

BATTLESTAR GALACTICA

Battlestar Galactica logo, brandmarks, imagery, characters, concepts, derivatives all © SyFy, a division of NBCUniversal.

Learn more at <http://www.syfy.com/battlestar/>

Background image found via galactica.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page

SEO, Site Performance, **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA**



Jonathon Colman

Twitter [@jcolman](https://twitter.com/jcolman)

In-House SEO for REI

www.REI.com



SEMpdx SearchFest 2012 – Advanced On-Site SEO

Download: <http://slidesha.re/BSG-SEO>



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NEW: DIRECTOR'S CUT!

Download: <http://slidesha.re/BJ89>



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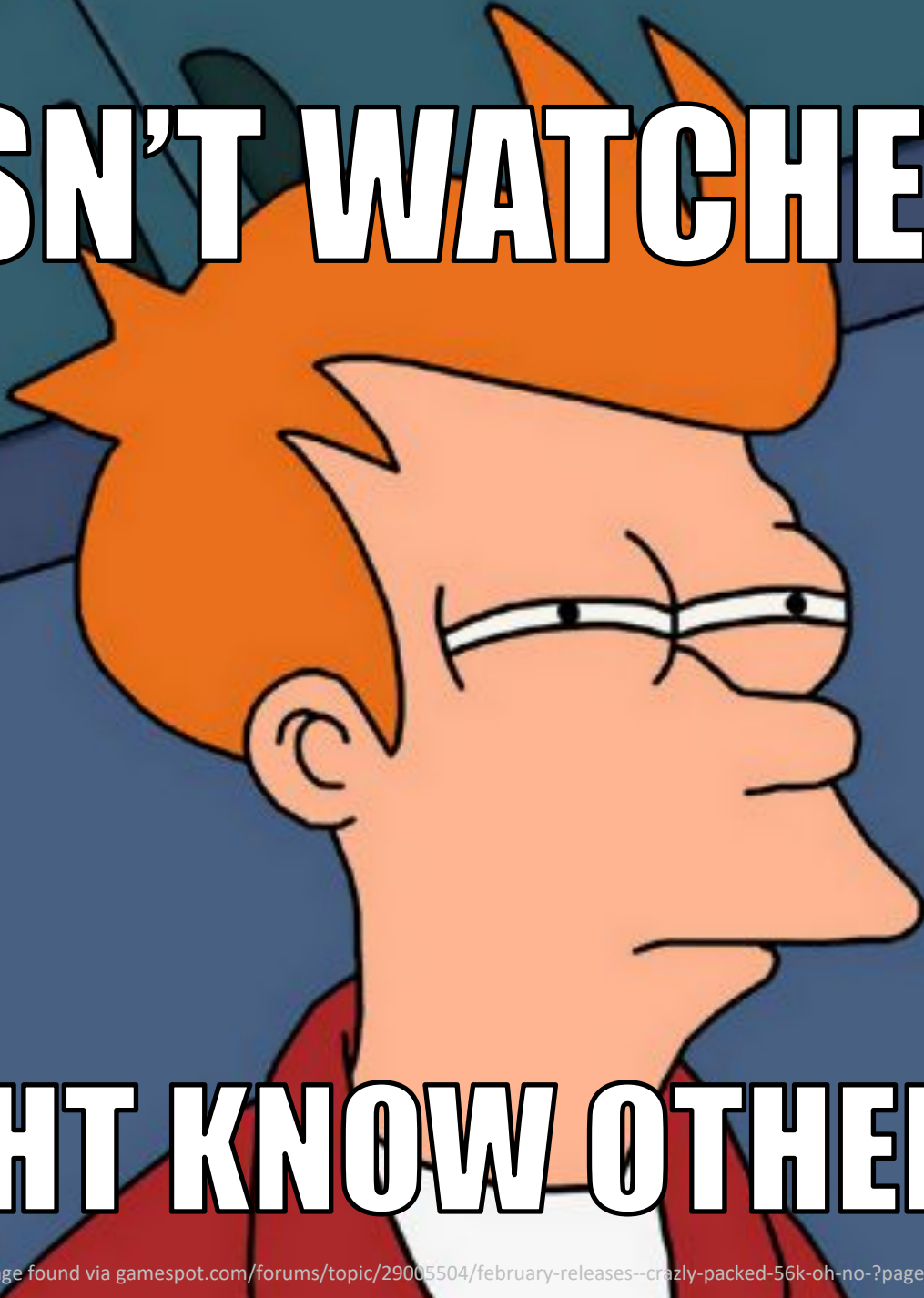
www.REI.com





www.rei.com

HASN'T WATCHED BSG



MIGHT KNOW OTHER SCI-FI

SEO and Sandworms: Marketing on Arrakis





Where are my keywords?

Life on the Island of *(not provided)*

Background image found via girlgonegeekblog.com/2012/04/confessions-of-a-lost-late-bloomer/

The Walking Dead:

After the PandApocalypse





FEELING INCLUDED
LET'S DO THIS THING



BSG and SEO are a lot alike...

Both focus on the activity of search...



A close-up, high-contrast image of a metallic robot head, likely from the Gundam franchise. The head is dark, possibly black or dark blue, with sharp, angular features. It has a prominent red visor or sensor area in the center of the face. The lighting is dramatic, with bright highlights on the metallic surfaces and deep shadows elsewhere. The background is dark and out of focus.

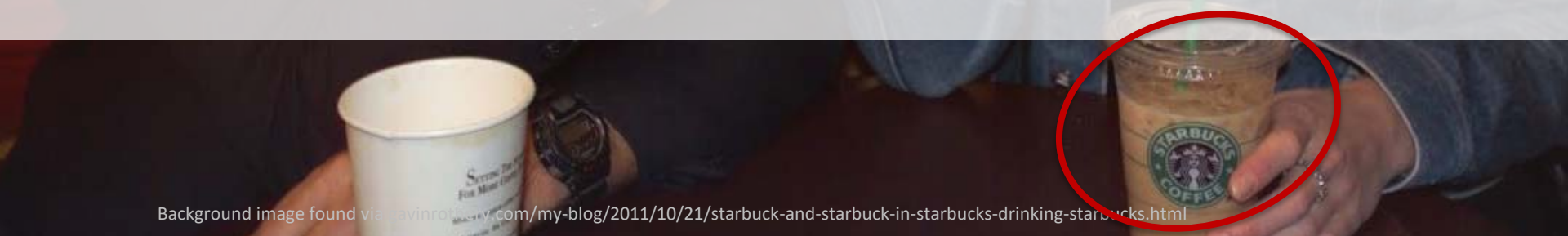
Both involve fighting with robots...

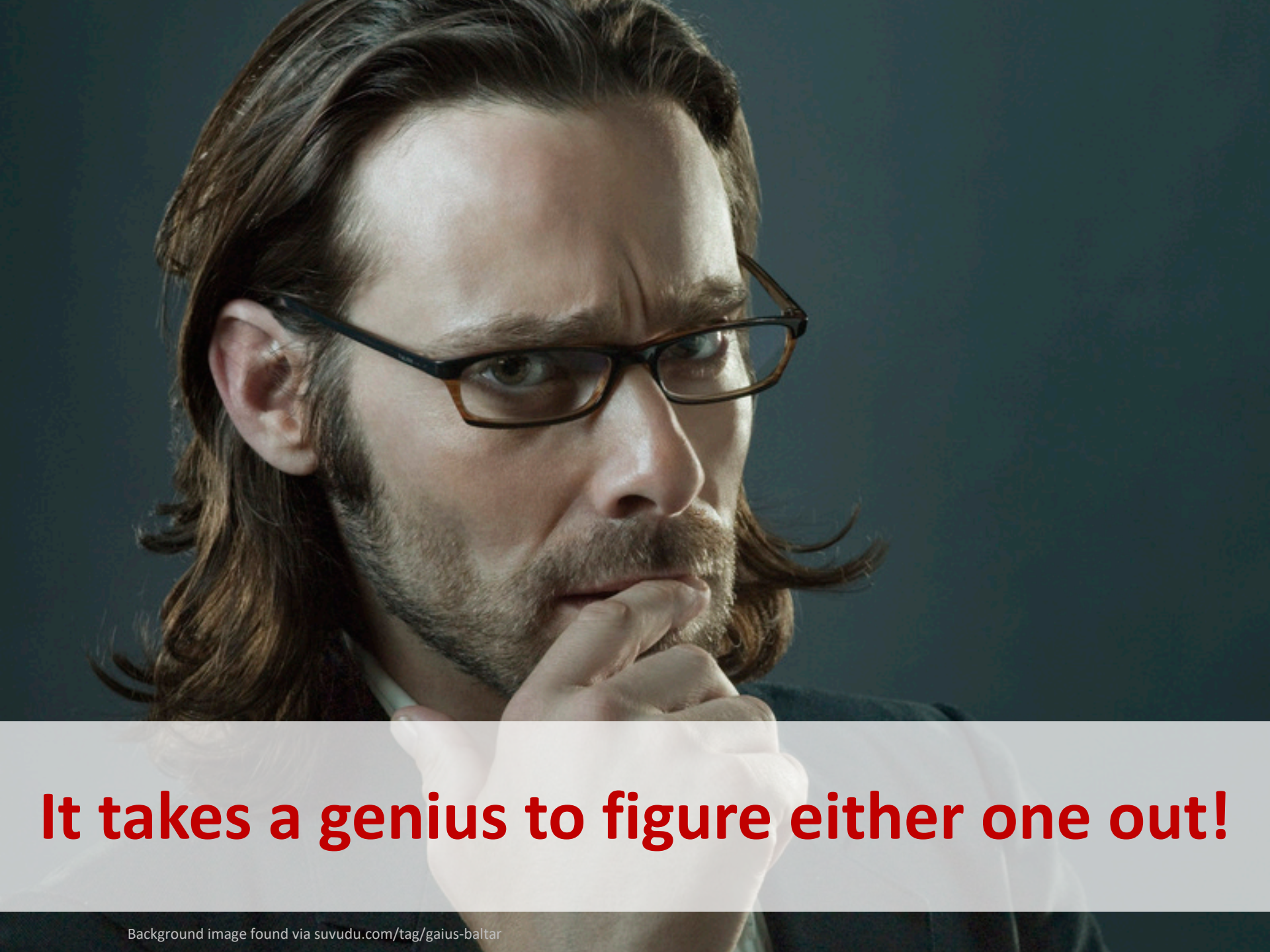


Both have duplicate content...



No, really – a LOT of duplicate content...





It takes a genius to figure either one out!



OMG, it's Ron Moore!

Some guy.

The creator of BSG lives in Portland(ia)!



Psssst... that's YOU!

Both center on a hero...



Aided by technologists and engineers...



Who are held accountable by Leadership

“SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA ROLL A HARD SIX.”

**Making the case for site
performance optimizations**

1%

Google uses speed as an organic search ranking factor for the top **1%** of competitive queries.



Good luck telling that
to Admiral Cain...

Speed isn't a tactic for
SEO... *it's a strategy for
customers.*

2

Customers expect your web site to
load in **2** seconds or less.

3

40% of customers will abandon
any site that takes longer than
3 seconds to load.

7

The average Fortune 500 company web site takes **7** seconds to load.

7%

For every 1 second of load time,
conversion drops by **7%**.

16%

For every 1 second of load time,
user satisfaction drops by **16%**.

33%

33% of users surveyed expect a mobile site to load just as fast as or *even faster* than a desktop site.

50%

A faster site reduces the costs of infrastructure and releases by **50%** or more.

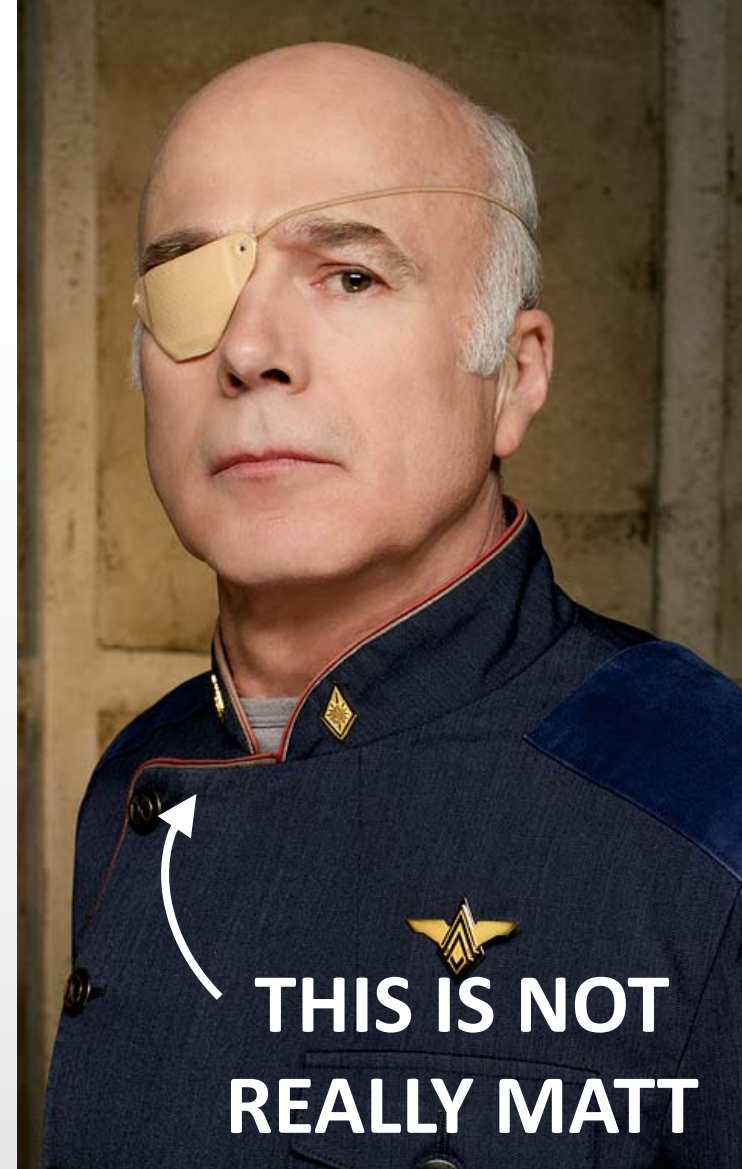
80%

80% of load time is dependent on front-end issues. Note: this can be up to **97%** for mobile.

*“When [web sites] are
fast, **you feel good.***

*What that comes down to
is that **you feel in control.**”*

*“That feeling...
**translates to
happiness.**”*



**THIS IS NOT
REALLY MATT**

Matt Mullenweg
Co-founder of WordPress

Source: [Improving Performance in Mature Web Apps](#)



Site speed helps you during times of crisis



It helps you conduct tests with less cost



It helps you make decisions using data



And deliver content quickly to customers



“ACTION STATIONS! SPIN UP THE FTL DRIVES!”

Optimizing for site performance

Hi Jonathan | Sign Out | Help

Make Y! My Homepage | Email | Mail | 99+ | My Y! | Yahoo!

YAHOO! DEVELOPER NETWORK

DEVELOPER | PUBLISHER | BLOG

Home | APIs & Tools | Documentation | Support | Resources

My Projects

Q Search YDN

Recommended Topics: yql updates apps yui hackday oauth patterns

Exceptional Performance

Yahoo's Exceptional Performance team promotes best practices for improving web page performance. They conduct research, build tools, write articles and blogs, and speak at conferences.

Best Practices

The Yahoo! Exceptional Performance team has identified a number of best practice rules for making web pages fast. They have identified 34 rules which are divided into seven categories.

Filter by category: Content | Server | Cookie | CSS | JavaScript | Images | Mobile

YSlow for Firebug

Use the YSlow tool to analyze a web page and get a report on why the web page is slow based on the best practices for high performance web sites. YSlow is a Firefox add-on integrated with the Firebug web development tool. This tool has been used internally at Yahoo! by many properties (for example, Yahoo! Sports, Yahoo! Movies, Yahoo! News, and so on) to improve the performance of their web pages by anywhere from 25 to 50 percent. Yahoo! is happy to share this tool with the development community to help others accelerate their users' experiences on their web sites.

Research

Research conducted by the Exceptional Performance team is documented in the following Yahoo! User

RECENT BLOG ARTICLES

Welcome YSlow Open Source

Flickr's New Dynamic Content Acceleration

Yahoo! Announces Cocktails - Shaken, Not Stirred

Next-Gen YSlow powered by YUI

YUI and Loader changes for 3.4.0

YAHOO! GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

Re: i want a option to select whether convert gif to png or not

Re: YSlow sends HTTP GET instead of HTTP POST to beacon URL grade

Google code

e.g. "adwords" or "open source"

Search

Page Speed

Home | Docs | FAQ | Gallery | Community | Download

Learn more

Overview

Page Speed browser extension

Page Speed Online

mod_pagespeed for Apache 2

Page Speed Service

Get Started

Page Speed for Google Chrome

Page Speed for Firefox

mod_pagespeed for Apache 2

Page Speed Service

Documentation

Performance Best Practices

Optimize caching

Minimize round trip times

Minimize request overhead

Minimize payload size

Optimize browser rendering

Optimize for mobile

Page Speed rules (alphabetical)

mod_pagespeed Filters

Page Speed Service Rewriters

Web Performance Best Practices

When you profile a web page with Page Speed, it evaluates the page's conformance to a number of different rules. These rules are general front-end best practices you can apply at any stage of web development. We provide documentation of each of the rules here, so whether or not you run the Page Speed tool — maybe you're just developing a brand new site and aren't ready to test it — you can refer to these pages at any time. We give you specific tips and suggestions for how you can best implement the rules and incorporate them into your development process.

About the performance best practices

Page Speed evaluates performance from the client point of view, typically measured as the page load time. This is the elapsed time between the moment a user requests a new page and the moment the page is fully rendered by the browser. The best practices cover many of the steps involved in page load time, including resolving DNS names, setting up TCP connections, transmitting HTTP requests, downloading resources, fetching resources from cache, parsing and executing scripts, and rendering objects on the page. Essentially Page Speed evaluates how well your pages either eliminate these steps altogether, parallelize them, and shorten the time they take to complete. The best practices are grouped into six categories that cover different aspects of page load optimization:

Optimizing caching — keeping your application's data and logic off the network altogether

Minimizing round-trip times — reducing the number of serial request-response cycles

Minimizing request overhead — reducing upload size

Minimizing payload size — reducing the size of responses, downloads, and cached pages

Optimizing browser rendering — improving the browser's layout of a page

Optimizing for mobile — tuning a site for the characteristics of mobile networks and mobile devices

Send us your feedback

We would appreciate any feedback you would like to give about the rules described in these pages. If you have suggestions on how to make these best practices better (or how to document them better!), post them to our discussion group at [page-speed-discuss](#).

Additional resources

For more detailed information on many of the best practices described in these pages, see Steve Souders' [High Performance Web Sites](#) and [Even Faster Web Sites](#).

For running code examples that illustrate the techniques described in these pages, see the companion website, [14 Rules for Faster-Loading Web Sites](#).

stevesouders.com

about | contact |

HIGH PERFORMANCE WEB SITES BLOG

the Performance Golden Rule


February 10, 2012 5:37 pm | 24 Comments

Yesterday I did a workshop at [Google Ventures](#) for some of their portfolio companies. I didn't know how much performance background the audience would have, so I did an overview of everything performance-related starting with my first presentations back in 2007. It was very nostalgic. It has been years since I talked about the best practices from [High Performance Web Sites](#). I reviewed some of those, like [The 14 Rules for Faster-Loading Web Sites](#), [Expires Header](#), and [Gap Components](#).

But I needed to go back even further. Thinking back to before [Velocity](#) and [WPO](#) existed, I thought I'd like to clarify why I focus mostly on frontend

Sources: [Yahoo](#), [Google](#), [Steve Souders](#)


BOOKS



High Performance Web Sites

by: Steve Souders

[website](#)



Even Faster Web Sites

by: Steve Souders

[website](#)

TALKS

More

VIDEOS

Stanford CS193H

25 video lectures from my class (\$\$)

Study and learn from the best



The Basics: 10 quick wins for site speed

1. Use gzip HTTP compression

CLIENT REQUEST:

Accept-Encoding:
gzip, deflate

SERVER RESPONSE:

Content-Encoding:
gzip

RATIONALE:

Decreases page load time by
compressing the request, minimizing
the amount of data transferred.

2. Set a far-future Expires header

EXAMPLE HEADER:

Expires: Tue, 16 May 2023
22:00:00 GMT

RATIONALE:

Helps with re-loads of static page objects and components by caching them. Use across all content types.

3. Use the asynchronous GA code

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```
<script type="text/javascript">
  var _gaq = _gaq || [];
  _gaq.push(['_setAccount', 'UA-XXXXX-X']);
  _gaq.push(['_trackPageview']);
  (function() {
    var ga = document.createElement('script'); ga.type = 'text/javascript'; ga.async = true;
    ga.src = ('https:' == document.location.protocol ? 'https://ssl' : 'http://www') + '.google-analytics.com/ga.js';
    var s = document.getElementsByTagName('script')[0]; s.parentNode.insertBefore(ga, s);
  })();
</script>
```

RATIONALE:

This has been available since December 2009. Use it! It can go just before the closing `</head>` element.

4. Don't dupe JS, remove unused CSS

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="dualla.js"></script>
```

...

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="dualla.js"></script>
```

RATIONALE:

Creates unnecessary HTTP requests and wasteful JS execution. As team size/code complexity increases, so do duplicates and unused code! Refactor or remove code you're not actively using.

5. <link> your CSS, avoid @import

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="galactica.css">
```

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="pegasus.css">
```

RATIONALE:

Allows for parallel downloading and avoids additional delays.

6. Specify a character set

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type"  
content="text/html; charset=UTF-8">
```

RATIONALE:

Helps the browser begin parsing HTML and executing scripts immediately. If used in HTTP header, both must match.

7. Use a small, cached favicon.ico

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```
<link rel="icon" type="image/png"  
href="cylon-icon.png" />
```

RATIONALE:

Even if you don't use favico, the browser *still* requests it! Keep the file size under 1k and avoid the needless 404 error.

8. Avoid empty s

HTML:

```
<img src="">
```

JAVASCRIPT:

```
var img = new Image();  
img.src = "";
```

RATIONALE:

Forces another HTTP request, which slows down your page load. May be fixed in HTML5, depending on browser(s).

9. Compress images, use dimensions

ON-PAGE CODE EXAMPLE:

```

```

RATIONALE:

Formatting images and specifying width/height reduce page load time by minimizing data sent from the server to the browser and speeding up rendering time. Remember that PNG is almost always better than GIF!

10. Avoid redirects



RATIONALE:

Cuts down on wait time for users by avoiding an entire request-response cycle and the latency that goes with it.

Source: <http://code.google.com/speed/page-speed/docs/rtt.html#AvoidRedirects>

Background image found via fanforum.com/f256/dean-stockwell-john-cavil-appreciation-thread-2-because-hes-mean-sob-62925212/index2.html



Intermediate level: CSS sprites for images

CSS sprites reduce HTTP requests

CSS PROPERTIES USED:

background-image: url(img/DRADIS-icons.png);

background-position: 0 0;

RATIONALE:

Reducing total HTTP requests greatly improves site performance. Combining common images into “sprites” reduces requests, latency, overhead, and total page file size.

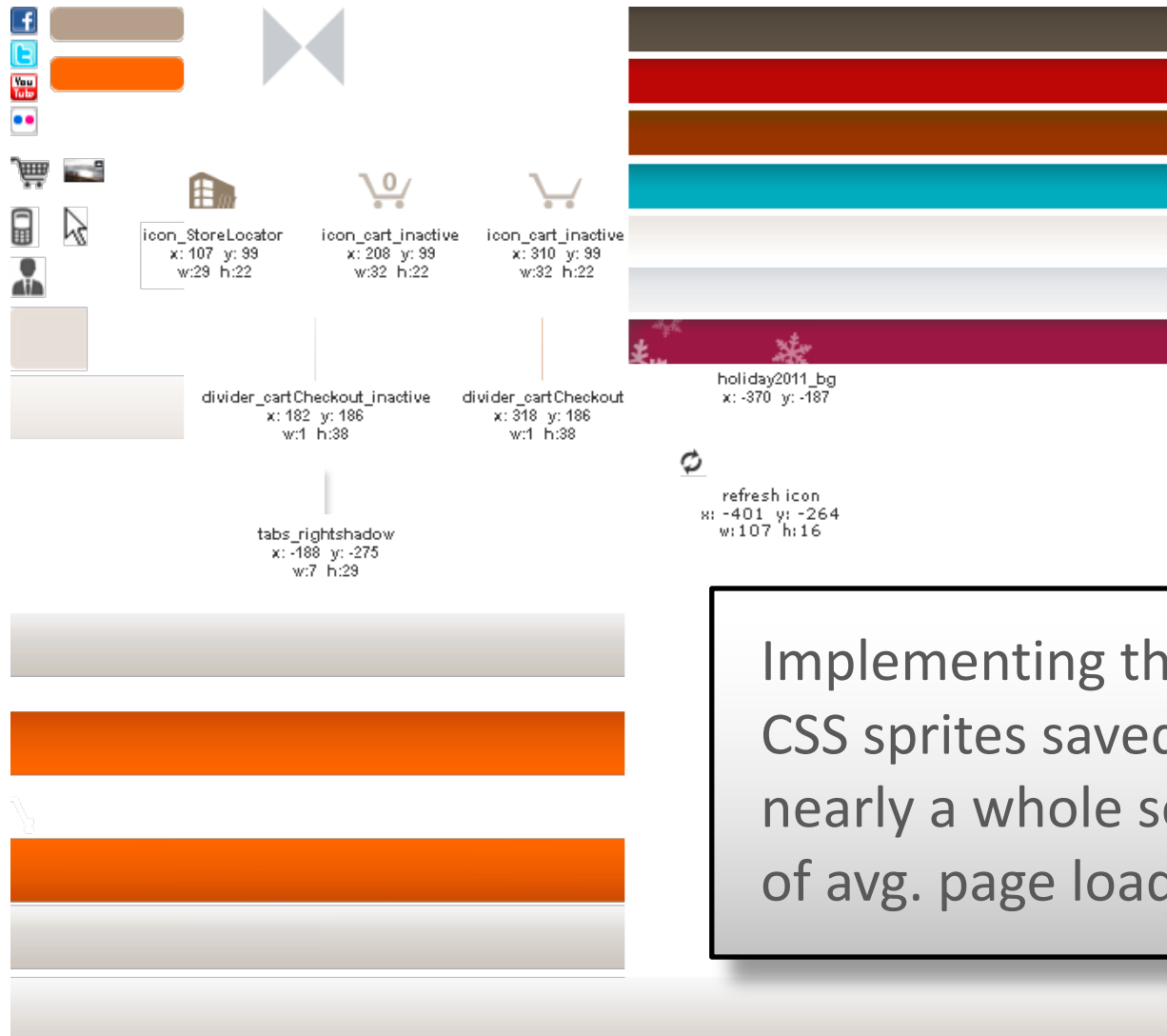
Best practices for CSS sprites

Combine images into sprites when:

- Images load together
- Images have similar color palettes
- Images are PNGs and/or GIFs
- Images are both small and cacheable

Do *not* use for large JPGs/photos.

Here's a site-wide sprite on REI.com



Implementing these CSS sprites saved us nearly a whole second of avg. page load time.

Here's a complex Google example



This sprite is a 60-frame animation!



10

OMNOMNOMNOM
WEBPERF OPTIMIZATION IS TASTY

“WE’VE JUMPED WAY BEYOND THE RED LINE.”

**Advanced examples of
performance optimization**

StackExchange moves to a CDN, crowd-sources performance tests

StackExchange v

log in chat meta about

search all sites

StackExchange

hot questions

New Site Alert! Sports: Q&A for participants in team and

What is Stack Exchange?

Stack Exchange is a fast-growing network of 84 question and answer sites programming to cooking to photography and gaming. [Learn more »](#)

105

hotness

Are "man in the middle" attacks extremely rare?

In <http://cdixon.org/2012/02/12/the-iphone-contact-list-controversy-and-answers/> about web security Many commentators have suggested that a primary se

network attacks mitm statistics asked 15 hours ago

Jeff

58

hotness

Why does Arthur Dent need to bring a towel with him before they leave Earth in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"?

Ford Prefect instructs Arthur Dent to bring a towel with him before they leave

hitchhikers-guide asked 17 hours ago

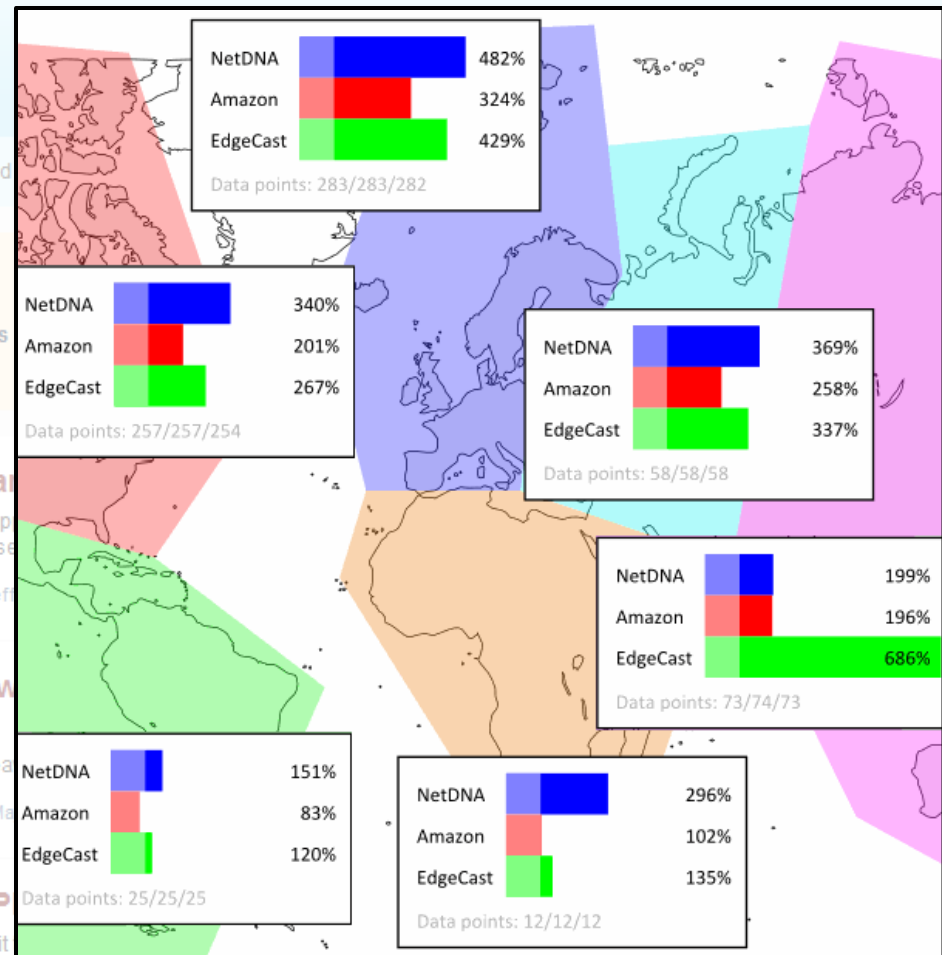
Ma

58

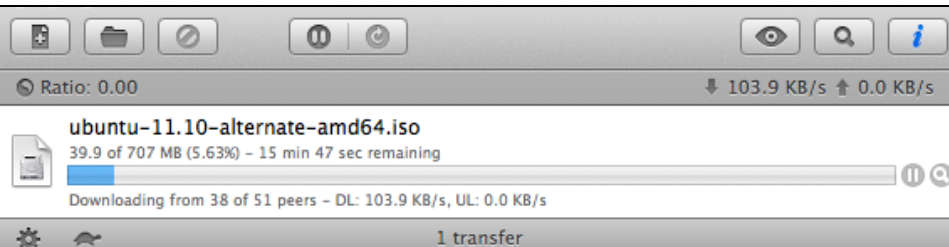
hotness

Choosing whether to include PDF or PNG in PDF

Can I tell graphicx somehow which graphic format to choose when I omit both a PDF and a PNG version of the same image exist? The reason is that I have some ...



Etsy.com uses BitTorrent to replicate its search index across servers



Ratio: 0.00 103.9 KB/s 0.0 KB/s

ubuntu-11.10-alternate-amd64.iso
39.9 of 707 MB (5.63%) - 15 min 47 sec remaining
Downloading from 38 of 51 peers - DL: 103.9 KB/s, UL: 0.0 KB/s

1 transfer

master @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | shared 33.16 MB of 9.91 GB | 20289 of 20289 pieces available | 23 peers

search02.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 23.92 MB | Seeding

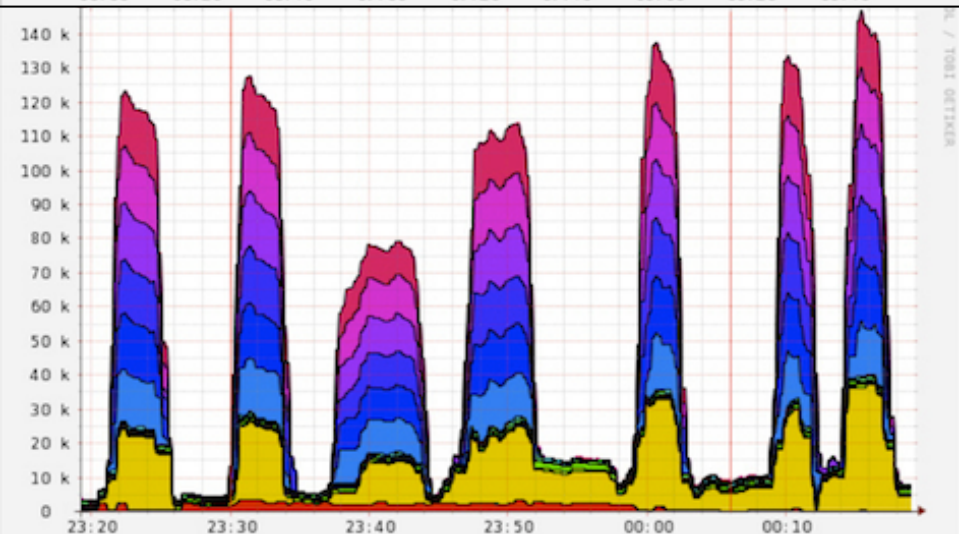
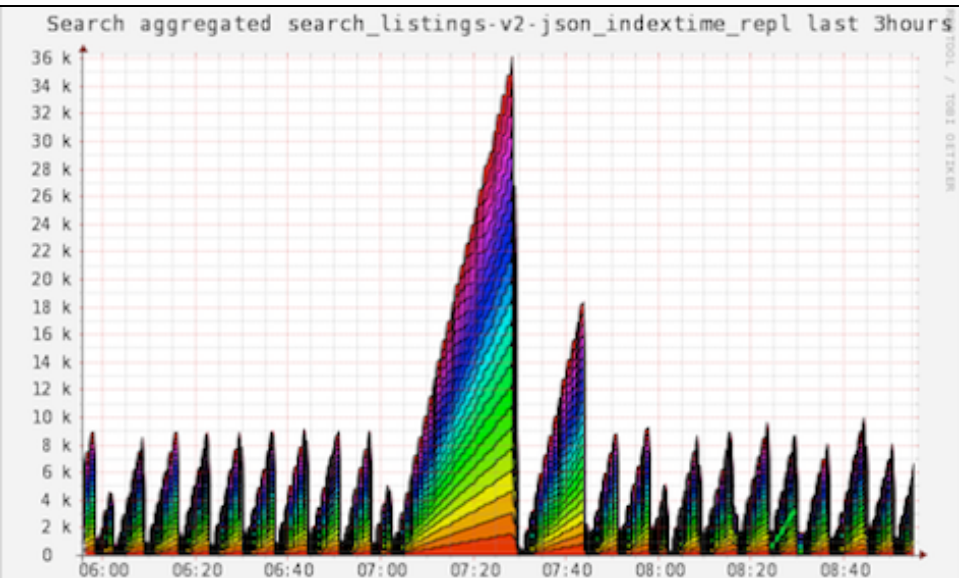
search03.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 26.25 MB | Seeding

search04.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 9.42 MB | Seeding

search05.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 6.00 MB | Committing

search06.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 1.50 MB | Committing

search07.ny4.etsy.com @ 1320956434800-4277
↑ 0 bytes/s | 0 bytes/s | 13.92 MB of 9.91 GB | 0 bytes left (100%) | shared 25.33 MB | Committing

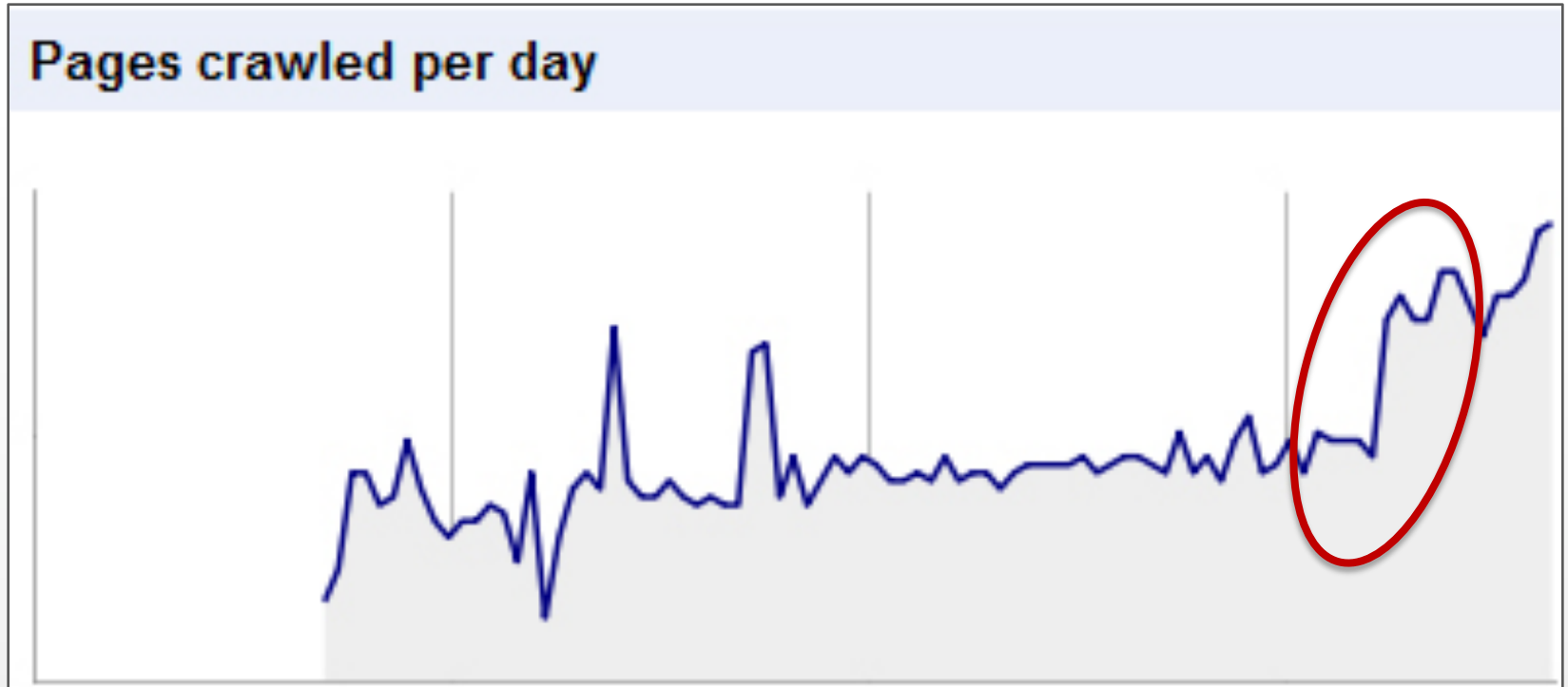


“THE UPGRADES WILL TRIPLE THE FLEET’S JUMP CAPACITY.”

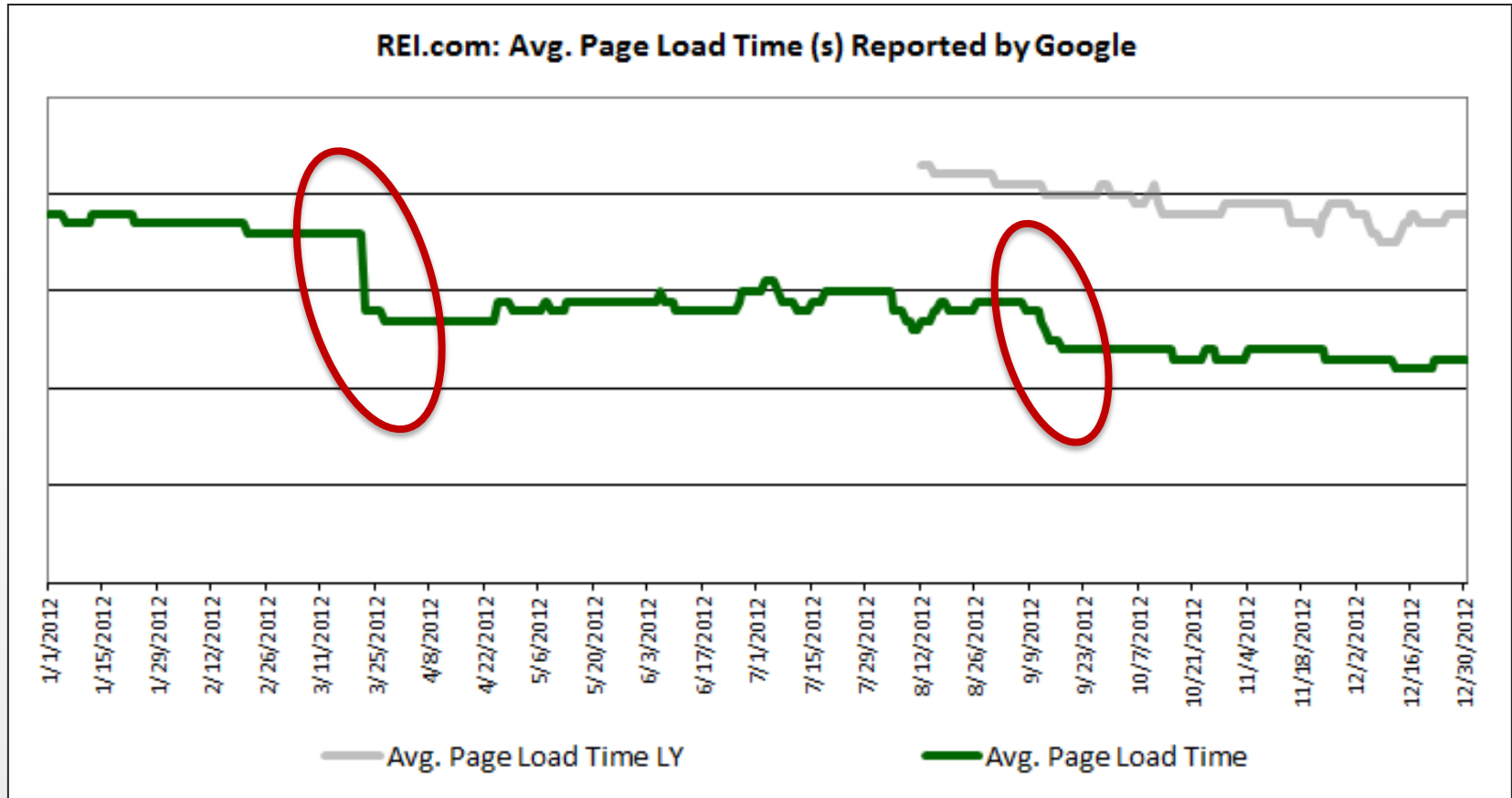
**SEO results from REI’s site
performance optimizations**



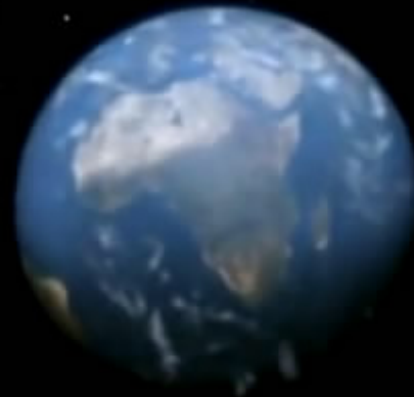
A **-50%** decrease in the time it took for Google to crawl an average page.



A **+100%** increase in the amount of total pages Google crawled per day.



We saved customers **-1.5** seconds per page view. Multiplied by *all* page views...



We saved customers **22 years** of time.

Time they'll spend **outside** vs. online



“LIGHTEN UP – IT’S ONLY THE END OF THE WORLD.”

In conclusion...



The Final Five

The Final Five Takeaways

- The site performance business case isn't just about SEO – it's about customer UX
- Plan a budget/time for performance work
- Start with quick wins, “shrink the change”
- Set speed targets for all new features
- Measure, celebrate, and repeat

*“All of this has happened before...
and all of this will happen again.”*

Thank you – so say we all!



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We're hiring! <http://bit.ly/rei-jobs>