**NGINX vs APACHE**

[**NGINX**](https://www.nginx.com/resources/glossary/nginx/), pronounced as “engine-ex,” is a famous open source web server software. In its initial release, it functioned for HTTP web serving. Today, however, it also serves as a reverse proxy, HTTP load balancer, and email proxy for IMAP, POP3, and SMTP.

NGINX got its official release on October 2004. The creator of the software, Igor Sysoev, started his project in 2002 as an attempt to answer the [**C10k problem**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C10k_problem). C10k is the challenge of managing ten thousand connections at the same time. Today, there are even more connections that web servers have to handle. For that reason, NGINX offers an event-driven and asynchronous architecture. This feature makes NGINX one of the most reliable servers for speed and scalability.

Due to its superb ability to handle a lot of connections and speed, many high traffic websites have been using NGINX’s service. Some of these online giants are Google, Netflix, Adobe, Cloudflare, WordPress.com, and many more.

**How does NGINX work?**

When someone makes a request to open a webpage, the browser contacts the server of that website. Then, the server looks for the requested files for the page and sends it to the browser. This is only the simplest kind of request.

The example above is also considered as a single thread. Traditional web servers create a single thread for every request, but NGINX does not work that way. As stated before, NGINX performs with an asynchronous, event-driven architecture. It means that similar threads are managed under one worker process, and each worker process contains smaller units called worker connections. This whole unit is then responsible for handling request threads. Worker connections deliver the requests to a worker process, which will also send it to the master process. Finally, the master process provides the result of those requests.

That may sound simple, but one worker connection can take care of up to 1024 similar requests. Because of that, NGINX can process thousands of requests without any difficulties. It is also the reason why NGINX became excellent for busy websites like e-commerce, search engines, and cloud storage.

**NGINX vs Apache**

Among popular web servers, [**Apache**](https://www.hostinger.com/tutorials/what-is-apache) is one of the main rivals for NGINX. It has been around since the 90s and has a large user community as well. If you are curious about which web server is best for your needs, take a look at this brief and informative comparison between NGINX and Apache.

* **OS support**  
  Compatibility is one of the little details you should consider when choosing software. Both NGINX and Apache can run on many operating systems that support the Unix system. Unfortunately, NGINX’s performance on Windows is not as great as on other platforms.
* **User support**  
  Users, from first-timers to professionals, always need a good community that can help when they face problems. While both NGINX and Apache have mailing support and a Stack Overflow forum, Apache lacks support from its company, the Apache Foundation.
* **Performance**  
  Static Content: NGINX can simultaneously run 1000 connections of static content two times faster than Apache and uses a little less memory.

Dynamic content, both have the same speed.

CONCLUSION: NGINX is a better choice for those who have a more static website.

**Conclusion**

NGINX is a web server that also acts as an email proxy, reverse proxy, and load balancer. The software’s structure is asynchronous and event-driven; which enables the processing of many requests at the same time. NGINX is highly scalable as well, meaning that its service grows along with its clients’ traffic. NGINX and Apache are indeed two of the best web servers in the market