

# ExpressionEngine Optimization

## Best Practices

## Tips and Other Stuff

aka: More Bling than Ryan Ireland's

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*On behalf of Engine Hosting and Whooze*



# I. Template And Design

Embedded Template  
Use The Disable= tag  
Consider Conditionals

# Embedded Templates

- Great for organization, not so great for server speed.
- If you aren't calling variables within the additional templates, you're just using a sub-page within a page.
- Take a look at what you're utilizing your embeds for.
- If, for example, you're using embeds to call a javascript or other standard variables it's best to use the Template => Global Variables.

# Use the *disable=* tag

- EE calls variables unless you tell it not to by using `disable=` in your `weblog:entries` parameter.
- There are six things that can be turned off:
  - *categories*
  - *category\_fields*
  - *custom\_fields*
  - *member\_data*
  - *pagination*
  - *trackbacks*
- **Example:** `disable="categories|custom_fields|member_data|pagination|trackbacks"`

# Consider Conditionals

- Simple Conditionals consist of only one “if” statement and wrap the EE tags. They are processed before the tag itself. (So if the answer is false, the tag is not processed at all)
- All other conditionals get processed after the EE variables are loaded. It makes sense that several “if:elseif” statements will cause a larger load
- Embeds are processed **after** Advanced Conditionals, so using the `{embed=""}` tag in any conditional means the condition has to be true before the tag is processed.

# II.

# Maintenance and Optimization

Unused Templates  
Optimized Tables  
Upgrade

# Removing Unused Data

- Remove any unused template groups, weblogs, category groups, etc.
- This helps organize your site and creates an environment easier for debugging
- New developers will have a more effective understanding

# Repair & Optimize Your Tables

- *Admin => SQL Manager*
- Use the "Optimize" drop down at the bottom to help MySQL "defrag" and close up unused space.
- Creates better, faster queries.

# Keep EE upgraded

- It seems obvious, but it's not.
- This includes addons that you are using.
- Have a system for upgrading clients that is effective. (versioning, etc)

# III.

## Caching and Tuning

Template Caching

Solspace Addons

MySQL Tuning



# Template Caching

- Each URI gets cached individually.
- If you type in a misc. URI, the page will also be cached. This means it's possible to create multiple cache files of a single page.
- However, this caching is the Single Caching Element recommended by EllisLab as a standard.

# Other Caching

- “If your site is hosted on an environment using NAS/SAN storage for single or load-balanced web servers” caching aside from template caching could double server load.
- -From the EE documentation

# solSPACE Addons

- Template Morsels: Cache a snippet of code after processing and that result is called in a single tag.
- Static Page Caching: When using a static page, create a cache that bypasses EE vairable calls altogether.

# MySQL Tuning

- Max Connections. At least 500.
- Query Cache. Enable.
- Table Cache. At least 120.

# High Traffic and MySQL (YourSQL?)

- Tracking updates certain tables on every page load. This can lead to a locked table. Turn off temporarily in Control Panel Tracking Preferences.
- If you're unable to access your admin area, see the EE documentation for config.php variables to use as an override.

# Resources

- <http://blog.mysqltuner.com/>
- <http://broadcast.oreilly.com/2009/10/your-cloud-needs-a-sys-admin.html>
- <http://www.solSPACE.com/downloads/PerformanceGuidelines.pdf>

# Community

- In the sense of the true community of ExpressionEngine, I'd like to see who are veterans, who are just starting and pair up to talk specific examples.
- Let's work on our trouble sites, examples, and tips from each other.
- I'm here to mime your answers.

# Thank you

- Nevin and <http://enginehosting.com> has graciously offered a discount if you email or call to let him know you'll be signing up. If you're at the EECl conference, you can get a discount by saying, "That crazy girl Leslie sent me."
- I think you have to use those exact words.

- Special Thanks to Whooze and EngineHosting.
- Find me at twitter: mrsflinger
- Or at my new job: BlueFlavor.Com

And, to Paul...for being the voice...

