The future ain't what it used to be



Poul-Henning Kamp
phk@FreeBSD.org
phk@Varnish.org
@bsdphk

Contents

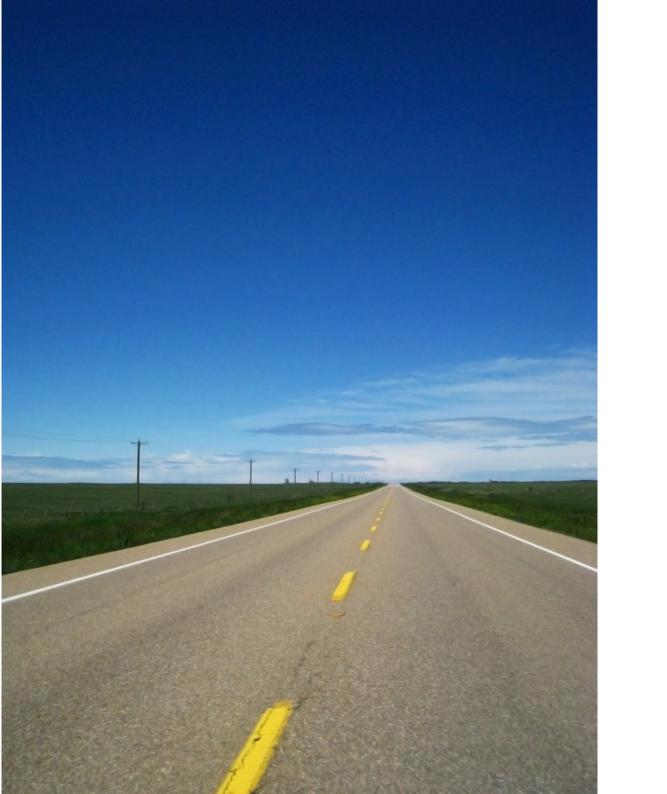
Why didn't we get hooverboards?

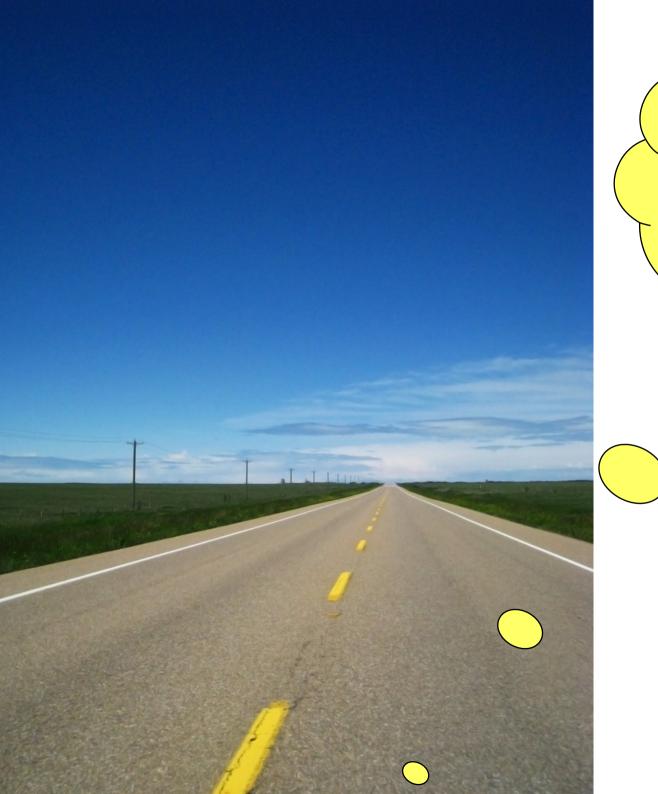
Who knows what's happening to HTTP

What's happening to Varnish

What's happening in the Varnish Project

Q&A — (if I speak fast enough)





Boooooring...

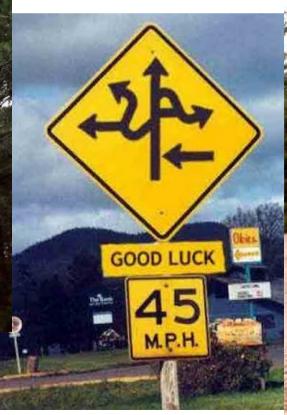
computer even
do this could















THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT

Ring road Cirencester A 4289



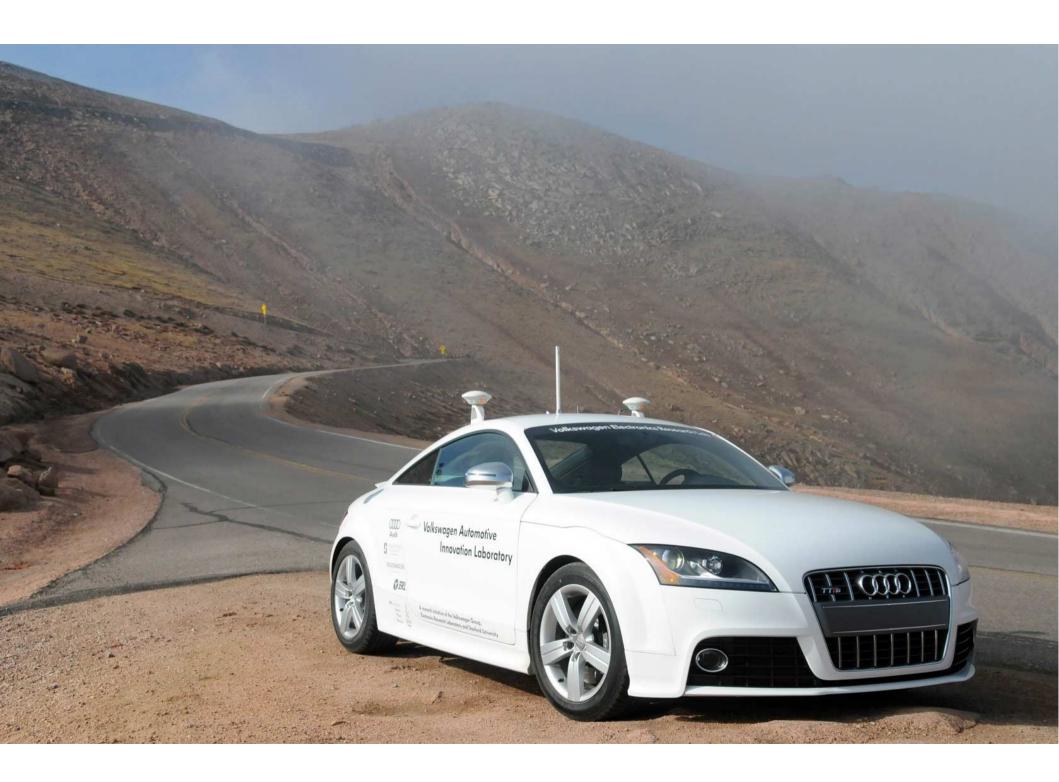
(M4)

Marlborough Burford Oxford



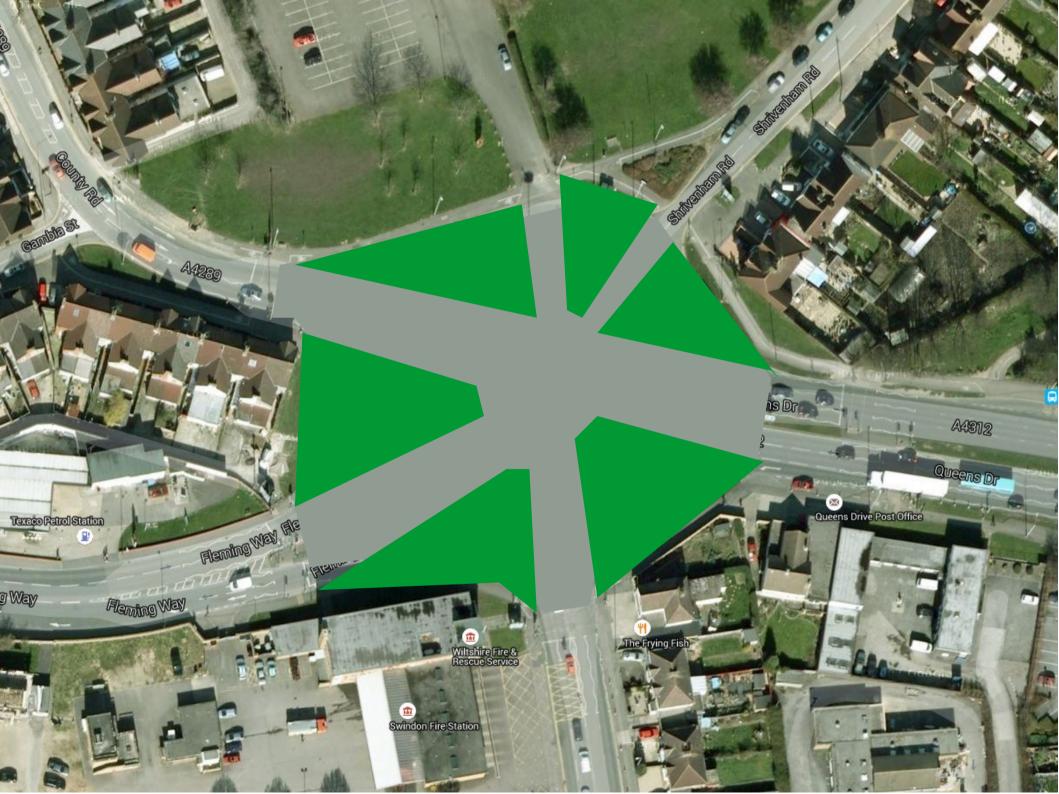
A4312











HTTP — Back to the future...

Fundamentally a RPC request:

```
client → server "Please ?"
server → client "My pleasure!"
```

Used to be:

Dumb client & Smart server

Now:

Smart client & ____ server ?

The protocol moves

HTTP used to transfer:

Images, HTML, CSS, JS

- predigested/completed data
- JS+CSS improved presentation

Now:

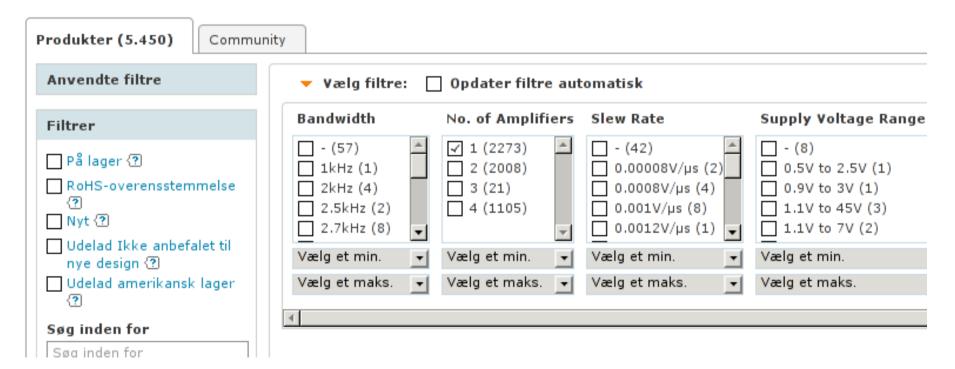
Images, JS, Data, HTML, CSS

- raw data
- JS processes data on client
- HTML+CSS is left as scaffolding

Consequences

Narrow view: Better UX

Op Amps: 5.450 Produkter Blev Fundet



Consequences

Narrow view: Better UX

Big view:

Reduces total CPU load Reduces network traffic Shifts CPU load to device Shifts electricity bill to user

→ Moves cost of computing to decision maker

Pub-Quiz:

Bigger CO2-footprint?

1: Air traffic

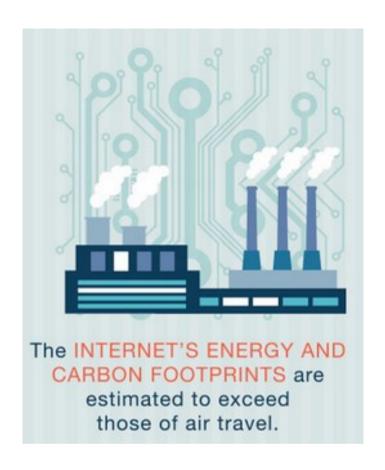
2: Telecommunication

Pub-Quiz:

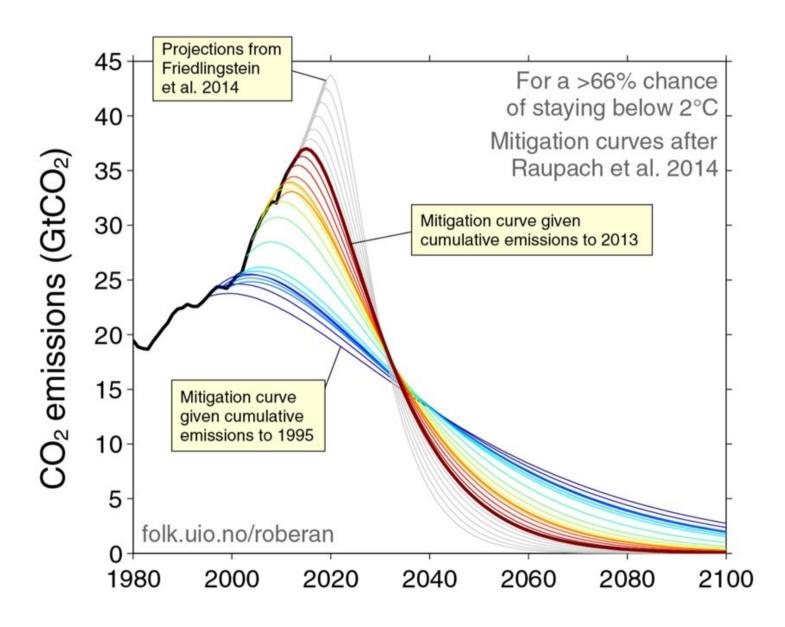
Bigger CO2-footprint?

1: Air traffic

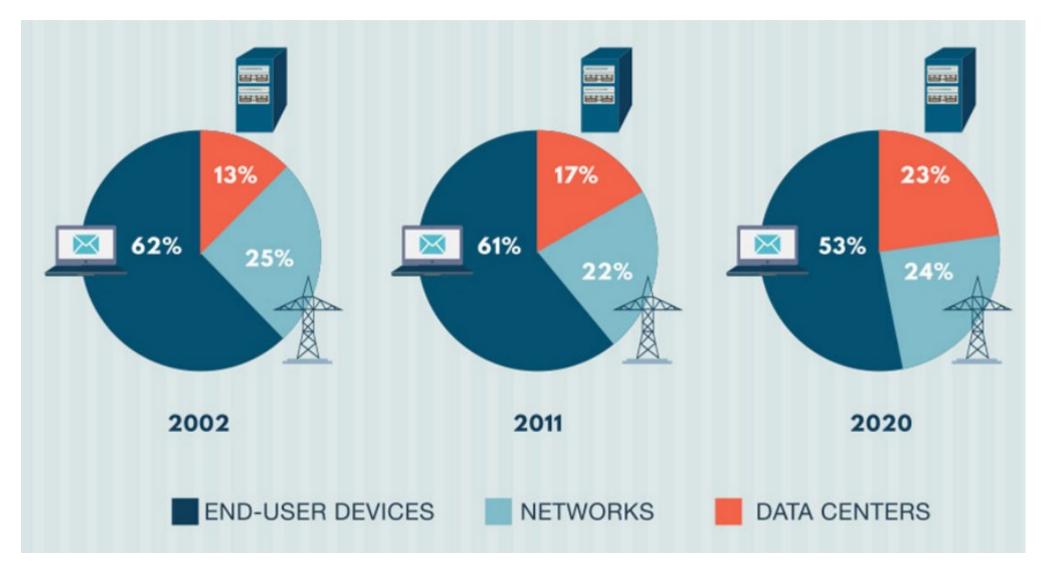
2: Telecommunication



PS: We only have 10 years...



Follow the electricity bill...



Source: http://climatecare.org/infographic-the-carbon-footprint-of-the-internet/

More consequences

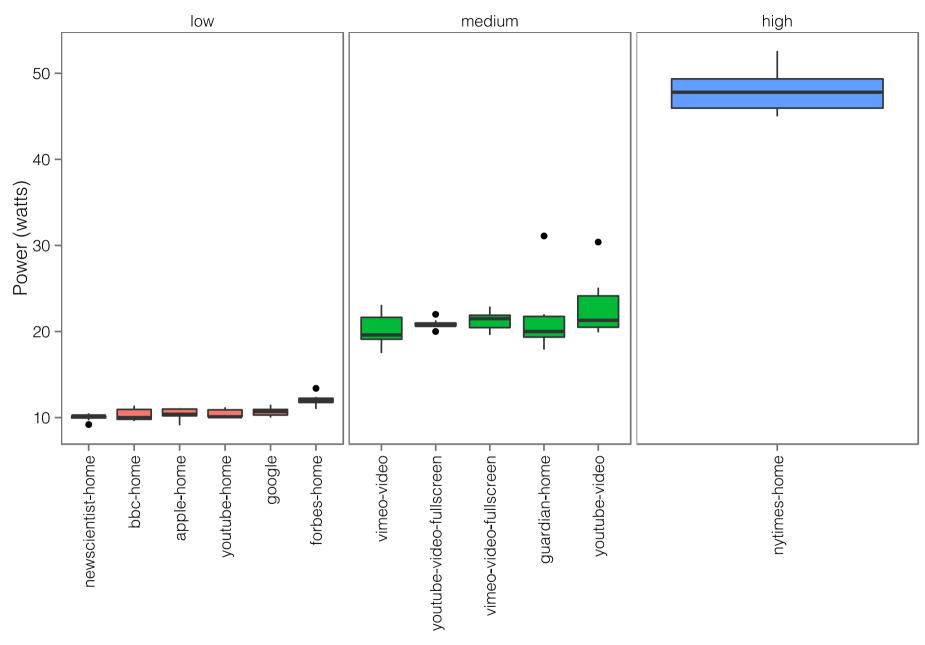
End-user device runs on battery

Shitty computing will:

Run battery down

Make users unhappy

Be complained about on social media



http://santtu.iki.fi/2015/06/18/browser-power-consumption/

Back of the envelope sanity-check

7:33 min avg time on site [alexa]

 $7.5 \text{ min} * 40W = 5 \text{ Wh} = 5g \text{ CO}_{2}$

30 M unique desktop/month

Guess: 10 visits per month avg.

30 M * 10 * 5g * 12 = 18,000 ton/year

~= 1 avg US person

~= 180 avg Malawi persons

HTTP, HTTP, Eggs and HTTP

More mobile devices

More shitty connectivity

Efficient transmission

CDN's and edge-caching

→ A cache on each mobile tower

Integrity, authenticity

→ Cacheable encrypted content

HTTP, HTTP, Eggs and HTTP Internet of Crap:

Natural Gas-Meters run off batteries

- 1. DO NOT EXPLODE!
- 2. Do not require software updates
- 3. Do not waste battery power
- 4. Whatever

HTTP, HTTP, Eggs and HTTP

API:

Move data between programs

- A) Real-time
- B) Bulk
 - → Authentication, Integrity, Secrecy
 - → Performance (RTT <u>and</u> BW)

HTTP, HTTP, Eggs and HTTP Browser:

Render complex view as fast as possible

- → Fetch many resources in parallel
 - → Multiplexing, priority, flow-control

Driving SPDY, HTTP/2, QUIC development

Doesn't give a shit about non-browser HTTP

So what exactly is HTTP anyway ?

Sort of a mess... (But you knew that)

HTTP was a semantic protocol

Became a transport protocol with semantics

Became **THE** transport protocol (WebSocket etc: "Nevermind the semantics")

And then it became two transport protocols

... with almost identical semantics

Now also a different transport under the sematics

TCP is just wrong for browsers

TCP was for bulk transfer of huge objects FTP, email, usenet, HTTP/0

Added workarounds for interactive traffic: TELNET, X11

Very slow development cycle

Break TCP and **nothing** works...

What browsers want

Today browsers need many objects

→ Multiplexing

Per stream prioritization & flow-control

HTTP/1 hack: One TCP per stream

HTTP/2 mistake: All streams into one TCP

The QUIC fix: Drop TCP entirely

The revenge of WAP

In the future we will have "kinds of HTTP"

HTTP/1.1

Because there is so much crap out there already

Browser

Because TCP really isn't what a browser needs

HTTP/3 ?

Structure non-text headers ? Rigidly defined semantics

Removing old cruft

Add "session" concept

Remove security mistakes (aka: Cookies)

Divorcing Semantics and Transport

Transport:

Move {Envelope (=top_line), Headers, Object}

Semantics:

What does Envelope and Headers mean and what do they say about Object

Should have been done before HTTP/2

but HTTPbis/RFC723x messed that up

The HTTP Political CABAL

Significant perverse incentives

Browsers have defacto veto power

Browsers funded by privacy invasion

Google can do whatever they want

They have their own browser

Impossible to prove NSA-noninvolvement

SSL/TLS

Still the wrong solution

But the solution we have right now

Best solution: draft-thomson-http-encryption

Encrypt inside the envelope

No 3-way handshake needed

Lawful traffic logging possible

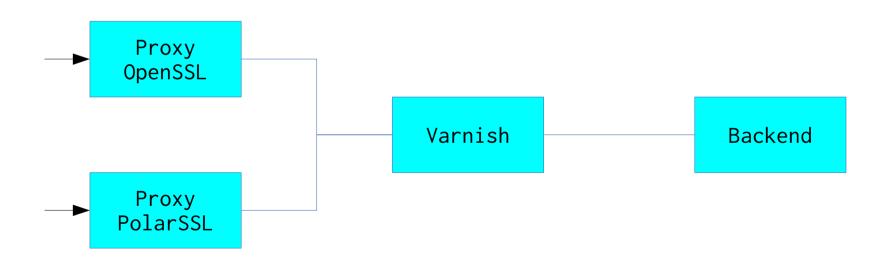
Lawful filtering possible (based on envelope)

Caching possible

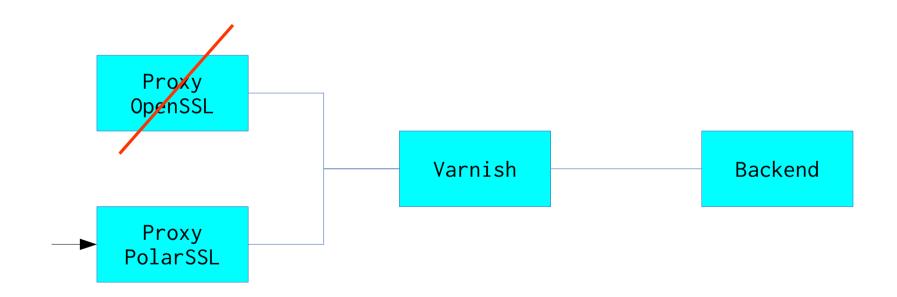
SSL/TLS in Varnish

Still a bad idea IMO

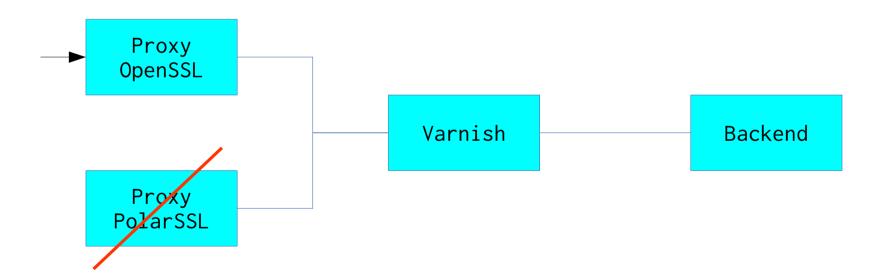
Do it this way:



Even weeks: OpenSSL broken



Odd weeks: PolarSSL broken



Varnish 4.1

Improved jailing of worker process
"varnish" and "vcache" uids

Better workspace overflow 500 rather than panic

PROXY protocol support

Varm/Cold VCL states

VMOD defined backends

Tons of minor stuff & bug-fixes

Varnish: Quality, Speed, On Time Quality:

9¾ Years with no major security panics Speed:

You know that

On Time:

We have <u>never</u> released on the planned date

Varnish 4.1

Why did it take so long ?

DevOps promoted to Developers

Getting live tests became MUCH harder

Release waited 4-6 months for live tests

Not happening again...

Future "Head" Varnish releases (a.b.0)

We will do two releases per year

Spring & Autumn, (dates TBD)

Whatever is ready is in the release

Whatever is broken is in the release

"Real-life-test" now devops/users responsibility

The developers have nowhere to do that

Future maintenance releases (a.b.X)

Not all "head" releases will be "blessed" Case by case decision

Blessed releases will have follow up releases
As warranted and as time permits

Varnish project leaves home

Varnish Software has hosted project until now
 (Cue: Spontaneous applause)

They're growing and we're cramping their style Almost only server left on premise

Also some commercial leakage → project homepage

Varnish project moves

Trac → GITHUB

In progress

New project homepage

Owned by devs & community

New project server

In progress

Resources -

Home > Trends > Web Servers > Varnish Usage Statistics

Varnish Usage Statistics

◆ Download Lead List

Websites using Varnish

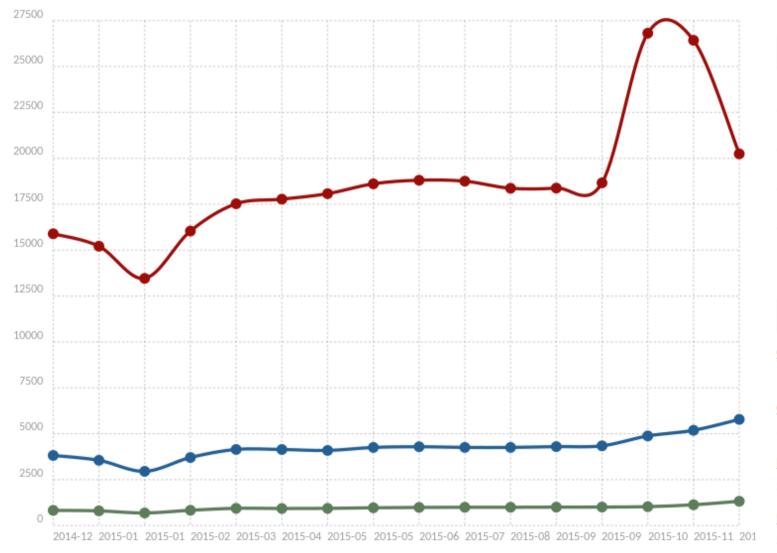


Chart Data		
Source	Legend	Chart
Top 10k		\checkmark
Top 100k	•••	\checkmark
Top 1m	•••	\checkmark
Internet		

Coverage Totals	
Quantcast Top 10k 1,322 of 10,000	13.2%
Quantcast Top 100k 5,781 of 100,000	5.8%
BuiltWith Top Million 20,243 of 950,848	2.1%
Entire Internet 2,233,919 of 348,410,573	0.6%

Varnish Moral License

Varnish cache development brought to you by:

Fastly

Varnish-Software

UPLEX

"ADJS"

Much appreciated!