Proposal new "webpagelayout" (http://varnish-cache.org/)

andersb@absolutt-fotball.no, April 5, 2010, version 1.0

Background:

During VUG2 it was agreed that some was still to be desired from our website (http://varnish-cache.org/). Documentation was the main concern, and the ability to find relevant content in a logic fashion (VCL examples etc.). All in all work needs to be done to make the site better. I stepped forward and committed to give it a shot.

I write this document to make a suggestion on how I would like to proceed to reach this goal. I also believe the goal(s) should be made a bit clearer at a later stage and after some feedback is given to the new suggested "layout" and loosely suggested goals.

Loosely suggested goals:

- Build http://varnish-cache.org/ to be a better website.
    o Better layout
    o Better appearance
- Make it easier to find documentation.
    o Get documentation that is needed
- "Categorize" documentation better
    o How-To's?
    o Categorized Examples?
    o FAQ's?
    o Real Life examples?
    o Guides?
    o Release Notes?
- We need more guides
- Clean up/Make better/Categorize VCL documentation
- Minor goals:
    o Run site on Varnish

Proposal:

To reach these goals I believe much is desired from today's Trac webpage system. I suggest moving away from it for a start. Trac is heavily linked with our repository, and while this is a good thing in some cases, it is also drawback on many levels. I do not suggest going away completely from the system, since it is linked with our code and today acts as our only source of information over the docs distributed with the software. I suggest we keep it as is for now, while we slowly ease the frontpage over to a new system and link from that to Trac, extensively in the start, then less as things progress. In the end we still will have Trac as one backend. Time will show how much.
This way we also have a failover if things do not go as planned on a "new" site.

A CMS called Pressflow (https://launchpad.net/pressflow) was suggested to me during VUG2, I have looked into the system lately, and for me it seems to be a system that would not need too much

tuning to become a good base for the new website. It gives a flexible way to categorize data. Makes changing layout and appearance pretty easy.
It appears to be a system that can handle traffic better that today's solution, and one can use Varnish as frontend ☺

I will proceed with getting a Pressflow/Varnish system up and running for the main webpage. At the same time I will be working on how our new website should look and function. A good approach to this is to make a Site-Map. The Site-Map should be read as this-is-where-we-wanna-end-up'ish.
Per Buer (per.buer@varnish-software.com) has also expressed a wish to contribute in this process and we will meet in the not too distant future to discuss things.

New Site-Map:

Welcome to Varnish

    Install/Download

        Downloadpage

        Changelogs

        Install guide

        Where to get help

    About/Description

    News

    Documentation/ Configure

        Manpages

        VCL

        Examples

        Guides

    Community/Resources

        Wiki-link

        Guides

        Blogs and what people have written about Varnish

        Mailinglist/IRC links

    Search

Things we have to clearify:

- Do we want user to contribute?
  - How?
- How do we control changes to content on frontpage.

andersb@absolutt-fotball, April 5, 2010, version 1.0