

tried&tested products

COMPRESSION SOFTWARE



Best Buy – Nov 2002

jetNEXUS

This compression software takes the pressure off over-burdened servers

If you have a sophisticated, dynamic site that attracts thousands of visitors each day, your Web servers might be feeling the strain. And you might find your bandwidth bills are increasing too. Slowly downloading pages could lose you valuable customers. So what's the answer? Invest in more hardware and pay for more bandwidth? There is an easier way

JetNEXUS's compression software for IIS Web servers is developed by Metal Minds. It reduces download time by compressing content by as much as 90 per cent on the fly before it's delivered to the browser. It isn't a proxy server –it sits alongside the site on the same server and masquerades as an IISAPI filter, which helps reduce compression processing time. It requires no additional hardware, and typically outperforms proxy-based compression engines by a ratio of four to one.

Most browsers can accept compressed data, but jetNEXUS needs to recognize the many different browser strings to deliver it in the right way for the right browser. Metal Minds has conducted extensive testing to make sure everything works smoothly, and without plug-ins, whatever your user's setup. As long as you're running IIS, it doesn't matter what the back end is. The software works with most types of hardware configurations, including firewalls, load-balancers and caching technologies.

So, does it work? It can be difficult to create strain on a site's servers for testing purposes, but we used Microsoft's Web Application Stress tool to help us. Our tests showed an impressive overall

compression of 40-50 per cent. There was a very slight increase in the time to first byte, while jetNEXUS conducted the compression, but we're talking a couple of microseconds. Time to last byte was significantly reduced – pages are rendered all in one go, rather than bit-by-bit.

This performance is backed up by satisfied clients. Confetti.co.uk was concerned its servers wouldn't cope with the expected Valentine's Day surge, and was preparing to invest serious money in new hardware. Instead they installed and tested jetNEXUS and saw a dramatic effect on download times and bandwidth usage – all at a fraction of the cost. Valentine's Day passed without a hitch and Confetti had a speedier, more reliable site. While jetNEXUS is impressive technology, it's not really aimed at the small site running off a single server. It's an enterprise product that'll be more appreciated by high-traffic, commercial sites that run off multiple servers.

Scott Parker



jetNEXUS

Cost *Depends on your setup, but from £995 for a single server*

Pros *Easy to install, quicker download times, lower bandwidth bills*

Cons *Only really needed for bigger sites feeling the strain*

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