Capacity Planning for Web Services: Metrics, Models, and Methods by Virgilio A.F. Almeida

Old Friend Gets Facelift And Becomes More Beautiful

The worlds 1 book on Web capacity planning has now been completely revamped to reflect the latest Web services and e-commerce applications, and the latest techniques and technologies for supporting them. In this book, two of the worlds leading Web capacity planning experts show how to precisely quantify potential and real performance problems, and address them proactively. Daniel A. Menasce and Virgilio A.F. Almeida introduce quantitative performance predictive models for every major Web scenario - especially the latest Web services, e-commerce, and mobile applications. The books extensive coverage of Web services includes protocols and interaction models; unique performance, reliability, and availability challenges; and new capacity planning methodologies. Menasce and Almeida introduce the fundamentals of performance and capacity planning in any client/server environment; specific issues associated with HTTP and TCP/IP protocols; and typical workloads. They demonstrate how to benchmark current performance at both the system and component level; plan future capacity; define service level agreements; accommodate peak usage; and manage tradeoffs between cost and performance.

My Personal Review:
Although the title is new, this book is based on the authors’ 1998 book titled "Web PErformance Metrics, Models and Methods (ISBN 0136938221). This book is more than a minor rewrite - the chapters are in a different sequence, and each has been updated. None of the information that made the older book such a valuable resource was lost in the process. For example, the material on queuing theory and analysis remains, and it among the best written tutorials in print. What has changed includes:(1) Shifting of focus from client/server and web server environments to web services, with an emphasis on performance characteristics of SOAP and UDDI. Client server issues are still covered because these issues are still germane.(2) An emphasis on architecture
and how performance and capacity fit into a larger picture. Network and server performance characteristics are examined in detail. What hasn't changed includes the excellent material on performance and benchmarking basics, detailed analysis techniques, and the support for this book that the authors provide on the book's web site. I especially like the Excel spreadsheets that you can download to use in conjunction with material in nearly every chapter. Overall, this is one more of a series of books on various aspects of performance and capacity management. I also recommend reading their companion book, "Scaling for E-Business: Technologies, Models, Performance, and Capacity Planning" (ISBN 0130863289), which covers the applications level of e-commerce systems and seamlessly complements the material in this book.

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