

# Essential Software for ColdFusion Development

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I recently went through a rather severe computer tragedy from which I am just now recovering. As such, I have had the opportunity to rebuild my computer from scratch. Here is the software I deemed essential for my work as a ColdFusion developer. I'm curious what others have installed.

These are roughly in the order that I install them

- **Firefox**: First thing I install on any computer.
- **IIS**: Not really software, but I did have to enable it. Apache may be "better", but I like IIS personally and it is easy to get going. Just be sure to enable all of the correct services *before* you install ColdFusion
- **SQL Server Express**: It is free for local development and a really good database program.
- **MS Office**: The last of the Microsoft software. Despite all of the Microsoft haters out there, MS Excel is still my favorite program ever and MS Access is actually a pretty good local database.
- **ColdFusion**: It's what I do.
- **ColdFusion Builder**: I still miss ColdFusion Studio, but this is really growing on me.
- **Adobe CS Web Premium**: I love Fireworks and it is handy to have Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Flash as well.
- **Pidgin**: Currently my IM of choice. Works well across lots of networks and runs fast.
- **CloudBerry Backup Desktop**: I have tried **Mozy** and Rackspace's **JungleDisk** and liked them both well enough, but a friend recommended this so I am giving it a try.
- **ShadowProtect**: Windows 7 has image back-ups, but the hardware independent restore feature of ShadowProtect seems like it could be really handy.
- **BeyondCompare**: Simply the best file comparison program I have found.
- **Git for Windows**: I'm in the early stages of learning Git, but I love it so far.

So, what do you think? Did I miss anything essential?

For anyone wondering what happened to my upcoming list of "How I got Started in ColdFusion" entries, I lost them but I know how to get that back so I will try to get on that soon. Sorry for the delay.