

Speeding Up Page Load

There are a few things you can do to help speed up your site, that are highly recommended on high traffic sites.

Turn off "New Icon" Feature

The "new" icon that displays next to each category that has any "new" listings in it, takes a lot of resources to calculate whether there are new listings in each category. We recommend to turn this feature off, as the more listings and/or categories you have, the more resources it will take to calculate if there are new listings in each of those categories. You can turn the feature off in your admin panel at:

[Site Setup > Browsing Settings](#)

Change the setting "**New Listing**" **Time Limit**: to the first selection, **no display of new listing icon**.

Many Modules Attached But Not Found (v4 or earlier only)

One of the main reasons that pages can become slow to load (at least because of admin configurations) are the number of modules built on a specific page. When a module is attached to a page in the **PAGES MANAGEMENT** admin tool that module is "built" when a client browses that page on the client side. After building that modules functionality the script then places that output where that modules placement tag is within the design. Building the modules functionality is not a problem if you actually used that functionality within the design.

When you visit any of the pages within the **PAGES MANAGEMENT** admin tool you will find all of the modules attached to that page. As you develop your design in the page template and html modules the system will automatically attach modules it finds in any page template or html module. The problem is that the system does not automatically remove a module if it has been removed from the page template or html module. So after several changes and additions to a page template or html module adding and removing modules to get the design you want there may be several modules attached to a specific page but labelled "not found". It is then necessary to manually remove the "not found" modules so that they do not slow down the script.

When you save a change to a page template or html module within the admin tool that template or html is scanned for other modules within it. Once all of the modules are found every page that template or module is attached to is checked to see if the "found" modules are attached to those pages or not. If they are not already attached they are attached at that time. So if you use a module within a template or html module you will need to visit every page that template or html module was ever attached to remove that module if you decide later to not use that module in your design.

The only time a module may be labelled "not found" yet may still be in use on a page is if a module appears in a subcategory page template but not the default site wide template. You may need to manually attach modules that only appear in subcategory page templates to make sure that content

is ready for placement in the design when that specific category page template is used.

Category Levels Displayed in Category Dropdowns

The following setting within the admin can have significant affects on the speed of client side

SITE SETUP > GENERAL > Levels of categories in Dropdown (client side)

You should only need to adjust this significantly if you have module and/or functionality on the client side that display a category dropdown and you have a significant amount of categories on your site. One of the modules that displays a category dropdown if set to use it is the Search Module 1. Within this module you can display the categories of the site for the client to choose to search. This dropdown must be created each time by the script. Creating the dropdown includes running the sql query on the database, getting the result of that query from the database, building that dropdown from the sql result and then pushing that dropdown to the client's browser. When thousands of categories are involved it can take several seconds for that page to completely display. That is where the above setting comes into affect.

Reducing the levels of categories to be displayed in this category dropdown can drastically affect the time needed at each step of building the category dropdown. So if you have a large amount of categories and display functionality that has a category dropdown within it play around with this setting to see what affects can be made.

Turning on caching within the Geo system can save much of this time but if you choose to display all your categories that run into the thousands we still recommend limiting the display of levels of categories. Your clients would still need to download the content of the dropdown from your site each time again slowing the page down somewhat.

Caching System

You can improve the performance of your site further by the use of the Cache system. This feature can be found in your admin tool at the following location:

SITE SETUP > CACHE

And explained further here in the support wiki:

[Cache Explanation](#)

Template System Configuration

You can speed up your site and reduce stress on your MySQL server by switching to file-based templates. There are caveats to using the file-based template system and this page of the wiki should explain how that feature works:

[File-Based Template Use](#)

Set up Cron Heartbeat

By default, the software will send a "signal" to run the cron heartbeat¹⁾ every time someone views a page in the software. This is done so that the cron heartbeat gets run and works even on servers that do not have ability to use cron tasks. If you have a high traffic site however, this can really bog down the site as each page load results in 2 loads, one to display the page, and another to run the heartbeat. You can improve this greatly by setting up a cron job on your server to run the heartbeat once a minute or so. See the page below for more information on how cron jobs and the cron heartbeat works:

Cron Jobs

¹⁾

Basically, the **cron heartbeat** is responsible for doing all the normal "bookkeeping" type things, like closing listings, sending out notification e-mails, etc. Without it, a lot of things would never get done in the software.

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