

Local Function Scope in ColdFusion 8

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I was frustrated yesterday by the inability to get at the "local function" scope in ColdFusion 8. In ColdFusion 9 each function has a scope called "local" that functions like the various other scopes in ColdFusion. You can loop through its keys and do things with its properties. In ColdFusion 7 and 8 a great many developers actually created a pseudo local scope by doing something like *"CFSET var local = structNew()"* and then appending all the needed vars to this structure. In CF 9 the "local" scope was already set up for you so if you did *"CFSET var x = 10"* you had a var called "local.x" to work with as a member of the local object.

In the ColdFusion 8 code I was working with yesterday I had a rather long and involved function that I was trying to modify. I needed to loop through the "local" scope for one reason or another and there was not "pseudo" local scope created. I did not want to go back and re-engineer the entire function. I was just reviewing and prototyping and there were around 25 local vars declared. So I asked the question to my list - how do I get at that local function scope without refactoring the whole function?

ColdFusion Guru Jared Rypka-Hauer came up with this undocumented solution.

```
<cfset var localScope = getPageContext().getActiveFunctionLocalScope()>
```

Sure enough, this code creates an object with all the local scope vars in it. There are a couple of caveats.

- The Arguments structure is a part of the local scope (stands to reason right?)
- This object (as written above) will also belong to the local scope. If you take out the "var" you've added it to the component scope.
- Since ColdFusion 9 has created a local scope for you, this function and approach will *break* on a CF 9 server. so if you use it make sure you make a note that you need to modify this bit of code if you move to ColdFusion 9.

Finally, here's a little test function you can use to demonstrate to yourself how this works.

```
<Cffunction name="checkVarScope">

    <cfscript>
        var thisvar = 10;
        var thatvar = 12;
        var theOtherthing = 'Sister Sally';
        localScope = getPageContext().getActiveFunctionLocalScope();
    </cfscript>

    <Cfdump var="#localScope#">

</Cffunction>

<Cfset checkVarScope()>
```

Here's that function in action - [Local Scope](#).

