DataMgr Tour of Two Cities

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I got back Friday from my two city **DataMgr** users group tour. I had a lot of fun presenting in both Boston and Nashville. Both groups were a lot of fun and had good questions.

While in Boston, I had a chance to look around the the city for a few hours before the presentation and it is really beautiful. Then I had time to talk to both **Brian Rinaldi** and **Bernie Dolan** a bit before the meeting, which was both fun and educational - two very smart guys.

The presentation to the **Boston CFUG** went well and everyone I talked to said that they enjoyed the presentation. Feel free to read Bernie's **humurous tale of the event** (I took the title of this blog entry from his). Afterward, I went to a local pub for a drink with **Bernie**, **Brian**, and **Tom**. Tom bought me a beer, which was much appreciated. Another fun and informational discussion there.

From Boston I flew to Nashville. I was too tired to look around the town, so I stayed in the hotel and napped and tried to get caught up on email and reading. The presentation to the **Nashville CFUG** also went well (you can read Steve "Cutter" Blades **description of the presentation**). This presentation was recorded, so feel free to **watch the presentation** (apologies for some silent spots where I am listening to questions and suggestions).

Some of the Nashville members made some good suggestions for DataMgr which will be in the next build (proving wrong my previous statement that it was feature complete).

The first suggestion was that the getXml() method should be able to return all tables if no table was passed in to the method. It turns out that DataMgr did this already. I went ahead and made it do the same if an empty string is passed in as well.

The second suggestion was that the logAction() method should record the SQL used in the action. I have added that feature and it will be in the next release. As an aside, I said in the presentation that calling this method directly when logging is not enabled would not cause DataMgr to log an entry. This is not true, but startLogging() must have been called before a logAction() method is called (or else the logging table won't exist).

Members of both groups asked about the performance of DataMgr. I was disappointed that I had not done any performance tests on DataMgr, so I had to give a conservative response that it would be best to avoid its use in very high-traffic situations. I believe that it should actually perform very well in those situations (better, I would think, than an ORM approach), but until I test that I can't really recommend its use for high-traffic applications.

That being the case, I would love any suggestions for what people think would be the best approach for load testing and performance testing for DataMgr. Ideally, I would love to see a set of tests that can be performed against DataMgr as well as cfquery, Transfer, and Reactor. I think that this could help people choose the approach that is the best fit for their environment.

Somehow, I had time to cover "Special" functionality and "Relation Fields" at the Boston meeting, but not the Nashville one. I'm sure that means I left out something else in Nashville. Both of these features can be seen in the **DataMgr Demonstration site**. If you want a more complete information, the **DataMgr page** includes links to the documentation as well as Flash tutorials and the CFC Docs for DataMgr.

I would love to present this to any other groups that are interested (via Adobe Acrobat Connect). Just **let me know** if you would like me to present on DataMgr to your group).

Finally, a big thanks to **Brian Rinaldi** and **Aaron West** for allowing me to come to their groups and say a few words about my current pet project. It was a lot of fun to meet everyone in each group and I hope I get to see many of them again in the future.