



NERD.VISION

NERDVISION

HELPING CARMEN DATA DEBUG FASTER



Carmen Data

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Carmen Data Ltd, located in the UK, are automotive web experts in delivering data, websites, plugins, and tools to their clients. A part of the automotive, fleet and publishing sectors, Carmen Data also supplies the industry with the most comprehensive vehicle data database using multiple technologies.

One of Carmen Data's Java applications, runs on a Tomcat server written in an Adobe scripting language called ColdFusion. It is here where the nightmare that comes with dealing with legacy code is brought about. How long ago said code was created and whether or not knowledge from within the code has left the organization can lead to difficulties. This is where NerdVision comes into play, allowing one "to find out what is happening on your production server safely." Doing so enables newer teammates to better their knowledge, staying up to date and understanding legacy code that would have otherwise contained siloed knowledge. NerdVision allows new team members to see how the code works in production and how it interacts with other applications. This in turn allows for a quicker diagnosis of issues due to rapidly reduced training time.

Before Carmen Data implemented NerdVision, their development, and debugging processes were filled with: writeDump/<cfdump> in staging and writeLog for production. In an attempt to identify the problem, developers would sift through code and commit, redeploy and refresh the web page.

The problem with doing this is that the dump itself injects CSS and JS into the page that can throw off styles and break layouts. Additionally, an abort often follows the dumps, which stops them from being hidden within the page layout. Unfortunately, this can cause false positives where a line of code is executed more than once. Not to mention the fact that when quickly trying to debug under a tight deadline, one can leave or forget such things when forming a final fix, creating codebase pollution.

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NerdVision can be used to find out what is happening on your production server.

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NERDVISION GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH WORKING FASTER



These tasks are not only slow and laborious but complex. With any application, the release process is often far from simple. It requires a complete rebuild, test, and redeploy process.

Typically mission-critical applications require minimum downtime to meet SLA's and user expectations. This is especially true if the issue cannot be recreated once an error alert gets fired, meaning only a small window for redeployment is available which can slow down the debugging process.

As a customer of ours for over six years, Carmen Data has been using our FusionReactor APM solution for their application monitoring needs.

Carmen Data was introduced to NerdVision by their CTO, Pete Williamson, who always has his finger on the latest technology's pulse. Pete and his team avoid redeploying their code and the complexities that entail by using NerdVision to unobtrusively inspect variables through full snapshots of all variable scopes or with custom log messages.



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Pete is also looking forward to taking advantage of NerdVision's capabilities now, "knowing that NerdVision is also available with Python and Node.js."

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NERDVISION WORKS WITH OTHER APM TOOLS



Pete has been working directly with the NerdVision team from the very beginning. "The NerdVision team has helped understand what the tool is capable of and rapidly improving the UI/UX during its early stages." He is also looking forward to taking advantage of NerdVision's capabilities now, "knowing that NerdVision is also available with Python and Node.js."

NerdVision compliments our partner APM solution, FusionReactor: "While FusionReactor is great for showing you what's going wrong with the server, NerdVision is great for finding out why." NerdVision can be used safely, mitigating the need for external patch works by looking directly at the app, keeping source code clean. Both forces ensure that in complex environments where access can be limited, efficiency and effectiveness are ensured.



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This is where NerdVision comes into play "to find out what is happening on your production server safely."

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Pete Williamson, CTO - Carmen Data

