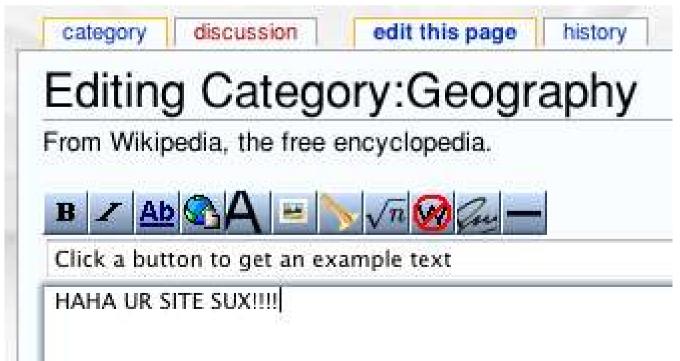


[[Edit This Page]]
Scaling the
Wiki beyond
1 Million

#### What's a Wiki?

- Quick!
- Let wackos edit your site
- With luck, good wackos outnumber bad



### First, there was Nupedia

- Limited contributions
- Slow review process
- ~28 good articles in one year



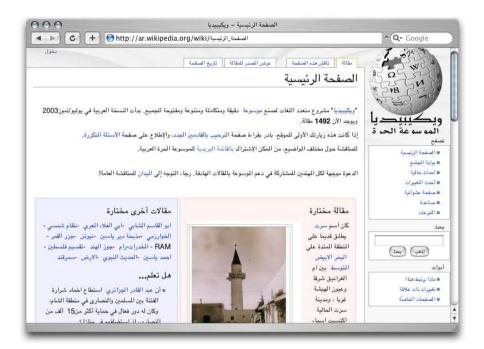
### Enter Wikipedia

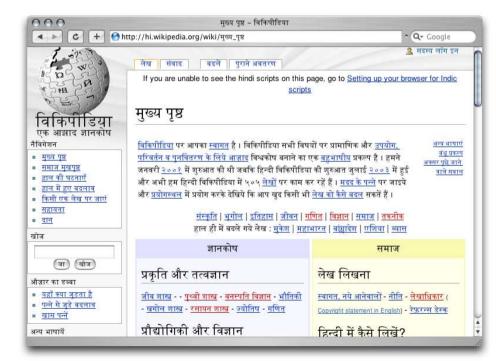
- Low barriers to participation
- Experimentation encouraged
- Exponential growth



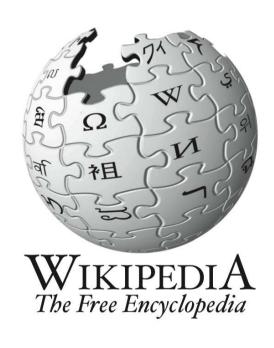








#### Who's Who







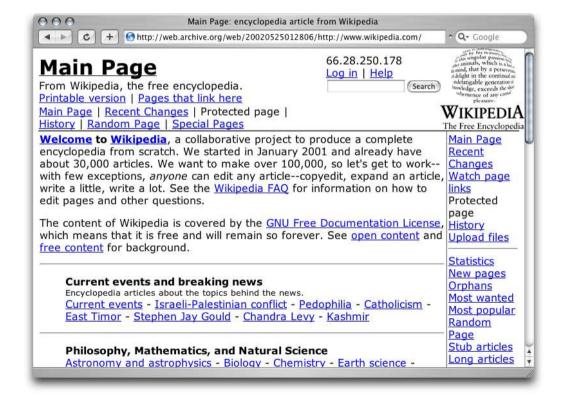
## In the beginning

- UseMod
- Perl-based
- Filesystem storage



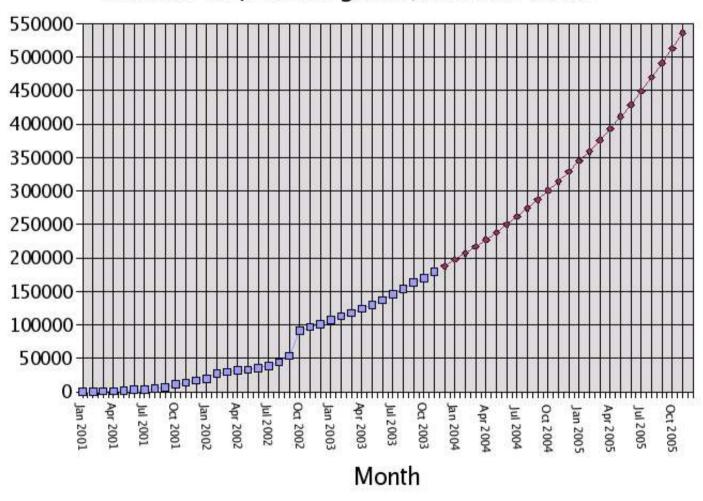
#### New backend

- Custom wiki
- PHP-based
- MySQL storage
- Fulltext search
- Ad-hoc queries

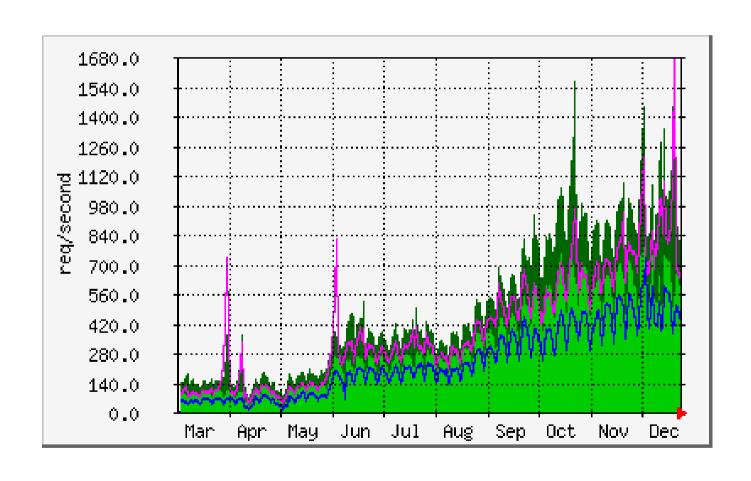


# Exponential growth?

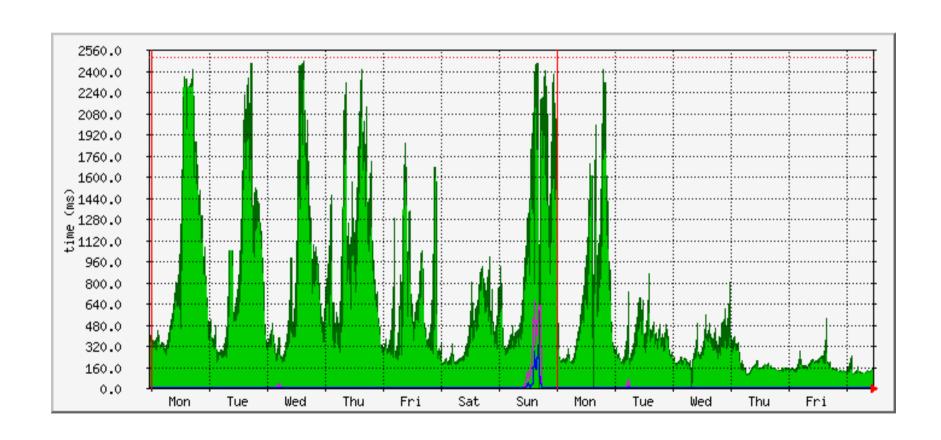
Historical vs. predicted growth, Dec 2003 model



# Exponential growth!?



# High load, High load times.



### Why so difficult?

- Pages may change at any time
- Edits impact other pages
- User options
- User-to-user message notification
- Client must check back
- Output pages per-user

#### Where to go?

- Do less work
- Do more work at once
- Do work faster

#### PHP slowwwww

- Stock PHP recompiles source to bytecode on every invocation
- Up to 83% of runtime spent on compilation
- Turck MMCache rumored to cure cancer, remove overhead.



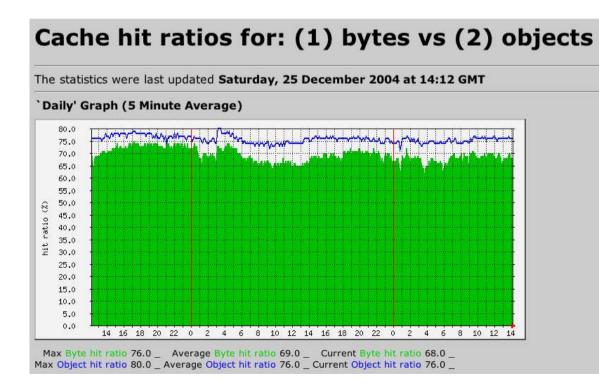


Most hits are from anonymous visitors

Squid serves cached pages faster than

PHP ever could

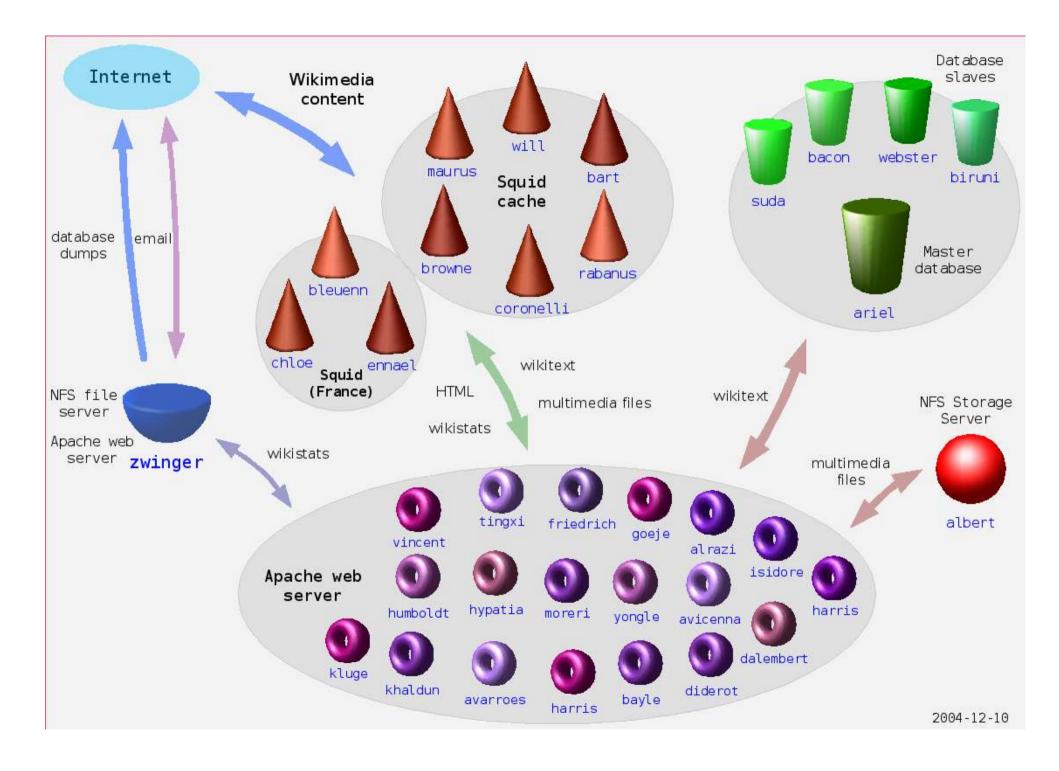
Explicit purge on changes:
Skip the slow PHP code when no change.



#### Do more work at once

- Add more servers!
- Costs \$\$\$
- DB bottleneck





#### Do work faster

- Pruning code
- Database rearrangement
- Alternate hard and soft layers

#### Boring optimization

- Move loop invariants
- Avoid redundant text parsing
- Delay initialization of unneeded code
- Increased speed for many operations by up to 100% from 1.3 to 1.4

#### Database structure

Current revision of page

title+metadata+text

- X Text may be tens or hundreds of KB
- x Data must be moved from table to table on edit
- \* Heavy I/O usage on joins that don't need the text
- Duplication of information causes slow updates

Previous revisions

title+metadata+text

title+metadata+text

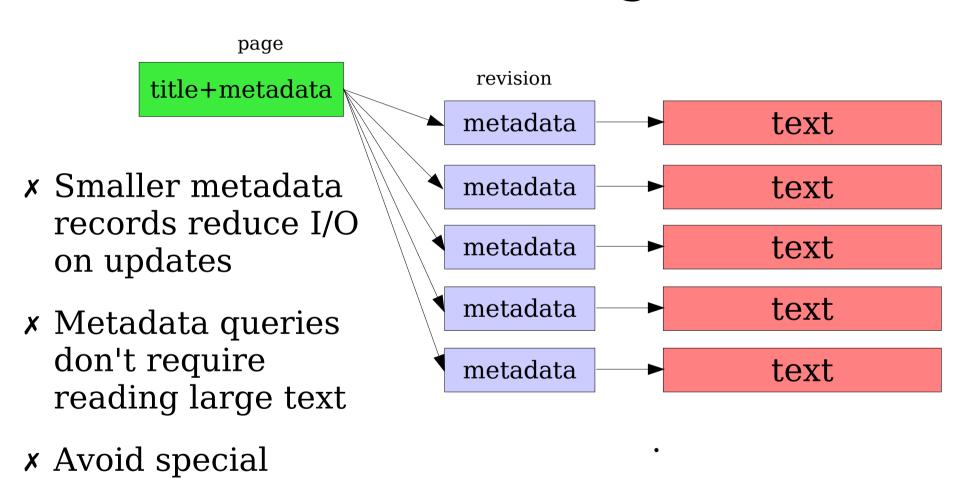
title+metadata+text

title+metadata+text

title+metadata+text

•

#### Refactoring



merging to see all

revisions

### Alternate hard and soft layers

- PHP compatibility
- C/C++/Java extensions
  - Subprocess (shell out)
    - LaTeX
  - PHP extensions
    - diff, Unicode
  - Server process sockets/IPC
    - Lucene search