

1 Mod_perl Uber Alles

1.1 Christopher A. Thompson <x4 (at) ROCKETMAIL.COM> exclaimed:

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I have put up a site that's a true testament to mod_perl's power. (He said humbly).

<http://openscape.org> now contains the new site that I've been writing over the last 2 weeks.

The site is generated 100% dynamically by my module Obelisk.pm. Apache 1.2.6 and mod_perl 1.10 are used, and the module is inserted to run on <Location />. MySQL and DBD::MySQL provide the back end object store.

I keep all text, news items, and the like in the SQL database. at request time, the module takes the following steps.

```
$method = $r->method;  
$loc = $r->uri;
```

\$loc is then parsed out. Depending on the "page" requested the module generates a page based on several SQL calls, and prints the result back out. I pass args on to the subrequests this way too, such as <http://openscape.org/rnews/12> will read news item 12. It's all handled in the URL parsing. For the forms handling when you post a news item, I use CGI_Lite to grab things off POST. (If \$method is POST), since Apache::cant grab POST by default. I plan to implement my own POST handler, I just haven't gotten around to it.

You can post comments on news items, and those will be generated dynamically too. (a-la slashdot.org if you're familiar).

The amazing part of all this is twofold. First, it's all done in 427 lines of perl and 6 SQL tables. Slashdot is 2500 lines of code. Second, while I don't have any definitive numbers, this looks like it's going to scale very large. I've thrown a few large parallel requests at it (just simple LWP gets, in many parallel processes) and it doesn't seem to slow down. This box is just a P5/166 with 64megs RAM and Linux 2.0.31.

This all occurs with no CGI.pm, no Apache::Registry, no on disk content but the Obelisk.pm. I am so spoiled by this method that I don't think I can go back. I'm writing a Doc on the process and I'll have it up soon. I know I'm not the first person to do this, but the process

doesn't seem to be exceedingly documented. Oh, and Obelisk will be GPL'ed as soon as I gather it into a form that's fit for human consumption.

Thanks Doug and crew for mod_perl.

-Chris

===

```
-----  
Chris Thompson    | I do not wish it to be misconstrued that  
ct@x4.net         |      at no time was I not in total  
ct@cthompson.org |      Disagreement    --Anonymous  
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```


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