

2011 In Review, and the View for 2012

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My, how time flies when you're having fun! It seems like only yesterday that I was **welcoming in 2011**, and now we're here a year later. So many things have happened in the last year, and rereading that post I see that I missed some things I should've done, but let's take a look in retrospect.

I wrote 27 blog posts in 2011. This is nothing, compared to guys like **Ray Camden** or **Ben Nadel**, but for me it was quite a bit, especially when you consider that between March and August I released only one post. Very early in the year, I began a series on creating **many sites with one codebase**. In the process, the series has evolved to contain a fairly detailed primer in **ColdFusion** application architecture (because of it's importance to this process), has currently spanned **8 separate posts**, and was even referenced by **Sean Corfield** in his great presentations on the same topic. 2012 will see the completion of that CF app discussion, and gradually move it back to the MSOC topic itself, as there is still a ton to talk about there, and a lot of interest in the topic. I also began a series on the **jqGrid** JQuery plugin. jqGrid is another Data Grid visualization tool (I have now written about three, including **Ext JS** and **DataTables**), and is a clear choice for those who must use JQuery. (To be fair, **JQueryUI** is working on a grid component, but they are still behind the curve, and way behind Sencha.) Finally, one common thread seen in the majority of my posts, is how much I've embraced **cfscript**. I wrote a lot of things, on a variety of topics, but most of my code examples were pure scripted examples.

Now let's talk about some other departures from the norm for Cutter.

You did not see a lot of content around Ext JS. In fact, **I stopped writing Ext JS books**. This is not, in any way, a reflection on my feelings for Ext JS. I still believe that **Sencha** has built one of the best client-side libraries for web application development. In evaluating the overall ROI, I realized that I was writing more for the community than the money, and that my reach was greater through my blog, while giving me flexibility on when and what I deliver from a content standpoint. That said, I didn't have a single project this year that used Ext JS, so had very little time to experiment and write about it. This year, I'm going to expand on a personal project, and get back to some great Ext JS content for my readers.

You, also, did not see me speak at any conferences this past year. Nor at any user group meetings. This wasn't because I didn't want to, but because of some more personal reasons. I'm not going to go in depth here, other than to say that I've had some long standing health issues that required me to have some surgery done on my

mouth. (Mark Drew is making a joke right now...) Aside from the fact that this has been very costly (chewing up any conference/travel budget), it also meant that my speech has been affected for a good part of the year. Thankfully this experience is (mostly) over now, and I hope to get back to presenting sometime this year. Any user group looking for a speaker this year, please contact me through the Contact link on this blog.

One group I am hoping to speak to this year is the **Northeast Florida CFUG**. I have to call Mike back, but he's looking to get things kicked off again, and I want to help it be successful. If you're in or around the Jacksonville area, make sure to keep an eye on the site for upcoming events.

One other thing I'm looking to do is to migrate all of my projects into **GitHub**. I've been using Git at work, and I am loving it, and I think combining GitHub with **RIAForge** is a great way to promote the terrific technologies we work with every day. I will make the time, I promise.

This comes to the final discussion of this post, **Adobe**. I again had the pleasure of being an **Adobe Community Professional** this past year. Due to my health issues, I didn't get to do everything I would've wanted to this year, but I've tried to be a good supporter. There are some fabulous things coming in ColdFusion Zeus and, by extension, to ColdFusion Builder as well. There has been a lot of hub-bub over Adobe's communications flubs regarding Flash, mobile, and Flex. I've avoided much of the discussion, other than to say "be patient and watch". Flash isn't going away, and neither is Flex. HTML 5 is a beautiful thing, if you aren't developing desktop browser applications (i.e. You're only writing for mobile/tablet development). There, that is my whole contribution to that discussion. Give it a rest.

2012 will be a fantastic year. Set yourself some clear, definable goals. Break them down, step by step, and write the steps down on paper. Each successive step, print out in large letters and place it somewhere where you will see it each and every day. Set yourself up to succeed, and you will. Have a great year, everyone, and I can't wait to hear what *you* have planned for 2012.