Research of Drupal Optimization

To make the AT website run at full speed, I looked into some options to make the site run more efficiently. A tool called YSlow is a very useful addon for firefox that allows you to test the speed of a site more precisely, giving scores and a letter grade for each test made. I did some analysis with the site using this addon.

For the test purpose I choose two pages the service catalog and the mission and vision page. I chose service catalog because of its debut in the near future, new products should be something that draws the attention of the user. If the catalog was slow, it wouldn’t make a good case for practical use. I chose the missions and vision page for its many visual requests such as images and javascript plugins such as facebook, twitter, linked-in, and addthis. I am not sure much can be done with the javascript except possibly putting them into the same javascript file if they aren’t already. That will be explored today.

YSlow utility scores

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Before Internal Drupal Bandwidth Optimization | After Internal Drupal Bandwidth Optimization |
| Service Catalog | 71-73 (C) | 81-84 (B) |
| Mission & Vision | 66 (D) | 72 (C) |

Tests that negatively impacted total score (Assume if one score listed both sites scored the same, the better grade [Highest being A] was given to the service catalog if not otherwise mentioned):

YSlow Tests Scores and Impacts

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Test | Notes/Impact |
| D-F | on Make fewer HTTP requests | SC had better score |
| F | Use a Content Delivery Network (CDN) | Both Sites |
| F | Add Expires headers | Both Sites |
| C-D | Compress components with gzip | M/V had better score |
| C-F | Put JavaScript at bottom | SC had better score |
| F | Reduce DNS lookups | Applies to M/V only |
| F | Configure entity tags | Both Sites |
| F | Use Cookie Free Domain | Applies to M/V only |

Focusing on some improvements I looked at the possibility of moving JavaScript at the bottom of the page, and minimizing HTTP requests. Solutions for improving web site performance are documented here <http://developer.yahoo.com/performance/rules.html#dns_lookups> .