

An easier way to take ColdFusion thread dumps on Windows

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Thread dumps are often used a diagnostic utility to qualify and quantify the page requests running in a ColdFusion MX or JRun server. This is most useful for servers that appear to be *hanging* or *spiking the CPU*.

Brandon Purcell demonstrates how to generate ColdFusion MX thread dumps, also known as stack traces, while running it as Windows Service rather than from the command line.

Obtaining a Thread Dump with ColdFusion or JRun running as a Windows Service

While there is a limitation if using Terminal Services, this method will otherwise allow you to attach to a running jvm process to take a thread dump.

What to do with a ColdFusion thread dump once you've got it? This Macromedia technote on [Debugging Stack Traces in ColdFusion MX](#) helps make sense of it, although in my experience you have to read quite a lot of thread dumps before they start to look warm and fuzzy enough to be familiar, but that is when they start to offer up some of their secrets :)

Related entries:

- [Troubleshooting Tips For ColdFusion MX \[Part 1\]](#)
- [Troubleshooting Tips For ColdFusion MX \[Part 2\]](#)
- [activeHandlerThreads or Simultaneous Requests: Less is More](#)
- [Help! My ColdFusion MX Server is Slow!](#)