



MySQL Powers Transaction-Heavy News Delivery System for the *Associated Press*

The Associated Press (AP), the world's oldest and largest news agency with a global daily reach of 1 billion people, provides text, audio, video, news photos, graphics and technology to more than 15,000 media outlets around the world. The AP provides an innovative service called "AP Hosted News" which makes it easy for news providers to integrate AP hosted content into their Web sites.

Created to meet the common information needs of many diverse media outlets, the AP Hosted News service reaches approximately 600 affiliate newspapers and broadcasters around the world. Winner of 47 Pulitzer Prizes, the AP serves every international news organization from the New York Times to CNN, and thousands and thousands more around the world. To support this level of activity, the AP is leveraging the MySQL® database to power AP Hosted News.



"The decision to use MySQL was easy because the system runs on its own. The key benefits of using the MySQL database are its performance, its stability and its low total cost of ownership. Bottom line: it just works."



Terry Ewing
Senior Systems Manager
Associated Press (AP)



Mission-Critical Requirements

"Initially, we were using an Informix database as the backbone of the AP Hosted News application, but when we redesigned the system from the ground up, we switched to MySQL, and it has been a great solution for us."

Terry Ewing
Senior Systems Manager
Associated Press (AP)

The AP relies on the MySQL database to serve up a massive amount of content, including the U.S. Census and Olympic results. With so many affiliate newspapers across the globe, speed and customization are key. MySQL database's performance and capacity to handle large volumes of data and peak transaction loads have met the stringent requirements of the AP.

"Due to the mission-critical nature of the AP Hosted News application, we had to be absolutely certain the database running the service was sufficiently powerful to meet the stress of hundreds of thousands of transactions each day," said Terry Ewing, senior systems manager, who is part of the technology team at AP that chose MySQL.

Because affiliate news organizations rely so heavily on AP technology and content to retain reader loyalty, the underlying database in the AP Hosted News application must offer optimal performance and the ability to scale to support 11,000 concurrent users.

"Once the decision was made to move away from Informix, our team began a search for a more stable solution, which we assumed would come from another large proprietary database vendor," explained Ewing. "In the meantime, we put together a proof-of-concept model using MySQL to demonstrate what it was we were looking for.

Almost immediately it became clear that our search was pointless: MySQL was by far the best solution for our application."

MySQL has given the AP new flexibility to create quick Web-enabled database applications that relate to recent events, from news on the front line battle in the Middle East to the big sports stories of the day. Now, as big news stories break and more database resources are required, the AP simply loads MySQL onto available hardware without the added complication of working around a complex proprietary license with restrictions on how many users or CPUs can be supported.

But the open source approach and inexpensive licensing aren't the only reasons why users sing MySQL's praises. Performance also rises to the top of the list.

MySQL Meets AP's Critical Business Requirements

"MySQL has an ease of setup and deployment and a license that allows us to do what no big commercial database does – it gives us the flexibility to slap the database on a box and make it live without the encumbrances of restrictive licensing. This is a critical business requirement in these days of news-by-the-minute," noted Ewing.

Another key benefit of using MySQL for the AP is that it does not require the support of a full-time database administrator. Prior to deploying with MySQL, the AP IT team only had time to focus on existing technology

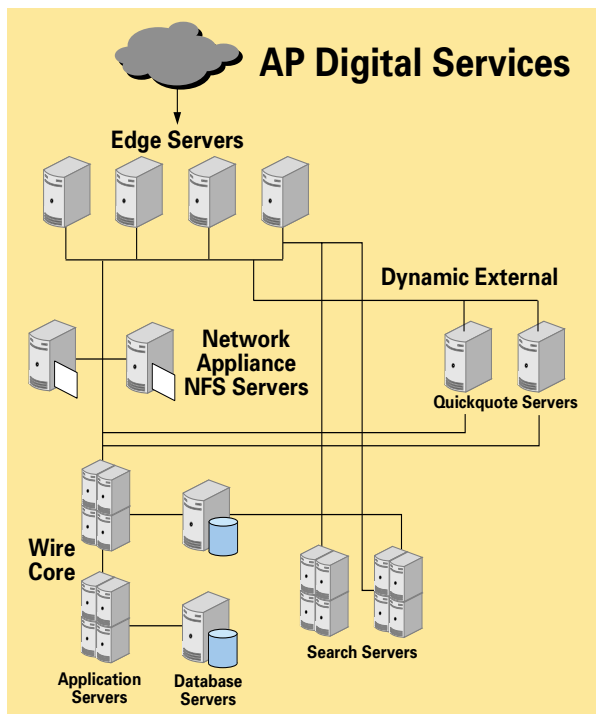
issues, due to the amount of bandwidth required to maintain its previous system. Now the IT staff has time to plan ahead and focus on other projects without worrying about the stability or availability of the AP Hosted News service. The AP team now spends its days focusing on new features rather than maintenance.

"The decision to use MySQL was easy because the system runs on its own," stated Ewing. "The key benefits of using the MySQL database are its performance, its stability and its low total cost of ownership. Bottom line: it just works."

It used to take two days to run a replication of AP's DB2 database. With MySQL, the process lasted a mere two hours.

Technical Environment

Running on Sun 420 servers with the Sun Solaris operating system, the AP Hosted News site is heavily trafficked, particularly on days during which a breaking news event is unfolding. For example, affiliate newspapers commonly divert more than 150,000 pages of content per day from their own Web site to AP Hosted News during an average news cycle, a number that can more than triple to as many as 500,000 pages per affiliate on a busy news day.



"The future of the database market will be the standardization on MySQL."

Charlie Garry
Analyst
Meta Group



Why Industry Leaders Depend on MySQL

AP's MySQL application hosts 600 Web sites for affiliated newspapers across the U.S. Every day, hundreds of national and world news stories are filed and stored on the server.

The news pieces are updated regularly and linked in packages. Breaking news stories are often updated a dozen or more times a day.

In addition to the continuous availability to text and photographic data stored, the database includes all the multimedia files attached to each story. Readers of 600 online newspapers search

through the database, find stories and their attendant multimedia files and swiftly pull them down download them to their PCs. "The performance is very good," Ewing says.

About MySQL

MySQL AB develops, markets, and supports the MySQL database server, the world's most popular open source database. With over four million active installations, MySQL has quickly become the core of many high-volume, business-critical applications.

Major corporations such as Yahoo!, Lucent Technologies, Sony Pictures Digital Entertainment, Motorola, NASA, HP, Xerox and Cisco rely on the ultra-fast, highly-reliable MySQL database. MySQL is available under the free software/Open Source GNU general public license (GPL) or a non-GPL commercial license.



The World's Most Popular Open Source Database

MySQL Worldwide Offices

North America Headquarters

2510 Fairview Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102 USA
+1-425-743-5635 P
+1-425-671-0771 F

France

+33-(0)1-43-077-099

Germany, Austria, Switzerland

+49-(0)7022-9256-30

Worldwide Headquarters

Bangårdsgatan 8
S-753 20 Uppsala
Sweden
+46-730-234-111 Sales

Spain, Portugal, Latin America

+1-425-373-3434

Finland

+358-(0)-9-2517-5553