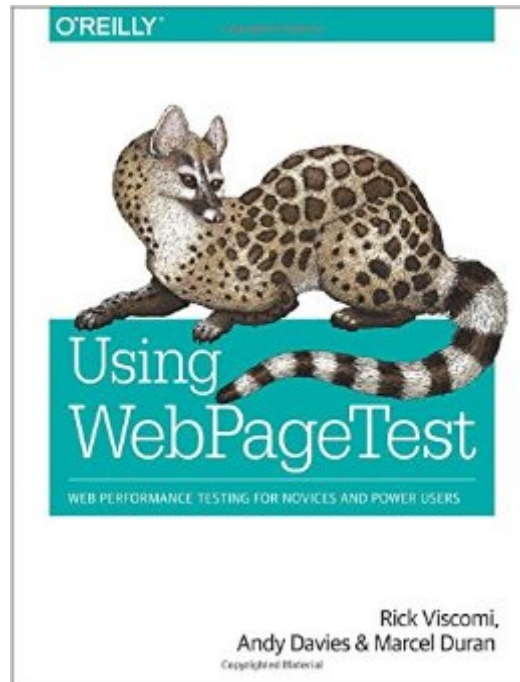# Using WebPageTest: Web Performance Testing For Novices And Power Users

Synopsis

Learn basic and advanced uses of WebPagetest, the performance measurement tool for optimizing websites. This practical guide shows users new to this tool how run tests and interpret results, and helps experienced users gain a better and more thorough understanding of hidden features in WebPagetest that make testing easier.Written by WebPagetest power users and performance experts, this book will help web developers and frontend engineers solve the problem of slow sites. Topics include:Basic test setupâ ”shows beginners how to get meaningful resultsAdvanced test setupâ ”provides another level of technical depth by explaining features not thoroughly documented at webpagetest.orgAnalysis of resultsâ ”helps you understand of how to interpret test resultsPrivate instance setupâ ”teaches power users the intricacies of the webpagetest private instance and how it worksAPI and external toolsâ ”provides a detailed reference for the API and demonstrates tools already using the API to extend WebPagetest

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

WebPageTest is an indispensable tool in every performance engineer's toolkit. If you're an existing user, this book will fill in and explain important gaps. If you're just getting into the performance field, this book will give you a fast head start on the rest of us, who had to learn it through trial and error.The book is split into three high-level sections:Basic Use Cases: offers a walkthrough of the waterfall, connection view, and the metrics that WPT results provide. Think of it as web performance 101: what metrics you should look for and where, how to interpret them, and how to compare tests.

In short, a good intro for someone new to the field, and a quick skim for those familiar with the topic.Intermediate Use Cases: a more accurate description would be "test setup". This is a great section that covers the many decisions you have to make to ensure that you're measuring the right things: picking the browser, location to run the test from, picking the right network profile, scripting multi-visit flows, testing authenticated pages, and more. Too many folks overlook all this, which leads them to focus on optimizing the wrong bottlenecks -- don't make this mistake! This section provides a nice hands-on look for how to use your existing analytics data to set all the parameters.Advanced Use Cases: a hands-on look at driving WPT through API (e.g. monitoring performance changes over time), integrating it with your build infrastructure (e.g. to detect performance regressions at commit time, before they reach production), and setting up your own private instances (e.g. to test pages that can't or shouldn't be reached by public agents). The instructions are simple and easy to follow; you'll be up and running in no time.

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