



Better Monitoring with WebWatchBot Series

Basic monitoring: Databases

Database monitoring is an essential piece to your server monitoring solution. Problems with the database server, the database engine, or database queries can cause misleading errors as slow response times of web pages.

Two approaches to database monitoring can be taken: First, use monitoring during the development phase to ensure that as data is added and the database structure changes no adverse affects are observed. Second, use monitoring of production data to ensure unanticipated problems do not arise occasionally and ensure there do not show a negative trend.

The most effective way to monitor a database is to connect and query.

First, ensure that a connection can be made to the database on a regular basis. The connection should take less than 1 second – at best the connection should have zero latency. If a connection takes over 1 second for an extended period of time, red flags should go up.

Second, monitor for database integrity by running a simple query. Ideally, the query should be a select statement that does not affect the data adversely. Query results should be tested for accuracy by searching for expected text and responses should be within expected times. Queries that take longer than expected may indicated the need for SQL query optimization where as trending slowness may indicate a better database optimization strategy, e.g. indexes, table structure, etc.