

Variables Scope Memory Leak (say it ain't so)

Posted At : October 25, 2006 12:29 PM | Posted By : Mark Kruger

Related Categories: Coldfusion Optimization, Coldfusion Tips and Techniques

I just read this fabulous post from Mike Schierberl's blog on [Variables Scope Leaking](#) and I thought I would pass it on as a good read. To summarize, it is a common practice to create a component into the application scope and include an "init()" type function in it that returns an instance of itself. For example you might have an "employee" component who's "init()" function takes an employee id as an argument and returns an instance of "employee" populated with user data. That's pretty standard. If you return this new populated instance into the variables scope you would expect the variable to be discarded at the end of the request. Mike's post shows that this does not happen as expected. Because the variables returned are referenced (as apposed to "by value") they persist beyond the request termination.

As a fix you can add `structClear(variables)` to the end of your request - in the `onRequestEnd()` function for example. I can't explain it better than Mike. He includes a sample and a flash movie of how he came to his conclusions. It's very thorough.

New Information From Robi Sen

Robi Sen ran his own tests against the SUN JVM. He contests the assertion that this is a Coldfusion issue and he's focused on the JVM. His results may be found [here](http://www.therobisen.com/blog/).

(NOTE: Robi's blog has changed)