

ACME Intranet Performance Testing

Purpose of this document

Prior to the official launch of the ACME Intranet, a set of performance tests were carried out to ensure that the platform could cope with estimated demand. This document presents the findings of the Performance tests and ends with a set of conclusions and recommendations.

Test Environment

Design of the Intranet

The Intranet has been implemented on top of SharePoint 2010 with minimal customisations. The Intranet is a publishing site utilising the Page Output cache where appropriate. Controls or Web Parts that need to present personalised content to the user, have been amended to use post-cache substitution.

In addition to the publishing site “My Sites” have been implemented allowing users to manage their profile and utilise many of the social improvements built into SharePoint 2010 such as Activity Feeds, blogging, tagging and User Notes. There are approximately 11,000 User Profiles with about 3,000 users maintaining a content site within their My Site.

Another major area of functionality is around Search to locate documents, content or users. SharePoint search has been implemented for this purpose.

There is also some use of Managed Metadata service to tag document content and also to store a User’s Location in their profile. However, overall adoption of this area is minimal and shouldn’t greatly affect test results.

Search, My Sites and publishing pages use a custom-built Master Page which allows custom navigation, Header and Footer to be used. Back-end administration pages still use the out of the box Master Page.

At the time of testing the Object Cache and Blob Cache are configured to be used, but the Page Output cache is not. (However a couple of tests attempt to gauge the result of turning on the Page Output Cache).

Expected Usage

The portal is expected to meet the following requirements for peak usage. The purpose of this report is detail whether these figures can be obtained using the current production environment.

- 200 concurrent user sessions
- 1500 document searches per hour
- 1500 people searches per hour
- 5 seconds Average Page Response time
- 25 Page Request per second.

In addition to this, under near-disaster circumstances the platform is expected to be fully operational with 1 Application Server and 2 web front ends. However, some performance degradation is expected during this time.

The testing carried out was all run across production kit over a weekend period, when the portal was not in use.

Servers in the Production Environment

ACMESPW001	Web Front End (4 vCPUs)
ACMESPW002	Web Front End
ACMESPW003	Web Front End
ACMESPW004	Web Front End
ACMESPA001	Web Front End
ACMESPA002	Application Server
ACMESPW001	Application Server
ACMESPW001	SQL Cluster

Test Strategy

Recording of test results

Performance data was extracted from all the servers involved in the performance test including the agent machines emulating the user load. The full detail of the test is stored with the Test Database on ACMESPD003, but is also summarised at a high-level within this report.

Users

As part of the general testing strategy 150 test users were created with differing permissions and Audiences to ensure that the performance data applies to not only page content, but, also to User Rights and personalisation requirements. These test users are applied during the various testing phases.

Search testing

It is envisaged that about 40% of activity on the Intranet will be accredited to searching for people and document content. Hence, to emulate predicted load a set of pre-defined search terms have been configured to ensure accurate results.

Test Scenarios Cases

The following test cases were used to make up the full test scenario. The % mixture of results can also be seen, which indicates the weighting given to each type of test.

Scenario	Description	% Mix of overall run
Homepage	Hits the homepage and News Hub	12%
A – Z	Navigates A-Z menu	2%
ACME News	Navigates Several News Pages	10%
FAQ	Navigates the FAQ section	7%
Featured News	Selects Feature News Pages	7%
My Links	Views the My Links	1%
My News	Access “My News” and hits several articles	2%
My Site Blogs	Navigates CEO’s blog	7%
My Site Colleagues	Access My Site Colleagues section	1%
My Site Profile	Navigates the Users Profile	3%
My Site Organisation	View My Site organisation	3%
Quick Links	Manage Quick links	5%
Search	Search for content in the portal	20%
Search People	Search for people in the portal	22%

Scenarios excluded from testing

User activity relating to adding or amending documents, posting of comments, or tagging of pages was all excluded from the test scenarios. This is mainly because the tests were run on a production environment and there is little time to remove test data. However, a certain level of confidence can be applied to the results for 2 reasons:

1. Collaboration will be extremely low until phase 2 of the ACME Intranet.
2. Most of the Collaboration carried out is un-customised and uses Standard SharePoint functionality.

Test Runs

The performance tests carried out covered 4 scenarios to try to understand exactly how the performance of the site will be affected over time.

Goal based Test

The intention of the Goal-based test is to identify the number of page / requests that can be served while the WFE's are running at around 70% utilisation. The test runs for 10 minutes and readjusts load based on CPU utilisation.

Soak Test

The intention of this test is to hit the production farm at about 50 – 75% of expected peak Usage over long periods of time. This will hopefully identify specific problems that are time related, such as memory leaks, or scheduled tasks that disrupt service.

Stepped Tests

The purpose of this test is to gradually ramp up the User load to find the point at which response rates start to fall away.

Constant Load Tests

This type of testing hits the servers with a constant load that is expected at peak performance.

Test Goal-1 (No Page output cache)

Summary data

Start Time	17/04/2011 13:02:58
Test Duration	10 Minutes
WFE's in Load	ACMESPW001, ACMESPW002 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
Avg. User Load	105
Pages / Sec	33
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	1.59
Requests / Sec	588
Requests Cached %	16.2
Avg. Response Time	0.25

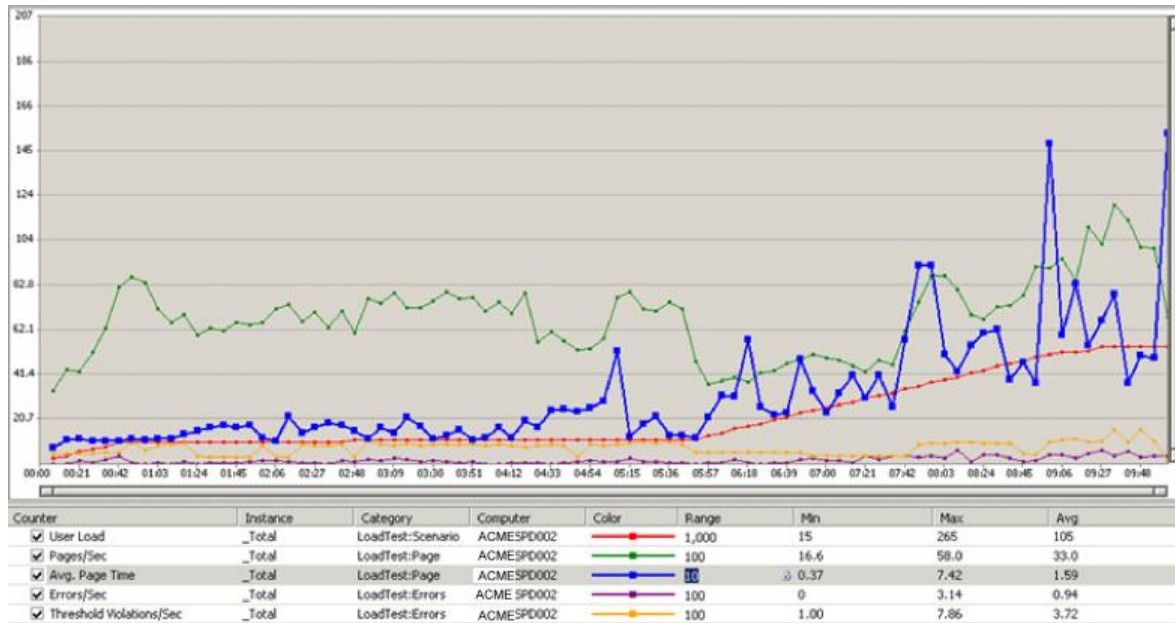
Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	8.23%	14,509
ACMESPW001	63.0%	11,600
ACMESPW002	61.9%	12,463
ACMESPW003	5.37% (No Load)	11,634
ACMESPW004	0.61% (No Load)	11,898
ACMESPA001	40.0%	2,368
ACMESPA002	24.4%	10,830

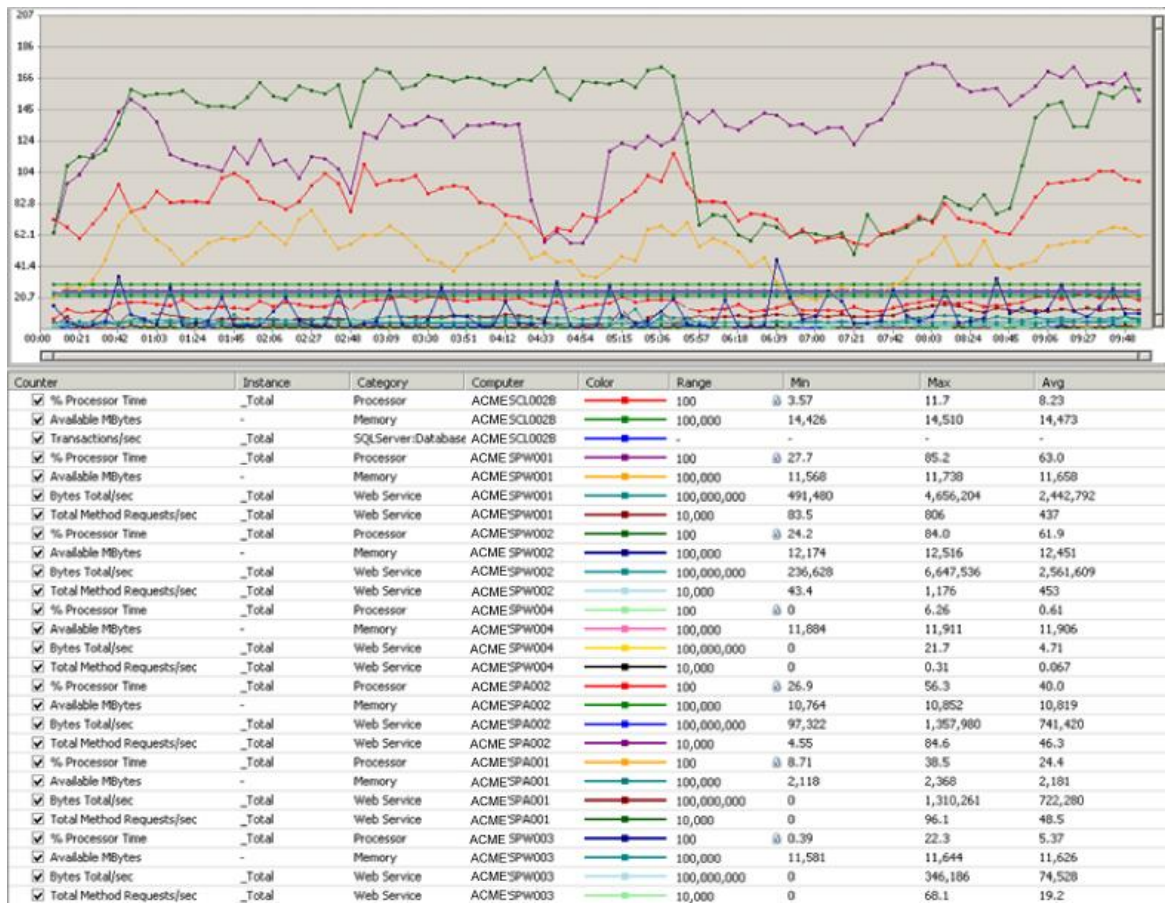
Analysis

- The page response time started to fall away with over 50 – 60 concurrent users. However, the CPU on the WFE's was still in acceptable ranges.
- Further analysis of individual results indicates that it's **custom SharePoint pages** that are performing badly.

Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Test Goal-2 (No Page output cache)

This test is a repeat of the previous test but uses ACMESPD003 instead of ACMESPD001. This is to ensure that there is no issue with the front end test server.

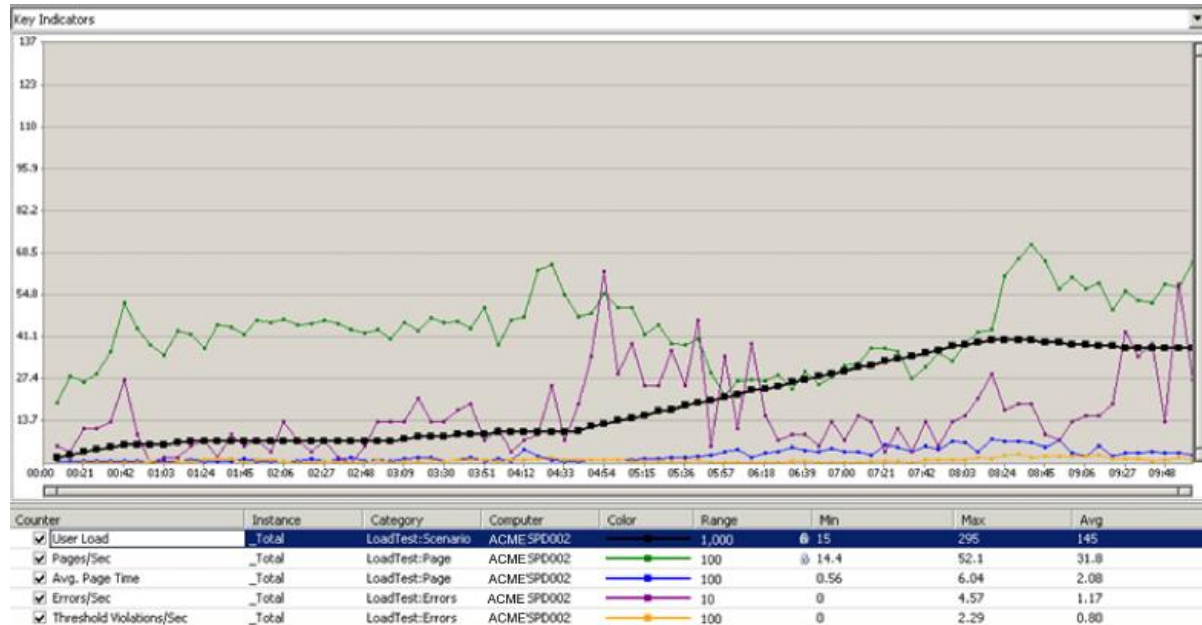
Summary data

Start Time	17/04/2011 15:36
Test Duration	10 Minutes
WFE's in Load	ACMESPW002, ACMESPW003 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
Avg. User Load	145
Pages / Sec	31.8
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	2.08
Requests / Sec	542
Requests Cached %	17.2
Avg. Response Time	0.36

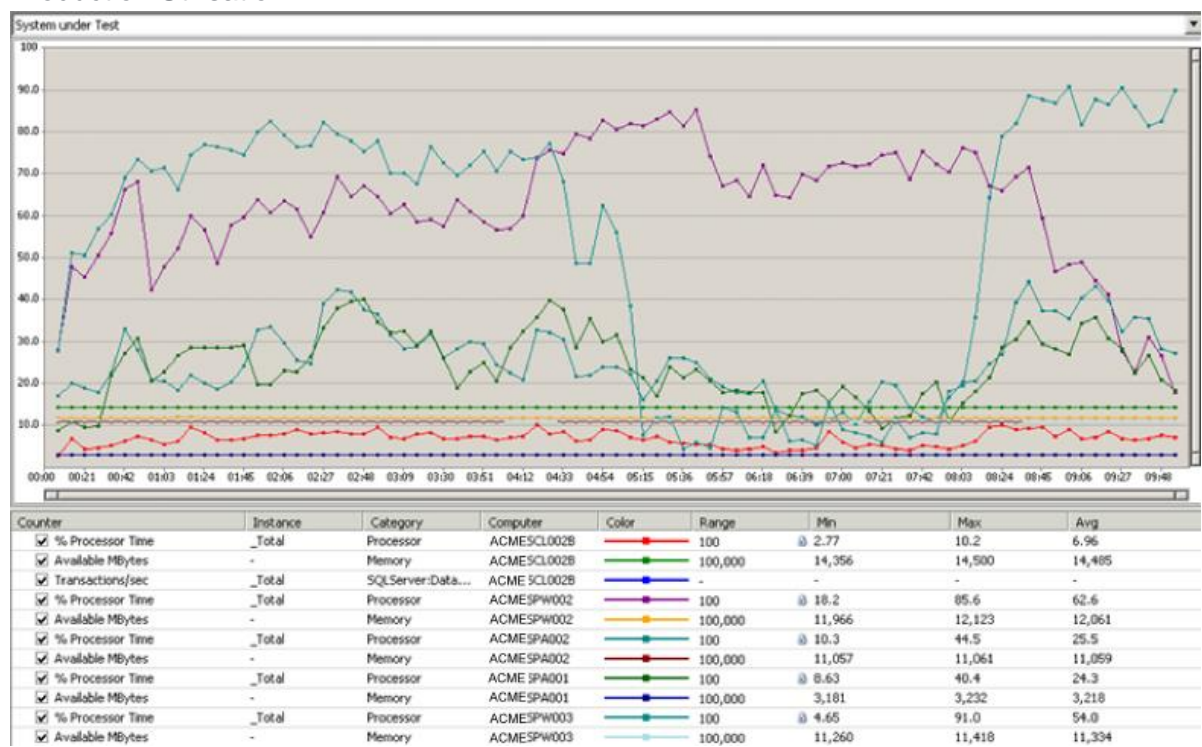
Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	6.96%	14,478
ACMESPW002	62.5%	12,028
ACMESPW003	54.0%	11,278
ACMESPA001	24.3%	3,230
ACMESPA002	25.5%	11,059

Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Analysis

- Utilising a different front end, demonstrated that performance is similar to the previous test.

Test Goal-3 (output cache ON)

This test is a repeat of the previous test with the output cache turned on.

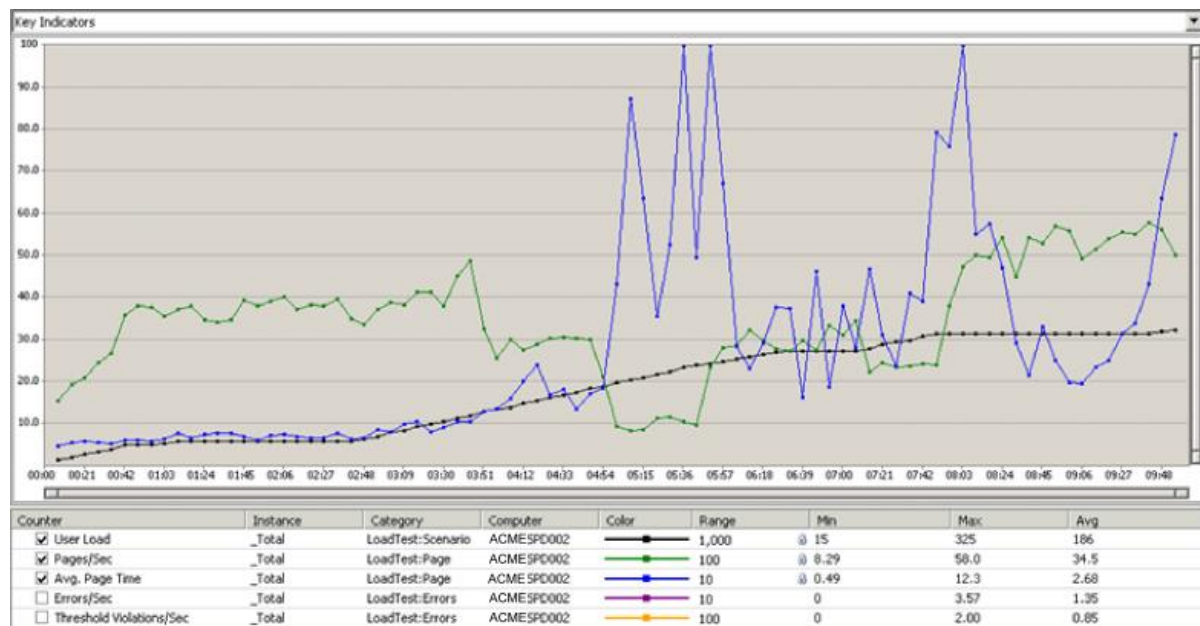
Summary data

Start Time	16/04/2011 16:30
Test Duration	10 Minutes
WFE's in Load	ACMESPW002, ACMESPW003 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
Avg. User Load	186
Pages / Sec	34.5
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	2.68
Requests / Sec	588
Requests Cached %	19.5
Avg. Response Time	0.47

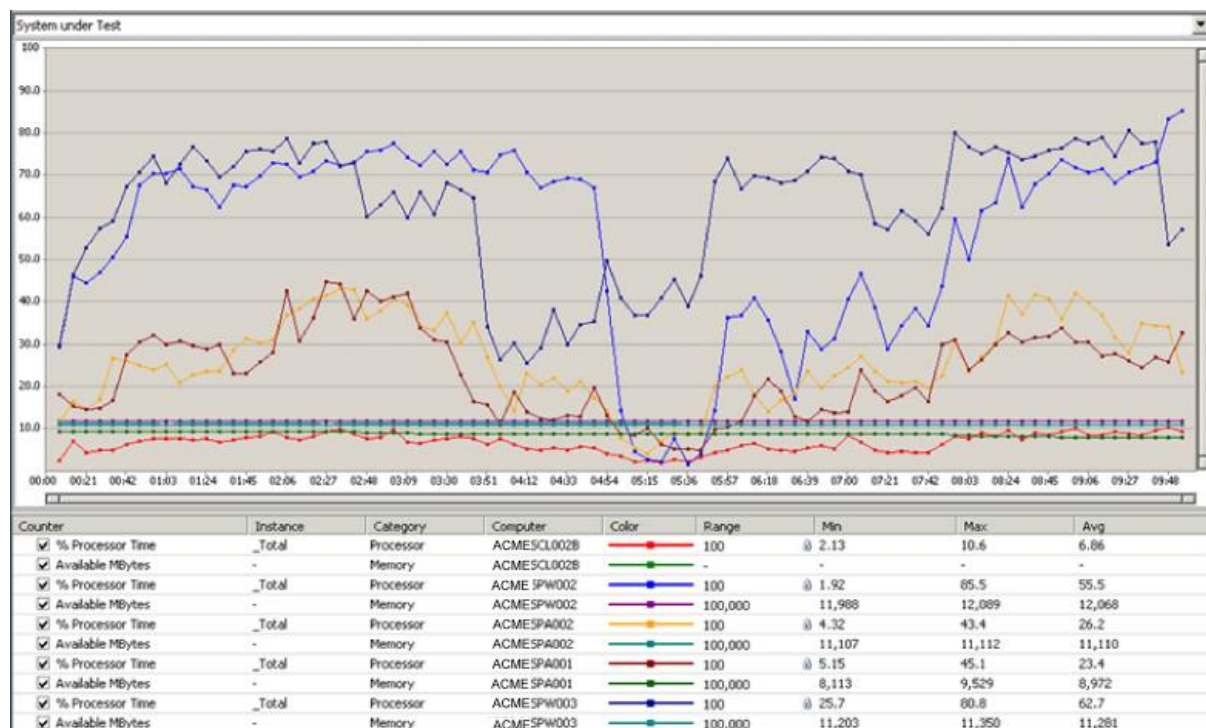
Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	6.86	Not Recorded
ACMESPW002	55.5%	12,063
ACMESPW003	62.7%	11,230
ACMESPA001	23.4%	8,114
ACMESPA002	26.2%	11,107

Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Analysis

- Utilising the Output cache does have some impact, but it will not be as significant as it can be. This is due to the following reasons:
 - (15%) "My Sites" aren't cached
 - (40%) Searches will not be cached
 - (20%) Hits for the homepage now use post cache substitution due to the need for personalisation.
 - (7%) RSS is personalised to the user and is always a separate request.

- Even though page cache hits were reasonably low (for reasons above), it is worth noting that the Average User Count (186 Users) is **28.3%** better Average User Count (145 Users).
- If we have the test mix incorrect and real usage hits more application pages (e.g not search), then this figure will be much higher.

Test Soak-1

The purpose of this test is to test the farm for a long period at low load. This will highlight issues such as memory leaks or high disk usage.

Summary data

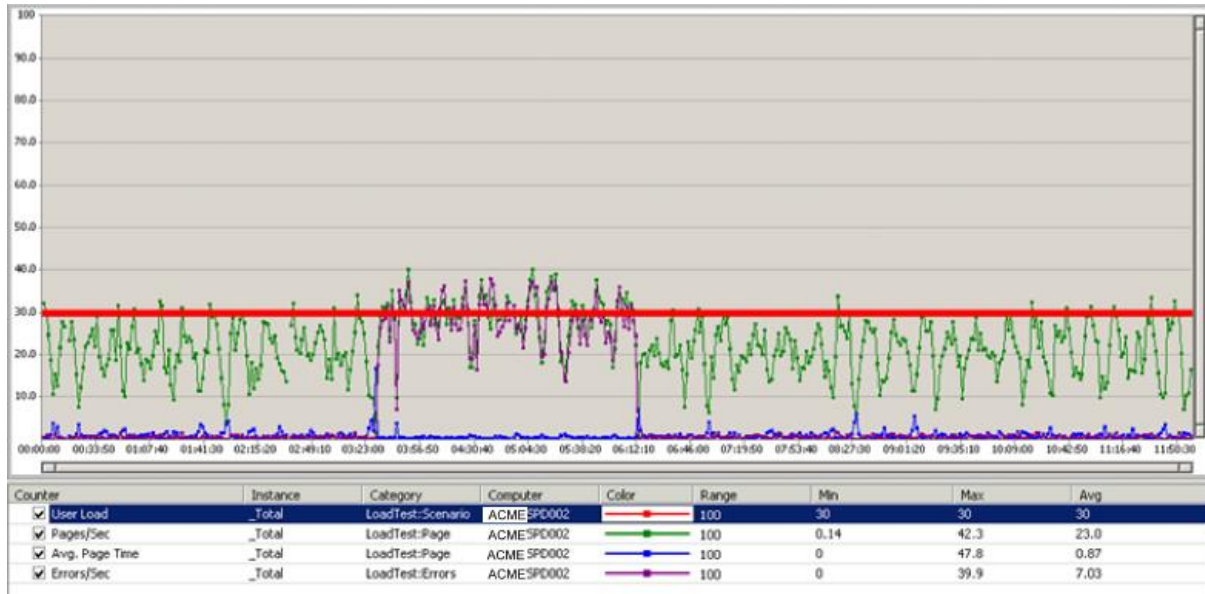
Start Time	16/04/2011 20:31:37
Test Duration	12 hours
WFE's in Load	All 4 WFE's and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
User Load	30 concurrent
Pages / Sec	23
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	0.87
Requests / Sec	396
Requests Cached %	15.6
Avg. Response Time	0.14

Environment Metrics

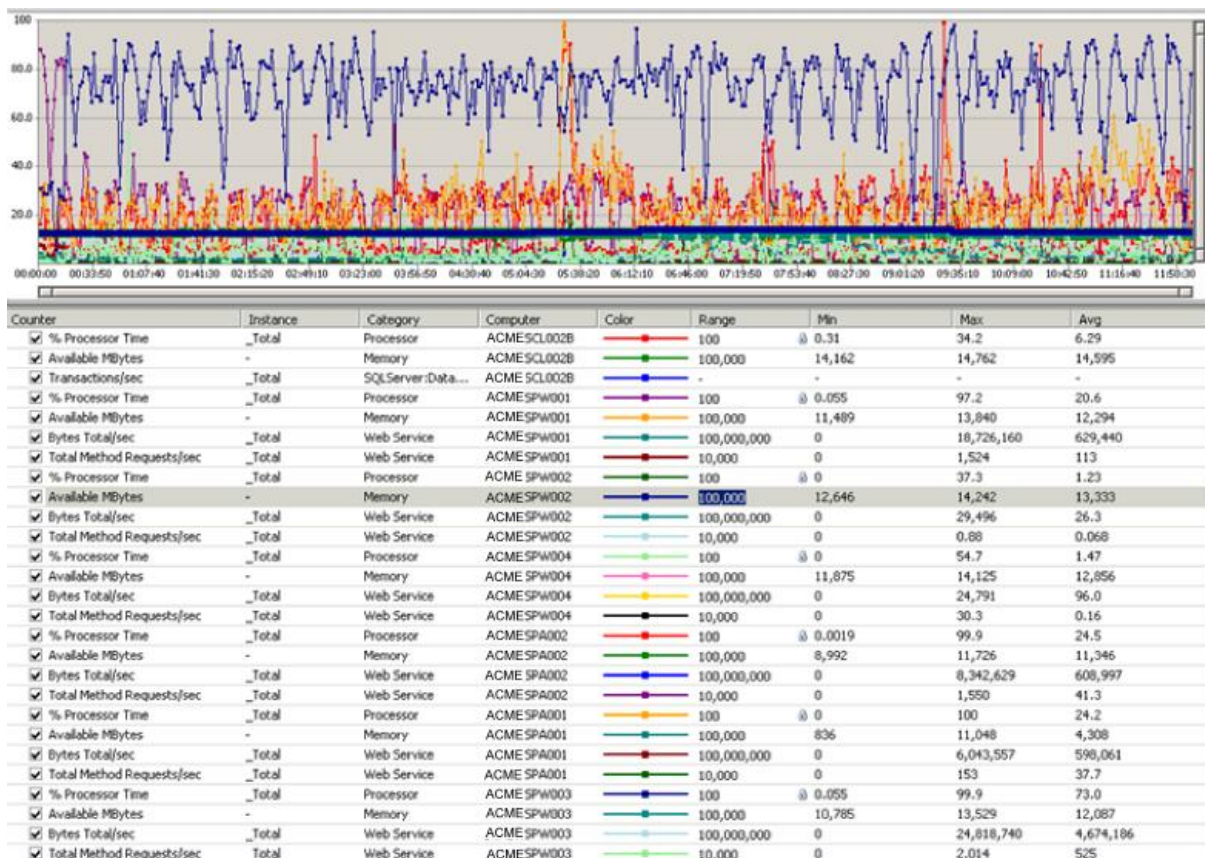
Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	6.29%	14,605
ACMEWSPW001	20.6%	12,143
ACMEWSPW002	1.23%	13,309
ACMEWSPW003	73%	12,384
ACMEWSPW004	1.47%	11,207
ACMEWSPA001	24.2%	4,994
ACMEWSPA002	24.5%	11,651

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Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Analysis

- The Soak Test was run across all WFE's., however, the Load Balancer doesn't evenly spread the load. This is apparent because the W003 Server took most of the requests, which resulted in 73% CPU Utilisation.
- The CPU, memory and disk I/O across the SQL server was well within expected limits.

Test Soak-2

The purpose of this test is to test the production farm for a long period at expected peak load.

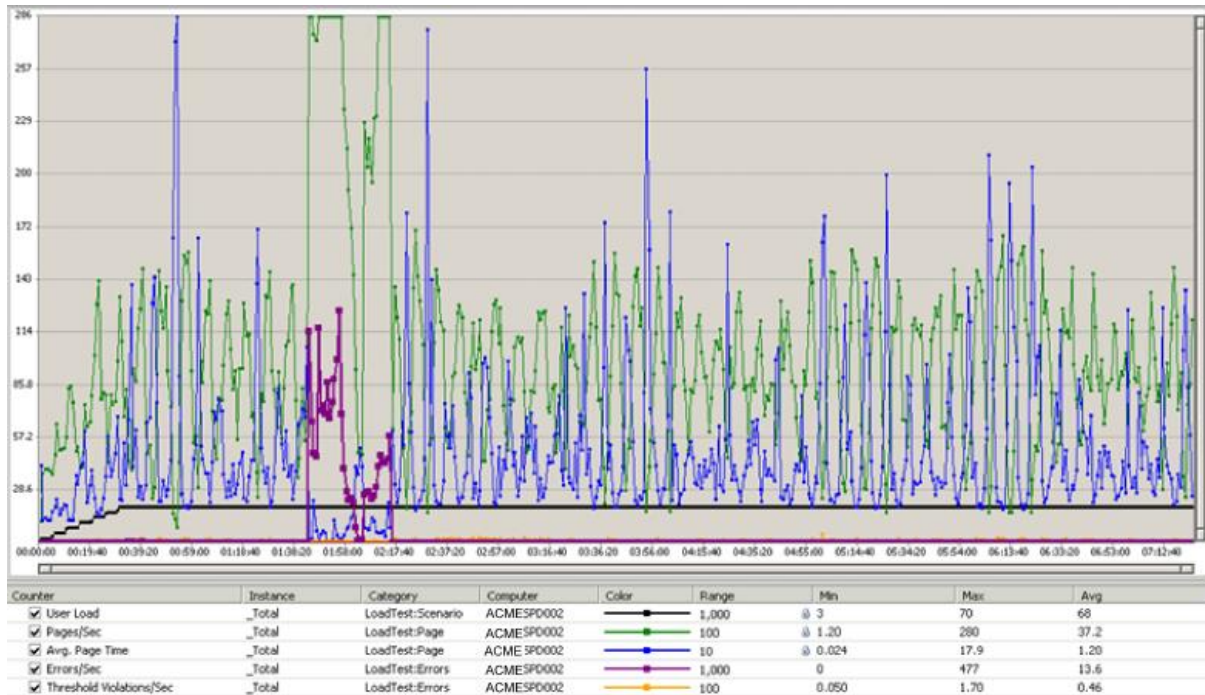
Summary data

Start Time	16/04/2011 23:21:43
Test Duration	7:30 hours
WFE's in Load	All 4 WFE's and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
User Load	70 concurrent
Pages / Sec	37.2
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	1.20
Requests / Sec	527
Requests Cached %	16.0
Avg. Response Time	0.25

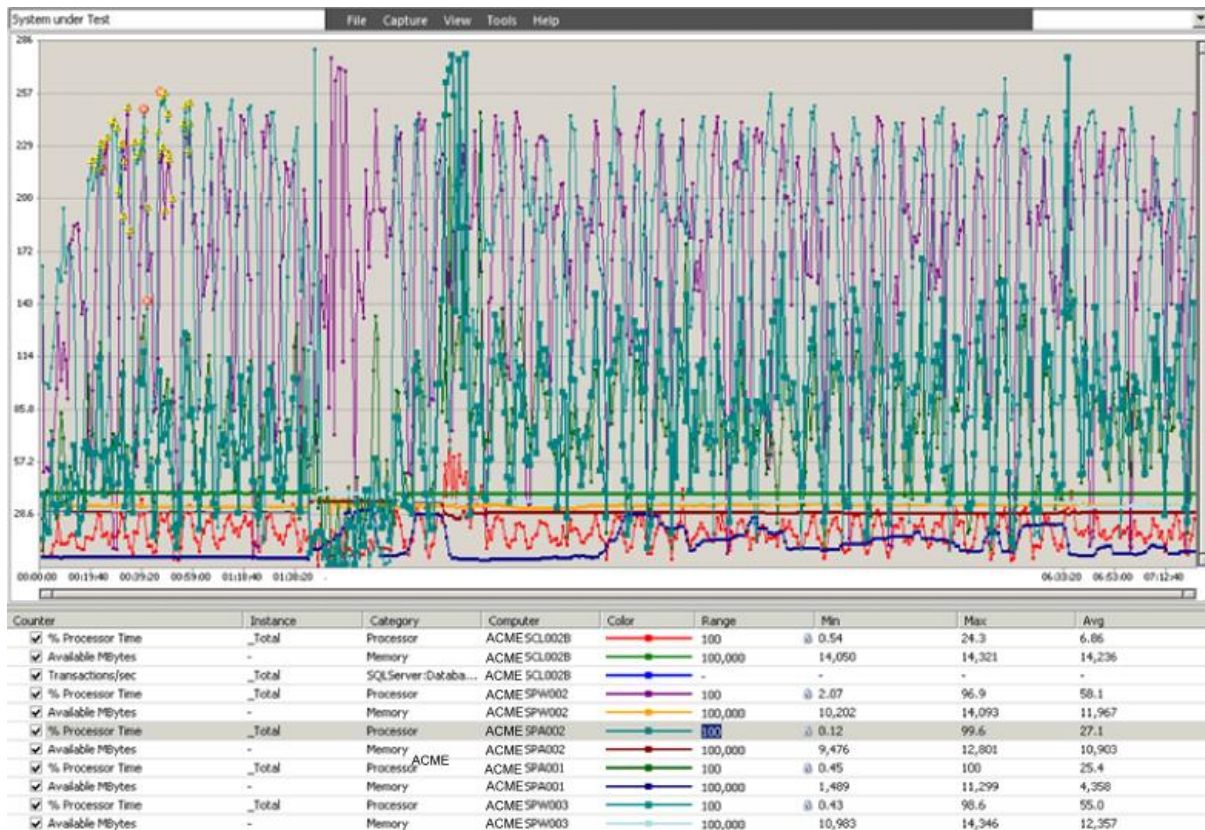
Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	6.86%	14,239
ACMEWSPW001	Not in test	Not in test
ACMEWSPW002	58.1%	11,976
ACMEWSPW003	55%	11,961
ACMEWSPW004	Not in test	Not in test
ACMEWSPA001	25.4%	3,246
ACMEWSPA002	27.1%	11,961

Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Analysis

- The Soak Test highlighted an error that disrupted service for 40 minutes. The main pages affected were around Search. Early investigations link to a problem with User Profile service.
- Under a load of 75 users, the resource utilisation on the production servers was all in acceptable ranges. Most un-customised pages were returned within 1 – 2 seconds. However, some of the more popular pages (such as the home page), still returned in 10 seconds+.

Test Step-1 (No Page output cache)

The intention of this test is to find the maximum number of requests / second that the environment can handle and still meet the required load. This figure is expected to outweigh expected peak usage and gives an indication of how well the platform can scale to meet future demand.

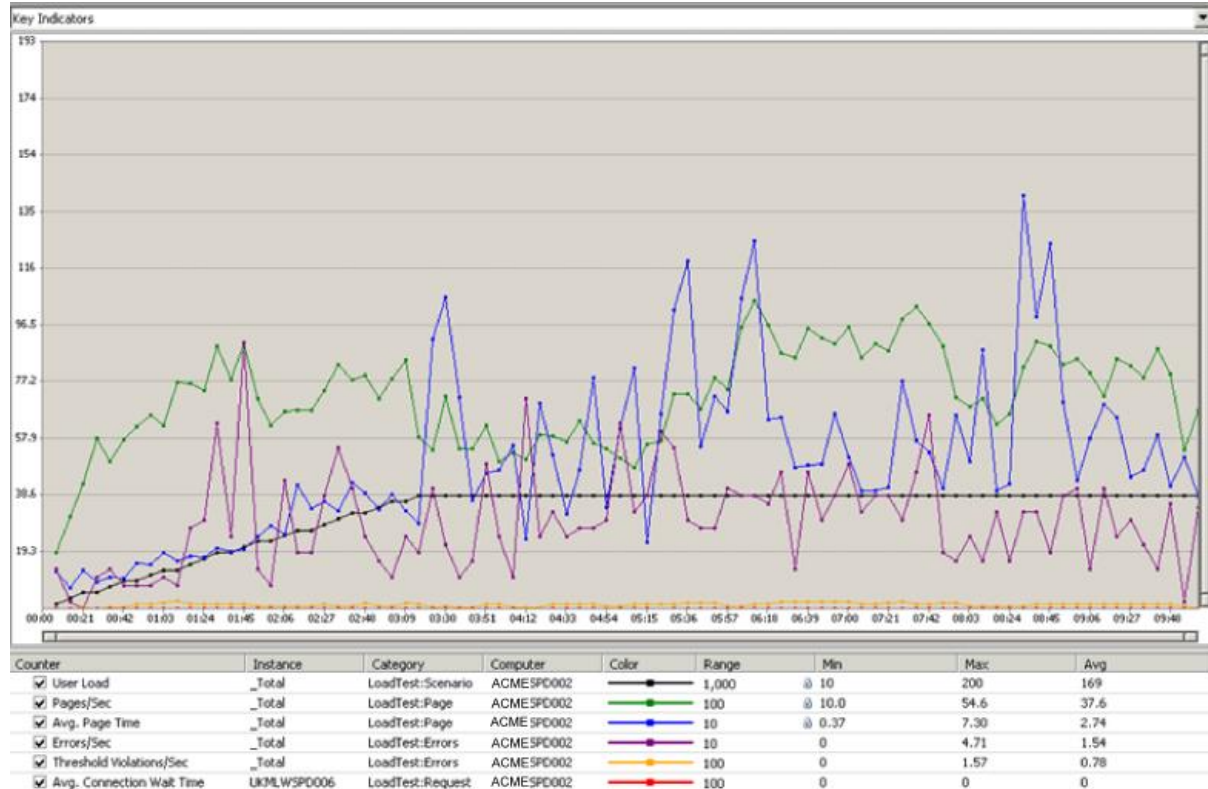
Summary data

Start Time	17/04/2011 20:37
Test Duration	10 Minutes
WFE's in Load	ACMESPW002, ACMESPW003 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
User Load	Steps up 10 users every 10 seconds (max 200)
Pages / Sec	37.6
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	2.74
Requests / Sec	583
Requests Cached %	17.6
Avg. Response Time	0.55

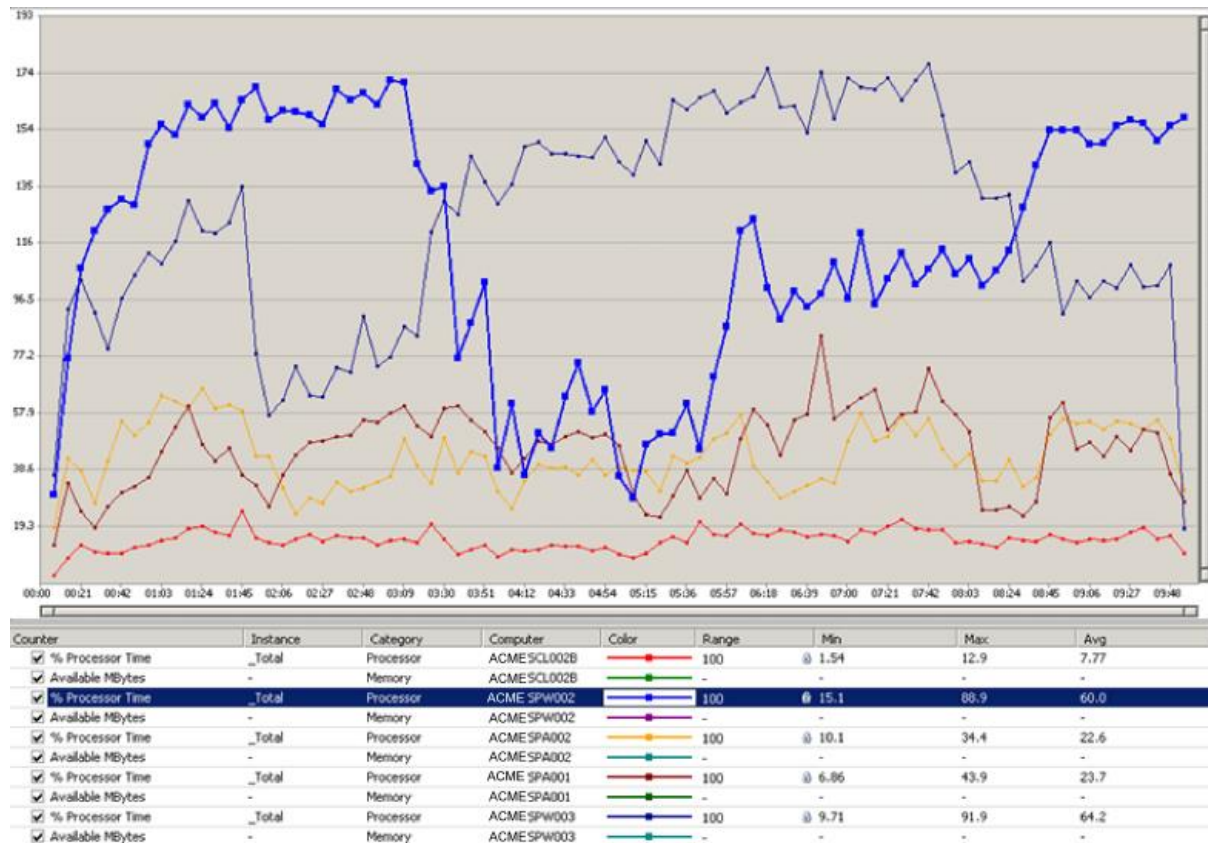
Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	7.77%	Note recorded
ACMESPW002	60.0%	Note recorded
ACMESPW003	64.2%	Note recorded
ACMESPA001	22.6%	Note recorded
ACMESPA002	23.7%	Note recorded

Key Indicators



Production Utilisation



Analysis

- Even though the CPU and memory in the production farm were in acceptable ranges, the response times for some of the key pages was poor with 200 concurrent Users. However, even at 200 Users no timeouts or page queuing occurred on the WFE's.

Test Constant-1 (No Page output cache)

After the previous tests, it is estimated that the WFE's can operate safely with 100 users. The purpose of this test is to give us data relating to how the performance rig works at this peak load with no stepping involved. (This gives more accurate averages than stepped testing).

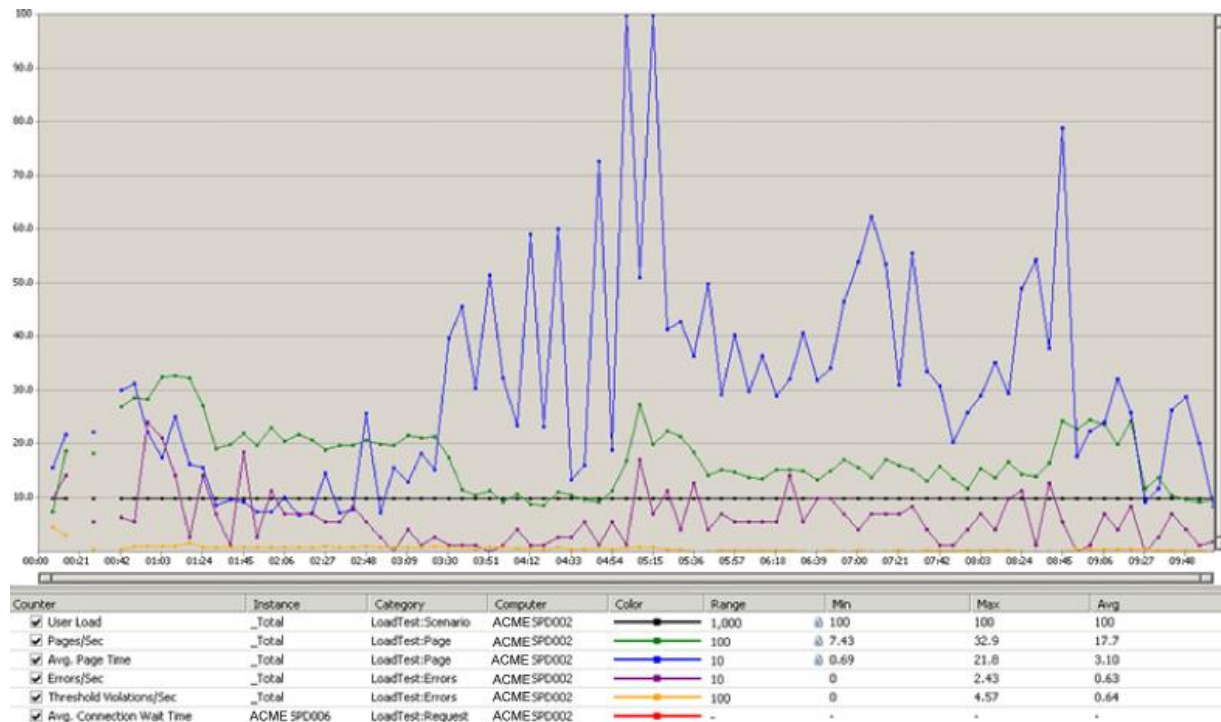
Summary data

Start Time	17/04/2011 22:02
Test Duration	10 Minutes
WFE's in Load	ACMESPW002, ACMESPW003 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
User Load	100 constant
Pages / Sec	17.7
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	3.10
Requests / Sec	282
Requests Cached %	18.5
Avg. Response Time	0.54

Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	Not recorded	Note recorded
ACMESPW002	Not recorded	Note recorded
ACMESPW003	55.0%	Note recorded
ACMESPA001	14.1%	Note recorded
ACMESPA002	11.7%	Note recorded

Key Indicators



Production

Graph unavailable.

Analysis

- Under a load of merely 100 users, the response times for the application pages become unacceptable. However, response times for SharePoint standard pages are still acceptable.

The table below details some of the response times on average (during this load).

Page	Avg. Time	Count
ACME Home Page	23.2	26
“CEO Figures Update”	13.4	20
Main Search Results	4.83	1,229
People Search Results	4.66	2,019
Rss Proxy Page	0.55	55

Test Constant-2 (Page output cache ON)

This test duplicates the previous test, but has Page Output caching turned on.

Summary data

Start Time	17/04/2011 22:26
Test Duration	10 Minutes

WFE's in Load	ACMESPW002, ACMESPW003 and 2 Application Servers
Agents used	All
User Load	100 constant
Pages / Sec	30.6 (17.7)
Avg. Page Time (Sec)	2.23 (3.1)
Requests / Sec	506 (282)
Requests Cached %	16.9 (18.5)
Avg. Response Time	0.43 (0.54)

Environment Metrics

Machine	% Processor Time	Available Memory at Completion (Mb)
ACMESCL002B	Not recorded	Note recorded
ACMESPW002	Not recorded	Note recorded
ACMESPW003	48.6%	11,463
ACMESPA001	20.4%	2,183
ACMESPA002	19.4%	10,988

Analysis

- In comparison to the non-cached pages, please see the table below (non cached in brackets).

The table below details some of the response times on average – during this load.

Page	Avg. Time	Count
ACME Home Page	11 (23.2)	47 (26)
“CEO Figures Update”	2.32 (13.4)	24 (20)
Main Search Results	2.92 (4.83)	3,519 (1,229)
People Search Results	3.41 (4.66)	2,393 (2,019)
RSS Proxy Page	0.42 (0.55)	237 (55)
TOTAL TESTS / SECOND	7.08 (6.43)	11.5 /sec

(5.29 / sec)

Conclusions

To maintain adequate response times (< 5 seconds per page) and also keep the production farm within sensible ranges, the findings of these tests are that the production servers can handle:

- **800** Requests / second.
- **60** Page Requests / Second
- **150 - 200** concurrent user sessions.

Please Note: These figures are based on a “best guess” of user journeys and also correct mixture of those user journeys.

These figures also assume that Page Output caching will be turned on.

Recommendations

- The tests have assumed only moderate My Site usage, however, if users use them more than expected this will require more performance testing.
- Implementation of the Page Output cache for custom pages, or pages that have a large number of web parts on. **The home page is especially slow to load even under low loads.**
- The tests have assumed that 40% of user activity will be using Search, which performs extremely well. All future customisations (that can't be cached), should use search if appropriate.
- Add more memory to ACMESPA001 as this is consistently lower than all other servers.
- Investigate the logic used by the Load Balancer to ensure that it can evenly spread load under peak times.