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What's the difference between browser and server sided caching?

12 Answers

Ryan Lam, I do incredibly stupid things with code
Answered 4 years ago · Author has **420** answers and **1.9M** answer views

Originally Answered: What's the difference between browser and server sided caching ?

Browser Side Caching: Your web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or whatever you use) decides to remember how a webpage looks like so it doesn't have to ask the server to send the webpage again. This saves time (and bandwidth) by eliminating almost the entire network communication. However, if the server decides to change the way the webpage looks like, you're in trouble because the browser's "memory" of how it thinks the page should look like is now out of date, and it'll give you an old version of the page instead of the new one. This is why people sometimes tell you to "clear your browser cache"-- that forces your browser to "forget" what the page looks like. This forces it to ask the server for the new, updated version of the page.

Server Side Caching: The server responsible for generating the webpage (i.e. putting the webpage together), decides to remember how the webpage looks like, so it doesn't have to generate it again. This saves time (but not bandwidth) because now the server doesn't have to go through the trouble of constructing a whole page-- it can just re-send whatever it sent last time the browser asked for it. However, if any data on the webpage needs to change, the server is forced to throw away its "memory" of what the page looks like, and it will need to generate the page again. This kind of caching is useful if the page is *really* complex and takes a lot of time to generate.

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Vladislav Zorov, programming enthusiast.
Answered 4 years ago · Author has **11.8K** answers and **30.2M** answer views

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With server-side caching, a cached result can be shared by multiple clients, but has to go over the network again (but it's still worth it if it saves an expensive database call). In client-side caching, there's no need to transfer anything over the network, but each cache is local to each client.

Most well-engineered applications will do both (so that one query serves multiple clients and each of them is serviced only once).

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Yao Li, lives in San Francisco Bay Area (2014-present)
Answered 3 years ago

Originally Answered: What's the difference between browser and server sided caching ?

Client side caches are usually used to avoid transferring the same data over the network repeatedly.

Server side caches are generally used to avoid making expensive database operations repeatedly to serve up the same content to lots of different clients.

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Dave Marksmen, Automation Engineer (QA Analyst ii)
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Which is better, Brave or FireFox, and why?

As a developer and a heavy mobile user I have to admit that BRAVE is the winner in the mobile world over Firefox. But ONLY when it comes to the everyday user, here are the things Brave got better.

1. Brave wins by huge margin on performance nearly twice the speed of latest ffox quantum with ghostry (ghostry is a tracker blocker I installed to keep a fair comparison since brave blocks trackers out of the box)

2. Brave wins by UX! because it stole the swipe title to switch tabs, easy one tap close all tabs, a reachable bottom bar navigation, and a friendly settings allowing you to hide what you do not use

3. Brave wins by Out of the box functionality! It is download and use, comparing to the complex Firefox setup of signing in, getting your syncs, configuring your information sharing, telemetry, and installing ublock and ghostry. It's just a criminal hassle and knowledge that a teenager (the prime user of smartphone) does not want to deal with.

4. Android compatability! Believe it or not Firefox cannot work with password AutoFill, or complex sharing in the Android ecosystem as Brave does thanks to its running based on the same engine as Chrome.

Here is where Firefox Wins

1. Data Sync! Your login sessions, tabs, and even passwords securely (better than Chrome or any Chrome based browser)

2. Privacy and Security! Even with Braves tracker blocking if you are a serious user you can access developer configurations on Firefox and tweek everything from ports, networking stats, preloading, rendering, caching, and more, you can even install Greasemonkey and overlay programming on top of websites with user scripts, nearly all desktop add ons are possible on FF mobile, which is unique to FF this makes it primarily a developers browser. User agent tweaking, cookie editing, and even hacking if you got the skill for it.

3. Open Source: Firefox is easily available to modify and fork even the latest FF build where Brave is an as-is product. But suffice to say it is a better user browser.

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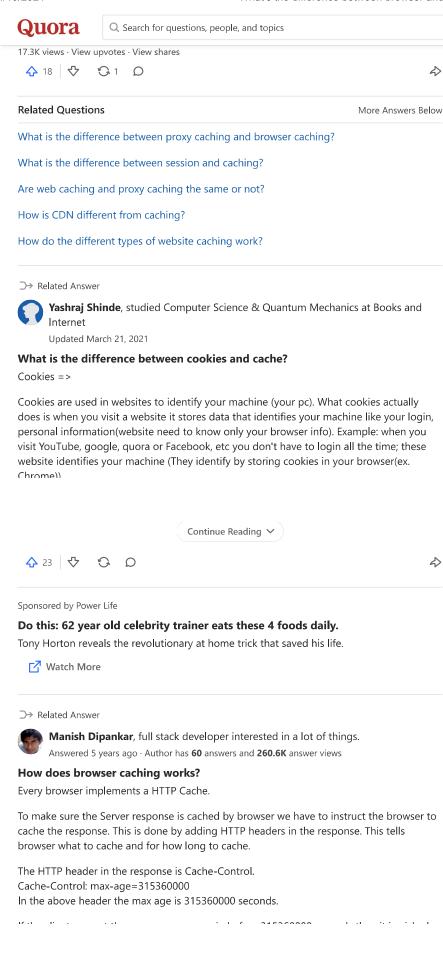
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Yashraj Shinde, studied Computer Science & Quantum Mechanics at Books and
Internet
Updated March 21, 2021

What is the difference between cookies and cache?

Cookies =>

Cookies are used in websites to identify your machine (your pc). What cookies actually
does is when you visit a website it stores data that identifies your machine like your login,
personal information(website need to know only your browser info). Example: when you
visit YouTube, google, quora or Facebook, etc you don't have to login all the time; these
website identifies your machine (They identify by storing cookies in your browser(ex.
Chrome))

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Manish Dipankar, full stack developer interested in a lot of things.
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How does browser caching works?

Every browser implements a HTTP Cache.

To make sure the Server response is cached by browser we have to instruct the browser to
cache the response. This is done by adding HTTP headers in the response. This tells
browser what to cache and for how long to cache.

The HTTP header in the response is Cache-Control.
Cache-Control: max-age=315360000
In the above header the max age is 315360000 seconds.

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Brian Jackson, Co-founder at forgemedia, WordPress veteran
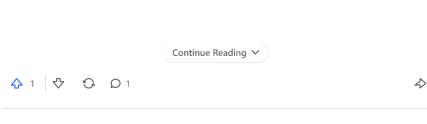Updated 4 years ago · Author has **186** answers and **295.6K** answer views

What does leverage browser caching mean?

The leverage browser caching warning in PageSpeed Insights means you need to add **cache-control headers** to those resources so that they cache properly.

For example in Apache you can add this to your .htaccess file.

```
1  <filesMatch ".(ico|pdf|flv|jpg|jpeg|png|gif|js|css|swf)$"> Header
   set Cache-Control "max-age=84600, public" </filesMatch>
```

In Nginx you can add this to your Nginx config.

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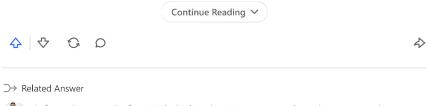
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Allen Smiths, Web Developer at Web Development Companies
Answered 2 years ago · Author has **116** answers and **1.3M** answer views

What is the difference between cache and caches in browsers?

Using a cache on a website and web browser helps to improve performance such as load time, and assists in creating a better user experience.

Yet, with all benefits of using a cache, there's a small downside which can create issues for users.

These issues can be found in both the browser cache and the server cache, so it's necessary to be aware of how they work, especially if your business regularly releases time-sensitive information.
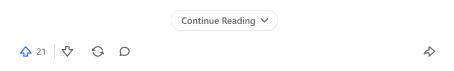
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Soham Soumya Sarkar, Technical Project Manager at Akamai (most prominent CDN player of the industry)
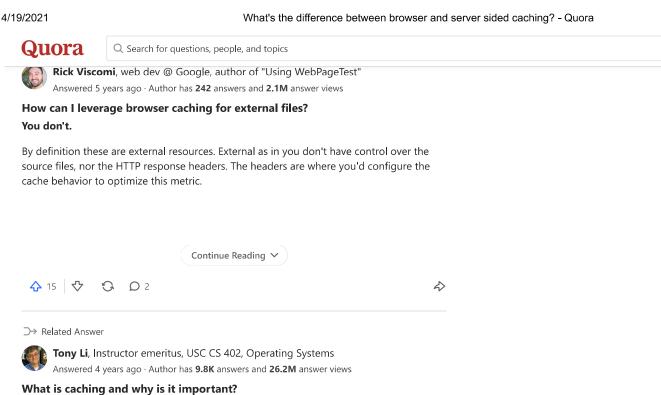Answered 4 years ago · Author has **99** answers and **421.9K** answer views

How is CDN different from caching?

Caching is the mechanism of storing static content (after the first request for the resource is served to the end user) in a location for serving future requests for the same resource. It is an in-built HTTP feature.
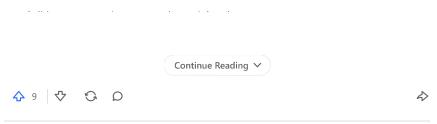
The question now is if HTTP by default can cache, why do we need CDN ? Please find

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Rick Viscomi, web dev @ Google, author of "Using WebPageTest"
Answered 5 years ago · Author has **242** answers and **2.1M** answer views

How can I leverage browser caching for external files?
You don't.

By definition these are external resources. External as in you don't have control over the source files, nor the HTTP response headers. The headers are where you'd configure the cache behavior to optimize this metric.

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Tony Li, Instructor emeritus, USC CS 402, Operating Systems
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What is caching and why is it important?
To understand caching, you have to undestand the concept of Hierarchical Storage. We have discovered many useful storage technologies. However, there is always a tradeoff between access speed, capacity, and cost. For this reason, we build systems that select multiple points along the efficient frontier simultaneously:

- High speed registers constructed from flip flops, directly in the ALU.

- Static RAM very near the CPU.

- Larger blocks of RAM a bit farther from the CPU.

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