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Separate DBs vs. One Big Shared DB?

Posted by Gremlin - 2011/06/20 22:29

Greetings,

For Edwin, and anyone with extensive experience with JMS Multisites - I have what I believe to be a simple question...

I am setting up a back-end only multisite environement - meaning, users won't be able to purchase or setup a new site on their own from the front-end. I will manage all of the new sites when a new client signs up.

From Edwin's tutorial, 0.b - page 24, I have established the Master site with all components, plugins, modules ...etc. (no configurations), and am creating the SLAVE1, which will act as the template for all new sites.

QUESTION:

Is it best to use separate databases for each master/slave? Or to share a single DB and use various table prefixes? I don't know if this even matters, but my brain tells me to setup a different DB for each new site as this would allow for easier troubleshooting of a specific site should the need arise.

EDIT: I should mention that I have no limitation as to the number of DBs I can create on my cPanel server.

Thanks. --Kevin

Re: Separate DBs vs. One Big Shared DB? Posted by edwin2win - 2011/06/21 09:37

Creating several website into a same DB is sometimes required when sharing extension content and that it is not possible to have a MySQL user that has the privileges across DB.

We also consider that there is a limitation on the number of website that you can put in a same DB. We consider the limit at 100 websites into the same DB.

The reason is related to MySQL performance.

Each MySQL table use 3 files on the disk.

A core Joomla use 39 tables. We can imagine that a normal website can have 150 tables or more depending on the number of extensions installed.

So the number of files in the same directory is (100 websites * 150 tables * 3 files) = 45,000 files. The operating system can become slower when it has more than 100,000 files into the same directory.

So to avoid using a too huge number of files into the same directory, it is better to have several DB and for example use 1 DB per website when this is possible.

Another problem when using a very large number of tables into the same DB is the configuration of

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MySQL to allow proceeding with backup of the DB.

During the backup of a DB, MySQL need to lock all the tables. So if you have a large number of tables into the same DB, you need to have a large enough locking file and open file description in MySQL.

So using the same DB is generally used when there is MySQL priviliges issues and is sometime easier to setup.

Re: Separate DBs vs. One Big Shared DB? Posted by Gremlin - 2011/06/21 19:24

Great reply - As each of my slaves will have data unique to that site, I will not be sharing content once the a new slave is created, so I will use a separate DB for each site.

Thanks, --Kevin