

60 Minutes of Slashdot

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Introductions

- Who am I?
- Apologize for sucking in advance.
- Tell me to slow down!
- Ask Questions.
- What is Slashdot?

What we're covering

- The History of Slashdot
- Slashdot Today
- Moderation Overview
- Plans For Someday
- Q&A

History Lesson

Take notes. There's a quiz.

History Lesson: 1997

- College CS/Art
- Chips & Dips
- Part time jobs: Tech Support, Web Design, Websites for Realtors.
- Ariel and the barter system
- pile of spaghetti code

History Lesson: 1998

- Triton
- Mozilla
- 50,000 daily page views
- Slash to be Open Source
- Advertising
- mod_perl & MySQL

History Lesson: 1999

- Andover
- 500,000 daily page views
- Clusters, Load Balancing, Staff
- Separate your DB Logic from your Display Logic
- IPOs, Quiet Periods

History Lesson 2000

- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Bored of Directors
- Abstracting the Display Logic
- Scaling to Millions of Pages

History Lesson: 2002-7

- Diversified Webheads
- MySQL Replication
- MySQL Readers & Writers
- The Ajaxification of Slashdot

History Lesson Tips

- cache cache cache
- be redundantly redundant
- single points of failure are awesome

Observation

The largest growth spikes in the last 5 years have all occurred when Slashdot breaks the mold.

Slashdot Today

(my day job is cooler than yours)

Traffic

- Half a Million Daily Readers
- 3 Million Pages
- Millions More via RSS News Readers

Hardware

- ➔ Roughly 25 Machines
- ➔ 2 Master DBs
- ➔ 4 Slave DBs (Search, Backup, Slaves)
- ➔ 18 Webheads
- ➔ Host of Helpers: SMTP, Logging, Daemon

Optimization Tricks

- MySQL Replication
- Memcached
- Single Webservers Running Many Services
- F5

Story Selection

- ➔ **Primary Authors** (Timothy, Kdawson, Me)
- ➔ **Others** (CowboyNeal, Samzenpus, Soulskill, ScuttleMonkey)
- ➔ **Daddypants**
- ➔ **500+ Submissions/day** (The bulk from 7am to 1pm)
- ➔ **~20 Stories**

What we're looking for

- Grammar? Spelling? Whatever.
- Rob's Folksy Charm
- The curse of PR
- Stay on Target
- Get off on a good foot
- Proper Linkage, Credit

Comments

- The “Core” of Slashdot(?)
- 5-10,000 comments/day
- 25% of traffic
- 25% of users

Moderation

Making your users do the dirty work

Moderation

- 10,000 Comments... Good luck!
- Our uniquely evolved system
- Thousands Participate Daily
- How it works, Score: -1 to 5
- “Informative”, “Troll”, etc.

Who Can Play?

- The middle of the bell curve
- History of Positive Contribution
- Karma
- Experience

Going Meta

- Jury Duty
- Panel of “Experts”
- Fair/Unfair
- The Context Problem
- The Lazy Problem
- M2 Is a Major Bottleneck Today
- The Firehose Solution: Neediness

Gaming the System

- Karma Whoring
- Trolling
- Crapflooding

Security Measures

- Monitor IP History
- Track User Karma
- Proxy Testing
- Formkeys
- Rate Limiting
- Capthcha
- Avoid Numbers!

Countermeasures

- Host them
- Visit them
- Code tools to research them
- Offer Bounties
- Sue

Principles

- ➔ Designing a Game
- ➔ Know attackers motivations
- ➔ Know your resources
- ➔ Make your attacks spend (time, IPs, Proxies, Accounts)
- ➔ And Seriously... Avoid Numbers!

Plans

- ➔ Redesigned, Tag Based Moderation System
- ➔ Address un-meta moderatable moderation
- ➔ Distinguish between Quality & Quantity
- ➔ Make the system more scalable
- ➔ More Points = More Accurate Ratings

You Got Questions?

I got answers

I promise some of them won't be blatant lies.