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Speed up Magento : The complete guide to getting Magento 1.5 loading faster.

Magento is a terrific eCommerce package where not only has a great deal of thought gone into its conceptual design and implementation but also in its ability to support plugins, themes, downloadable, bundled or configurable products and tiered categorisation.

Of course all this complexity comes at a price, performance. For each simple operation in Magento (e.g. serving a single category or product page) there are thousands of lines of PHP code and MySQL statements executed.

This PDF will help you increase the performance of your Magento web server, primarily by either reducing the time these statements take to execute or indeed reducing the number of statements executed.

1. Prerequisites Check

This guide assumes you have the following ready prior to beginning:

- Full “root” SSH access to your web server with the ability to reboot services and the web server itself.
- A reasonable understanding of Linux, Magento, MySQL, PHP and other basic services and commands found on a production web server.
- A full backup your existing www directory and Magento MySQL database.

This guide is written for Magento optimisation under CentOS v.5.6 with PHP53u (PHP v.5.3.6) installed and Magento’s HTTP root found in /usr/share/magento. If you’re using another Linux distribution you may need to alter your commands.

2. Disable Magento Cache & Compiler

Magento’s internal cache and compiler are fantastic performance optimiser’s (as mentioned later) but they will only introduce problems whilst attempting to optimise Magento.

To disable the cache, log into the Admin Panel and go to System > Cache Management. Click “Select All” above the list of caches and change the action on the far right to Disable, then click Submit. Click “Flush Magento Cache”.

To disable the compiler (assuming it’s enabled) go to System > Tools > Compilation. If the “Compiler Status” is “Disabled” then it’s already disabled. If it’s enabled then click on “Disable” in the top right of the page.