, the administrator for the blog will get an email. Users also have the option to subscribe to a thread. When they do, they will automatically get notice when another user posts to the thread. Users have two options to unsubscribe. If they post again, and do not check the "Subscribe" checkbox, they will be removed from the thread, even though they subscribed earlier. The email sent out also contains a link to unsubscribe. If you want to modify how comment notifications look, edit `addcomment.cfm`. You will see where the email is generated. Everything there is pretty straightforward except for the `%unsubscribe%` token. This is a special value that gets replaced with the unsubscribe URL and values specific to the person getting the email. Note that as the owner of the blog, you get emails for all postings. The unsubscribe link will be marked as unavailable.

By default, all emails sent out will be marked with a footer that identifies the BlogCFC application and gives credit to Raymond Camden. You have the right to remove this footer, or modify it as you see fit.

Using Aliases

BlogCFC makes use of UUIDs to identify blog entries. Some folks do not care for these URLs. A feature of BlogCFC is the ability to give an alias to an entry. So for example, a blog entry on Star Wars could have an alias of "starwars." To load an entry with it's alias, you must use this syntax:

```
index.cfm?mode=alias&alias=starwars
```

You can combine this with ISAPIRewrite or Apache ModRewrite to allow for *any* style URL. As long as you rewrite it to the format above then the entry will be loaded correctly.

SES URLs and Aliases

BlogCFC version 3.8 now supports SES URLs in the form of YYYY/M/D/TITLE. So, a typical URL could look like so:

<http://host/client/index.cfm/2005/7/12/Testing-my-new-title-maker>

By default, when you make a new blog entry, an alias using the year, month, date, and title will be created. You do not need to worry about this typically. The only potential problem will be if two (or more) entries in the same day have the exact same title, or a title similar enough so that they create the same shortened version.

If you are running BlogCFC in a J2EE setup, you should consult this KB article: <http://www.macromedia.com/cfusion/knowledgebase/index.cfm?id=2add247>

Stats

To view stats for your blog, simply go to stats.cfm. This file is **not** password protected. If you want, you can make it only available to admins by simply copying the same security check used in editor.cfm:

```
<cfif not isUserInRole("admin")>
    <cfabort>
</cfif>
```

Ping

Some blog aggregators support 'ping', which simply means a way to tell the aggregator that you have updated your blog. This is typically done by simply loading a URL. For aggregators that support this feature, you can ping them from your blog when you add a new entry. Simply add the ping URL to the pingurls setting in the blog.ini file. You can supply multiple ping URLs by simply separating them with a comma.

Note - BlogCFC supports Technorati pings. In order to ping Technorati, simply add @technorati to your blog.ini file in the pingurls setting. This can be by itself, or with any other ping URL.

BlogCFC also supports the Weblogs API (<http://www.weblogs.com/api.html>). To ping weblogs.com, add @weblogs to your ping list.

RSS

BlogCFC makes use of RSS 2.0. You can offer RSS 1.0 support by simply adding version=1 to the RSS URL. So if your normal RSS URL is:
<http://ray.camdenfamily.com/rss.cfm>

You would use this to offer RSS 1.0:
<http://ray.camdenfamily.com/rss.cfm?version=1>

It is certainly ok to offer both RSS feeds to your visitors, but only RSS 2.0 will support enclosures.

Enclosures

BlogCFC 3.9 added support for enclosures. These are media files associated with a blog entry. This allows support for pod casting. While you can attach any file to a blog entry, normally you will want to attach an MP3 file. Once a file is attached, it will show up in the entry as a download, and be displayed in the RSS 2.0 feed.

Subscribers

BlogCFC allows folks to subscribe to your blog. When a person subscribes, they will receive each and every posting you write. They will not receive an email if you simply edit an existing post.

Print Format

BlogCFC offers a print format version of blog entries. This is only supported on ColdFusion MX 7. If you are not running BlogCFC on ColdFusion MX 7, you will not see the Print link.

Google Site Maps

BlogCFC now supports Google Site Maps. Google Site Maps are a way to let Google know the 'map' of your site. For BlogCFC, this is simply a listing of all the blog entries. More information may be found here:

<https://www.google.com/webmasters/sitemaps/docs/en/about.html>

BlogCFC uses the file, googlesitemap.cfm, in the root of the client folder to enable site map support. Note - I have problems using a CFM file with Google. I found that Google would only accept my file when I added a URL parameter at the end to 'fake' an XML file. In other words, I provided a URL like so:

<http://www.foo.com/googlesitemap.cfm?ext=xml>

This URL variable was ignored by the code, and seemed to please Google. As you know, we must all please Google!