Webmaniacs Live - Mike Brunt and CF Server Tuning

Posted At : May 20, 2008 10:49 AM | Posted By : Mark Kruger
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CF Optimization Guru Mike Brunt gave an awesome presentation on tuning ColdFusion. In a short 50 minutes he covered such topics as JVM configuration, multi-server install and load testing. It was an excellent overview. One recommendation (that he made in is lyric British access) was to install See Fusion or Fusion Reactor instead relying on the built in monitor. His take was that, because the monitor is running under ColdFusion, it is too easily become affect itself by performance - or perhaps could become part of the problem instead of being part of the solution.

I had thought, based on a presentation by Adam Lehman on CF 8 a year ago, that the monitor ran in a different JVM space than CF. One of the things I have noticed with the monitor always shows a Flex gateway thread in the request monitoring. That thread is the monitor itself. So I'm thinking Mike might be right. Perhaps the server monitor does exist "inside" of ColdFusion. I like the new server monitor and I've found it useful. But I *really* like SeeFusion's default view which shows requests and visuals of the heap on one page. I think it is a better aggregate of the things I want to know immediately when I'm looking at a performance problem.

Verbose Garbage Collection

Another excellent tip is a "how to" on enabling verbose garbage collection. This is easy to do. You simply add the following arguments to the JVM.config file and restart ColdFusion.

```
-XX:+PrintGCDetails
    -XX:+PrintGCTimeStamps
    -XX:+PrintHeapAtGC -verbose:gc
    -Xloggc:mylogname.log
```

The information is going to be stored in a log file in the default logs directory (like /runtime logs). How would you use this? One of the best ways to use it is to figure out when new generation collection is going on, when tenure (old "stop the world") collection is going on, and how much data is going from new to old. You can get a good picture of what is going on by examining this log information and using your imagination. Check out Mike's blog on **GC tuning** for a good outline of the process.