Speeding up session handling

Native session handling in PHP is fine in most cases. There are at least two possible reasons why you will want to change the way sessions are handled:

* When using multiple servers, you need to have common session storage for both servers.
* Default PHP sessions use files, so the maximum performance possible is limited by disk I/O.
* Default PHP sessions are blocking concurrent session storages. In this recipe, we will see how to use efficient storage for Yii sessions.

Getting ready

Create a new yii2-app-basic application using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at <http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html>. and install the Memcache server and the memcache PHP extension.

How to do it...

We will stress-test the website using the Apache ab tool. It is distributed with Apache binaries, so if you are using Apache, you will find it inside the bin directory.

1. Run the following command replacing your website with the actual hostname you are using: ab -n 1000 -c 5 http://yii-book.app/index.php?r=site/contact

This will send 1,000 requests, five at a time, and will output stats as follows:

This is ApacheBench, Version 2.3 <$Revision: 1528965 $>

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Server Software: Server Hostname: Server Port:

**nginx**

**yii-book.app 80**

/index.php?r=site/contact 14866 bytes 5

**Document Path: Document Length: Concurrency Level: Time taken for tests Complete requests: Failed requests: Total transferred: HTML transferred: Requests per second: Time per request: Time per request: Transfer rate:**

1. seconds 1000

0

15442000 bytes 14866000 bytes 91.24 [#/sec] (mean)

54.803 [ms] (mean)

1. [ms] (mean, across all concurrent requests) 1375.84 [Kbytes/sec] received

Connection Times (ms)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | min | mean[+/-sd] | median | max |
| Connect: | 0 | 0 0.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Processing: | 18 | 55 324.9 | 29 | 4702 |
| Waiting: | 15 | 41 255.1 | 24 | 4695 |
| Total: | 18 | 55 324.9 | 29 | 4702 |