

KNOWLEDGE BASE · PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Load testing your site before a launch: how to do it without causing the outage

Speed, Cache & CDN

CODE

RLX-AO-KB-1982

VERSION

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COUNTRY · LANGUAGE

Angola · English

Interweb Angola

RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings

Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

<https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/1982>



The short answer: a load test simulates many visitors at once to see **whether the site copes and where it gives way first**. It is useful before a campaign or a launch. But a badly run test can **bring the site down itself** or look like an attack. Do it small, on a copy, and warn us first.

What the site needs

What	What to do
What it measures	How many requests per second it handles, how fast it answers under load and what fails first (processor, memory, database).
Where to test	Preferably on a copy of the site, not on the real site with customers in it.
How much load	Start with little and go up in steps. The aim is to find the breaking point, not to jump past it.
What it is not	It is not an attack, but from the server it looks like one: many requests from one place. On shared hosting it can hit limits and be blocked: IP blocked by the firewall .
What the cache changes	A site with a page cache copes with far more than one without. Test with the cache on too: The page cache .

Getting started

1

Set the aim: how many visitors at once you expect at the peak, and which pages will be asked for most.

2

Warn us before a strong test and use a copy of the site, so an artificial peak is not taken for an attack or catches real customers.

3

Use a free load-testing tool and start with few virtual users, going up in stages.

4

Watch the server during the test: **Seeing what uses CPU, memory and disk**, and the plan's limits: **The limits nobody advertises**.

5

Fix what gave way first (cache, images, slow queries) and repeat the test.

Never test someone else's site or a service that is not yours. And even on your own, a strong test on a shared account can affect other customers on the server and be blocked. If in doubt, ask first and use a small load.

If what you expect is a real peak (a campaign, an event), see **Preparing for a traffic spike**. To tell a real peak from an attack: **DDoS attack or just a traffic spike**.

Want help planning a load test? Open a ticket with the address, the date and the load you plan to use.

[Open a support ticket](#)

SEE ALSO

[Preparing for a traffic spike: a campaign, a launch or a live event](#)

[Installing and tuning a page cache](#)

[DDoS attack or just a traffic spike: how to tell, and what to do](#)

[The site is slow: what actually makes a difference](#)

[CPU, RAM and disk I/O in plain words: what each one limits on your site](#)



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