



Product Brief: Web Load Stress Test

The Dotcom-Monitor Stress Test Tool

The Dotcom-Monitor Web Load Stress Test is a diagnostic tool that helps predict how a website will respond to various traffic levels. Unlike internal stress tests that run inside a network, the Dotcom-Monitor Web Load Stress Test simulates real user demand from outside the firewall. This provides a comprehensive view of web performance from a user’s perspective during peak demand. Using the Dotcom-Monitor Web Load Stress Test, website administrators can detect reliability and performance issues before they occur, and before problems affect an organization’s online reputation and revenue.

When to Stress Test

The Dotcom-Monitor Web Load Stress Test answers fundamental performance questions that detect problems before they occur, ensuring website availability, accessibility, and performance. Use the Dotcom-Monitor Web Load Stress Test when:

- Launching or upgrading web applications
- Installing or upgrading network elements
- New geographies are added
- Launching new web promotions
- A news event is about to increase web site traffic
- Starting a major advertising campaign
- Preparing for peak traffic during holidays
- Expanding online inventories
- Adding new partners
- There is a need to ensure maximum performance

Stress Test Options

Cycle option: The Cycle option is the simplest and easiest method for testing end-to-end performance. Using a Cycle option stress test, the tester can precisely control the number of hits cycling through a web server. A Cycle stress Test is often used when users want to test the load-breaking point (when time outs and error rates increase beyond acceptable levels) for a web server.

Time option: The Time stress test option allows more flexibility to create stress test environments similar to “real” web loads. Using a Time option stress test, the tester can precisely control segments of time during which various levels of hits are made to a web server.

Results and Reports

Once a web load stress test is completed, Dotcom-Monitor provides detailed reports on the results in easy-to-use formats, which include:

- Aggregated statistics on overall performance, errors within the overall transaction, and errors during each step of the transaction
- Comprehensive data reports in CSV files with drill-down options
- Easy-to-view charts that show each transaction’s response time from each of Dotcom-Monitor’s worldwide monitoring stations

Pricing

Web load stress testing costs vary based on the number of server requests (“hits”) needed to complete the test. For example, a Cycle test with 100 simultaneous users, a five-step transaction, and 100 cycles through the transaction means the total number of hits is 50,000. Cost is based on the total number of hits, which determines the cost per hit (the higher the number of total hits, the lower cost per hit), as follows:

Number of hits	<10,000	10K-20K	20K-30K	30K-40K	40K-50K	50K-60K	60K-70K	70K-80K	80K-90K	90K-100K	>100K
Cost per hit	\$0.01	\$0.009	\$0.008	\$0.007	\$0.006	\$0.005	\$0.004	\$0.003	\$0.002	\$0.001	\$0.0009

A stress test cost calculator located at <http://www.dotcom-monitor.com/stress-calculator.asp> is useful for determining the initial test scenario based on cost.