

Ask-a-muse: Proper Use of CACHEDAFTER

Posted At : March 18, 2008 5:43 PM | Posted By : Mark Kruger

Related Categories: Coldfusion & Databases

Muse Reader Asks:

I'm trying to use *cachedAfter* in a query. I have tried `cachedAfter="#dateAdd("d", 1, now())#"` but it doesn't seem to ever cache after a day has passed. What am I doing wrong? *cachedwithin* seems to work fine.

This is one of those obscure tags that gets very little use in the community. I confess to never actually having found a use for it in production. Still, it bears some looking at because it is a clever notion that might come in handy under certain circumstances. Here's a primer:

The *cachedafter* attribute sets up the query to only cache if the query event is occurring *after* the date and time specified. This means your value has to be constant enough so that the threshold is crossed at some point. For example, if the value is set to 4:30 in the afternoon today, the query will continue to run "live" until 4:30, but the first time after 4:30 the query is run it will be cached - and it will be served from the cache from then on until a new "cachedafter" value is given - or until something else clears the cache like the FIFO buffer or a restart. But in the example of the muse reader above this will never happen. The value of *cachedafter* will always be 24 hours into the future and therefore the server will never have any reason to cache it.

An Example

Here's a good example of when *cachedafter* might be effective. The "big three" stock exchanges open at 8:30 and close at 3:00 each day. Let us suppose that you are serving stock quotes from a data source using *cfquery*. If you wanted to *always serve live data* when the markets were trading you might set up some code like this:

```
<cfset hr = hour(now()) />

<cfif hr IS 7>
    <cfset application.cachetm = CreateOdbcDateTime(dateformat(now(), 'yyyy-mm-dd') & '
15:00:00') />
</cfif>
<cfquery name="getQuote" datasource="stocks" cachedafter="#application.cachetm#">
    SELECT      *
    FROM        quotes
    WHERE       symbol = '#sym#'
</cfquery>
```

This code would run "live" quotes till 3:00 and then cache the values until 7:00am the next day. At 7:00 am a new threshold is set and passed to the CFQUERY tag - at which point the server knows to *not* use the cache. At 3:00 it goes back to caching. Of course you would want to add a check for non-trading days and holidays but you get the idea. Notice that to use *cachedafter* you need some sort of manipulated value that changes periodically based on some condition. In this way, *cachedafter* is designed as a way to toggle caching on and off based on some stipulation that is met. I hope this helps. Keep those questions coming.