

What is this Framework for, Anyway?

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On the CFCDev list, Barry Beattle just asked several questions trying to understand a badly-written Fusebox 3 app. One of his last questions was "what pain do these actually solve?".

To me, this seems like a really good question. I frequently see discussions on whether frameworks have any value or which frameworks are "best". The first discussion seems to produce a lot of heat with the non-believers saying "That doesn't seem to solve any problem that I have". The second discussion seems to generally resolve with "It depends."

To the frustration of the person making the inquiry, "It depends." is really the best answer to the "Which framework is best?". After all, if one framework were better than the rest, it stands to reason the rest would fade away.

The real issue is finding the framework that best meets your needs. To address this, cfFrameworks.com has information on most of the available ColdFusion frameworks.

What I haven't seen is a short write-up for each framework describing the problem that it is intended to solve.

I propose that we compile a short description (no more than three sentences) of the problems that each framework was created to solve. That could include a link to more information about that framework.

This would give people a good place to start their search for the framework that is right for them.

If this idea sounds valuable to people, I will volunteer to collect this information from the various framework authors. If cfFrameworks.com is willing to host this information, it can be placed there or I can host it myself (clearly, I think cfFrameworks.com would be the best place for this information).

What do you think?