

Macromedia ColdFusion MX Developer Certification Examination Blueprint Specification

Introduction

This examination is based upon the most critical job activities that a Macromedia ColdFusion developer would experience and need to perform successfully to be certified. The skills and knowledge certified by this examination represent a professional level of expertise where a certified individual can:

- Recognize effective use and reuse of code in ColdFusion MX programming for application development, exception handling, troubleshooting, forms and work with complex data types.
- Recognize key concepts in database interactions, client state management, and data exchange.

The test specification is intended to address the knowledge and skill areas that demonstrate competency to be successful as a ColdFusion MX application developer. The basic knowledge and skills required at this level should include all of the following areas and objective components below. The knowledge level can be defined as having the following suggested prerequisites or equivalent professional experience:

- Two or more years experience with one or more programming languages.
- Experienced in the applied use of an enterprise level database server
- One or more years of experience creating applications using ColdFusion.

Background and Experience

The completion of the following courses or equivalent experience will assist in exam preparation:

- Fast Track to ColdFusion MX
- Advanced ColdFusion MX Development.

The skills and knowledge measured by this examination are derived from current course content and from an understanding of the jobs ColdFusion developers are engaged. A team of highly qualified ColdFusion experts defined the test content and wrote the test items.

Note: This examination blueprint includes weighting, test objectives, and example content. Example topics and concepts are included to clarify the test objectives; they should not be construed as a comprehensive listing of the content of this examination.

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The table below lists the domains measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination.

Domain	% of Examination
1.0 Application Development	55
2.0 Database Concepts	15
3.0 Client State Management	15
4.0 Data Exchange	15
Total	100%

Response Limits

The examinee selects, from two (2) or more response options, the option(s) that best completes the statement or answers the question. Distracters or wrong answers are response options that examinees with incomplete knowledge or skill would likely choose, but are generally plausible responses fitting into the content area defined by the test objective.

Test item formats used in this examination are:

Multiple-choice: The examinee selects one option that best answers the question or completes a statement.

Multiple-response: The examinee selects more than one option that best answers the question or completes a statement. The question will state how many options are correct, i.e. – (Choose two).

Sample Directions: Read the statement or question and from the response options, select only the option(s) that represent the most correct or best answer(s) given the information provided.

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Domain 1.0 Application Development

Content Limits

1.1 Identify ColdFusion MX programming basics in application development.

Content may include the following:

- Variables and Scoping
- Looping
- Functions
- ColdFusion tags
- Conditional processing

1.2 Identify and demonstrate code reuse in application development.

Content may include the following:

- <cfinclude>
- ColdFusion Components
 - <cffunction>
 - <cfreturn>
 - <cfinvokeargument>
- Arguments & Scope
 - argument scope inside a function
- User defined functions using tags
- Handling of custom tags
 - creation
 - calling
 - storing
- <cfinvoke>
- <cfobject>

1.3 Recognize how to work with complex data types in application development.

Content may include the following:

- Arrays and their usage
 - Array functions
- Structures
 - Structure functions
- Passing complex data types into custom tags
- Combining complex data types
- <cfdump>

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1.4 Demonstrate the ability to effectively manage web server files.

Content may include the following:

- <cffile>
 - Upload files
 - Append
 - Retrieve
 - Download
 - Read and Write
- <cfdirectory>
- <cfcontent>
 - MIME types

1.5 Recognize and evaluate appropriate strategies for handling exceptional events.

Content may include the following:

- Site-wide error handler
- <cferror> handling
- <cftry>/<cfcatch> methodology
- <cfthrow>

1.6 Recognize how to work with forms in ColdFusion.

Content may include the following:

- Action pages
- <cfform>
- Server-side and Client-side Validation

1.7 Recognize approaches to managing the User-Experience.

Content may include the following:

- <cfflush>
- Personalization

1.8 Identify approaches to creating reports.

Content may include the following:

- <cfchartseries>

1.9 Recognize and evaluate appropriate strategies to use when troubleshooting and testing an application.

Content may include the following:

- Debugging
- Debugging options: classic and dockable
- <cftrace>
- <cfdump>

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Domain 2.0 Database Concepts

Content Limits

2.1 Recognize key concepts and their use in relation to database interactions, database connections, and database manipulation tags.

Content may include the following:

- Database interactions
- Invoking stored procedures
- Transaction management
- SQL queries
- Joining tables
- Grouping data output
- Handling nulls
- Calculating totals
- Database manipulation
- Insert, delete, update and select
- Caching queries
- Query of queries

Domain 3.0 Client state management

Content Limits

3.1 Demonstrate an understanding of client state management areas.

Content may include the following:

- Application.cfm
- OnRequestEnd.cfm
- Cookies
- Client variables
- Request variables
- Session variables
- Application variables
- Server variables
- <cflock>
- Storage locations
- <cflogin>
- <cfloginuser>

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Domain 4.0 Data Exchange

Content Limits

4.1 Understand Web technology for the creation of distributed web applications.

Content may include the following:

- XML
- Creating web services
- Consuming web services
- <cfftp>
- Creating agents
 - <cfhttp>
 - <cfhttpparam>
 - Post vs. get information exchange
 - HTTP header information
- Exception handling