Why I Like, and Use, CFScript

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Many, many moons ago, I began a journey to learn web development. Actually it was a re-acquaintance, as I had gotten side tracked for a few years in a poor business partnership, having to catch up on how much things had changed. During that time, HTML had moved for v2 to 4, CSS was the crazy new thing replacing *font* and *center* tags, Dynamic HTML was making JavaScript hot again, and the browser wars were making life impossible.

Back then I was on the LA Tech Edu JavaScript mailing list (sadly retired, years ago). This guy named Peter Paul Koch was a major contributor to the list, and just ramping up this little site called **QuirksMode**. Scripting, though somewhat nightmarish with the browser wars, was actually a lot of fun. My first shopping cart was completely JS based.

I have always pushed for full parity between cfscript and tags, because scripting is more natural to me, in terms of writing programmatic logic. Sure, *cfoutput* and *cfloop* make a lot of sense in the middle of html display code, but CFC's don't (typically) contain display code, being data access and model objects.

I have issues with the implementation of CFScript. I find that there are a lot of functions of similar actions with completely different naming conventions, and argument requirements, and more. I think these things need to be addressed. That said, if I have to call the function anyway, I prefer script to tags when it's outside of display. It's a more natural approach, to me. 99 times out of 100 I end up with less lines of code, and find the logic more defined, clear cut, and easier to understand.

It's not for everyone. There are many that just plain hate cfscript, and that's their prerogative. But I will continue to use cfscript, and my examples will show that, because I personally find it a better way to write code. If it's not your preference, that's fine, you're welcome to translate my examples to tags if you need to, but for me this is how I do it. (For the record, many of the newer functions are not identical, under the hood [base Java code], as their tag counterparts, and some scripted functions have been proven to have better performance than their tag counterparts. There are benchmarks for this out there, somewhere, if you feel strongly enough to go look for them. I just take it on my experience with using it.)