IBM

The US Open uses IBM Rational Performance Tester software to facilitate flawless user experiences on its USOpen.org Web site.

Overview

US Open
Queens, New York
www.usopen.org

United States Tennis Association
70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, New York 10604
Phone: (914) 696-7000

Industry
• Media & Entertainment

Employees
• 100

Product
• IBM Rational
  Performance Tester

"We were confident that the visitors to the USOpen.org Web site would have an exceptionally responsive visit because we had verified the site's performance with IBM Rational Performance Tester software. Over 30 million people enjoyed the site without any problems."

—US Open

For two weeks each summer, tennis fans and players from around the world gather in New York City for the US Open. With a record-setting attendance of over 700,000, the tournament is one of the highest-attended annual sporting events in the world.

Challenge

Throughout the year, the USOpen.org Web site handles a steady stream of traffic from people around the world. But during the tournament, traffic surges to record highs. The United States Tennis Association (USTA)—organizers of the event—seeks to offer a pleasing online experience for all visitors. Partners with the USTA in the Web site project for over a decade, IBM needed to verify that the site would quickly and reliably support more than 50 times its everyday traffic.

Solution

Using IBM Rational® software, IBM webmasters validated the end-to-end performance and scalability of the USOpen.org site to verify that it could handle the expected surge in traffic.

Leveraging IBM Rational Performance Tester software, IBM and the USTA created, executed and analyzed tests to verify the performance and capacity of each of three geographically distributed data centers that support the site. Simulating a realistic user load, they used the tool to record a browsing scenario and a search scenario and mixed various percentages of both to emulate different traffic patterns. And using these scenarios on just two standard PCs, the team generated nearly 25,000 hits per minute to a single node.

Benefits

• Gained confidence in system performance by testing user loads at 25,000 hits per minute

• Served more than 30 million visitors flawlessly, an 11 percent increase over the previous year

• Increased tester productivity by automating creation of testing scenarios and workloads

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