

DAL / Persistence Layer Comparisons

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Related Categories: ColdFusion, DataMgr

I was curious yesterday about which databases were supported by which ColdFusion Data Access Layers (DALs). I went to check on that and before I knew it, I had compiled quite a few comparisons on each.

Perhaps I should back up at this point and explain what I mean by a [DAL](#). A DAL is any application that manages access to data (usually a database). These are often referred to as an ORM. An ORM, however, is one type of DAL (one that maps objects to a database). An ORM is a DAL, but a DAL need not be an ORM.

The table below represents all of the major ColdFusion DALs and the information that I was able to find about them. If any of my information is incorrect or if I am missing anything, please let me know.

In the interest of fair disclosure, I am the author of DataMgr. That being said, the point of this is just to provide a handy reference.

	DataFaucet*	DataMgr	Reactor	Squidhead	Transfer
Current Version	1.1 RC	2.2	???	2.0	1.1
First Blog Entry	2008-06-10*	2005-08-03	2005-09-26	2007-01-31	2005-11-15
Cost	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Documentation	HTML	HTML	HTML	HTML	HTML
License	BSD	LGPL	???	Apache, V2	Common Public
ORM?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Need File Write Access?	Yes***	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Database Introspection?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Database Modification?	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Query Caching	Yes	CF8	???	???	No
Object Caching	Yes	N/A	???	N/A	Yes
Download Size	666K	67K	1.90M	243K	2.30M
Expanded Size	1.5M	356K	4.72M	982K	3.34M
Databases					
MS Access	Yes	'97+			
MS SQL Server	Yes	2000+	2000+	2000+	2000+
MySQL	Yes	4.1+	4+	5+	4.1+
Oracle	9i+	9i+	9i+	10g+	9i+
PostgreSQL		8+	8+		8.1+
DB2			Yes		

Derby		Yes			
CFML Servers					
ColdFusion	Yes	6.1+	Yes	7+**	7+
Open BD		1.0+			1.0+
Railo		3.0.1+	3.0.1+		3.0+

* Previously part of onTap framework.

** Squidhead requires CF8, but the generated code can run on CF7 or better.

*** Generates configuration files from objects, rather than generating the objects themselves (for persistence service only).

If you can think of anything else I should add to this table (or find any information that needs correction), let me know.