TECHNICAL PRESENTATION MEETUP REVIEW

Title: Exploring Load Testing with Gatling

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Introduction:
Suppose that 100,000 users happen to access www.deanza.edu website at the same time. How do we ensure that the site does not break in such a scenario? It is practically infeasible to arrange for 100,000 people for the sake of testing this scenario. This is where **load testing** comes into play. Load testing is all about testing the performance of an application when large numbers of users start using/accessing it.

Summary of Presentation:
In this meet up presentation, a load-testing framework called **Gatling** is introduced. It is an open-source (cost free) framework based out of *Scala*, *Akka* and *Netty*. *Scala* is a programming langauge, *Akka* is a toolkit and *Netty* is client-server framework. The key elements of **Gatling** such as HTTP recorder, API based test development and *Scala* framework are introduced. The basic concepts of virtual users, methods of executing basic actions (clicks, assertions and checks) are presented and the simulation of huge number of virtual users is explained adequately. Examples of HTML reports from the **Gatling** tool are also depicted. The ability of **Gatling** for scalability, configuring loads, defining load testing targets and plugins available for monitoring the load testing process are highlighted. Graphs are shown to depict the monitoring process.

Comments / Opinions of Presentation:
Though the speakers pointed out that **Gatling** framework can be used for JDBC & JMS based load testing, they did not show how this can be done with specific case studies. The presentation also talked about error handling but did not explain it with specific scenarios. However, Feeders, which are APIs that can inject data from an external source into virtual user's session, were explained adequately. Another presentation at an advanced level discussing in detail the load testing of 2 specific applications will be beneficial.

Conclusion:
Gatling framework can be used for performance/load testing of web applications. It is easy to learn, develop and has inbuilt reporting and monitoring features. As the tool is open-source, support may be limited. A detailed comparison of **Gatling** framework against other load testing tools **Apache JMeter** and **HP Load Runner** will help the testers to appreciate their merits/demerits to select a suitable tool based on their needs.