

## Open source HTTP accelerator Varnish reduces server needs

**What?**  
HTTP accelerator  
and related  
services

**For whom?**  
Internet content  
providers, web  
hosting providers

**Why?**  
Up to twentyfold  
performance  
increase, and  
drastically  
reduced hardware  
requirements.

Varnish is an open source, high-performance HTTP accelerator, offering web sites up to a twentyfold performance increase compared to competitors, and a major reduction in hardware requirements.

Varnish is designed for content-heavy dynamic web sites. While many other HTTP accelerators began life as client-side proxies or origin servers, Varnish was designed from the ground up as an HTTP accelerator.

Varnish was released by Redpill Linpro in September 2006, and is currently used by hundreds of Internet providers and web sites all over the world, and praised by users, web administrators and other professionals alike: "This is slick software".

When Norway's largest online newspaper, Verdens Gang (vg.no), started using Varnish, they could run their entire web site on two servers where they previously needed 13 servers.

### What does Varnish do?

Most web sites present dynamic web pages consisting of a number of different elements. Combining these elements is both time-consuming and CPU intensive, and the process is repeated for every individual user, even when the content is identical.

Varnish temporarily stores the most frequently requested pages in cache. Presenting these pages from cache is far more effective: users are offered an improved service, and server requirements are reduced by up to 90 percent.

Varnish is targeted primarily at the Linux 2.6 and FreeBSD 6 platforms, and will take full advantage of the virtual memory system and advanced I/O features offered by these operating systems.

For more information, see <http://varnish.projects.linpro.no/> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varnish\\_cache](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varnish_cache)

### Hand in glove for emergencies

You may also use Varnish to help solve acute web site performance problems, obtaining positive results without even customizing its configuration.

### Open source

Varnish is open source, distributed under a two-clause BSD license. The threshold is relatively low for installing and adjusting Varnish to your own needs, but commercial support is available from Redpill Linpro, amongst others. The rights to the code are currently held by Verdens Gang and Redpill Linpro.

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**Redpill Linpro offers Varnish services and support**

Redpill Linpro coordinates the Varnish project and participates actively in its development, making us your optimal provider of Varnish-related competence, services and support.

We offer services such as analysis; installing, configuring and tuning Varnish on your server, and integrating Varnish with your CMS.

We also offer development services, management, infrastructure and codebase control, training, support and maintenance agreements, as well as hosting your web solution with Varnish on Ubuntu 6.06 LTS (Dapper Drake) and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 and 5. We operate half of Norway's online newspapers, most of them with Varnish.

**Who developed Varnish?**

Varnish was developed for VG Multimedia by Redpill Linpro, the leading Nordic open source software provider, and Danish independent consultant Poul-Henning Kamp.

See also <http://www.varnish-cache.org>



**About Redpill Linpro**

Redpill Linpro is the leading provider of Professional Open Source services and products in the Nordic region. We provide consulting, development services, training, support, application management and IT operations for Open Source products ranging from infrastructure, databases, middleware and enterprise applications to customer specific solutions based on Open Source components. Our hosting clients include half of Norway's online newspapers.

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**ABC Nyheter, Norway**

Thanks to Varnish, we offer readers fast and responsive services. For us, Varnish was more or less a drop-in accelerator; very easy to install and hardly requiring any maintenance.

*Denis Brækhus, technical manager, ABC Startsiden*

**Rectorat de Montpellier, France (www.ac-montpellier.fr)**

Our site is under a very heavy load during a few days in June, when the results of the French "baccalaureat" exam are published. Varnish gives us the opportunity to handle this peak period without additional hardware investments. Varnish really does handle http acceleration problems. It is stable in our production environment, and we are happy to use it.

*Jean-Marc Pouchoulon, system and network manager, Rectorat de Montpellier, France*

**Adresseavisen (online newspaper)**

Using Varnish as a reverse proxy cache for our websites *adresa.no* and *100% fotball*, has greatly improved our ability to handle high traffic.

Redpill Linpro has also assisted us in integrating Varnish with our Ajax solution on *100% fotball*.

*Andreas Røsdal, system developer, Adresseavisen*

**VG Nett (vg.no) Norway's leading online newspaper**

We aim to run VG Nett on two servers, where we previously needed 13, enabling considerable savings. In addition, readers benefit from radically improved response times using Varnish.

*Anders Berg, VG Multimedia system administrator, who also initiated the Varnish project*

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