








About 2 years ago [Stan Schroeder](#) **13**

Facebook: Slow And Unresponsive?

Contrary to a [recent study](#) that showed that Facebook  is among the most reliable social networks, new study conducted by WatchMouse shows abysmal results for Facebook. 104 sites were monitored by WatchMouse, and Facebook was by far the worst performance-wise: it had slow loading times and frequent errors. Check out the [graph](#) (too big to show here) to see how bad it looks.

How does WatchMouse measure performance? Here's the official explanation:

"The WatchMouse Site Performance Index (SPI) quantifies the user perception of speed and availability of a site in a single number. The SPI is computed by adding up the time needed to load the main page, adding a penalty for each failed request. The higher the number, the lower the customer experience of the site. Sites with an SPI of 500 perform well, whereas an index of 1500 or higher is an indication of a seriously negative user experience."

Facebook has an SPI of 6629, and Last.FM (1837), Twitter  (1467), StumbleUpon  (1338) and Friendster  (1153) don't fare too well, either. Some of the best performing sites are Yahoo! 360 (707), Pownce (791) and Flickr  (804).

However, WatchMouse's [results](#) don't go into detail on what's wrong on each of these sites, which makes the study a bit less useful than it should be. For example, we're aware that Twitter has frequent downtime issues, but we haven't heard of Facebook having much trouble with it, which is also concluded in the aforementioned [study](#). On the other hand, Twitter pages are always (pretty much) the same, while Facebook pages can be incredibly slow or quite fast, depending on how many third party applications are installed on the profile. Thus, while Facebook performance may be horrible on average, it will undeniably be very different for each user.

While we're on the subject of Facebook, [Inside Facebook reports three big features](#) Facebook plans to launch in the first quarter of 2008: Friend List Privacy Controls (finally), Facebook in several new languages, including Turkish, and the ability to send messages to groups of more than 1000 members (more spam).

User reviews: [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Friendster](#), [StumbleUpon](#), [Twitter](#)

[Print Story](#)

[Social Media Specialist](#) at Break Media
(Beverly Hills, California)

JOBS Social Media is at the heart of Break Media's growth in 2010.

As a leader in online content geared for guys, we are hunting for a Social Media Specialist to help carry our brand initiatives into the...

[View more jobs »](#)

Required: Please login below to comment..

Comments for this page are closed.

Showing 13 of 13 comments

Sort by [REDACTED] [Subscribe by email](#) [Subscribe by RSS](#)

[tech2view.com](#) 2 years ago

This is what I felt when I log into facebook.
And now a proven fact facebook should hurry up fixing things up or its end is near.

[Flag](#)

Like

[James](#) 2 years ago

It's end is near? Minor performance issues won't end Facebook. There's no serious substitute for that audience at the moment.

[Flag](#)

Like

[mghwom](#) 2 years ago

Wow, this is really surprising to me. I've never had problems with load times or crashed when loading Facebook. In fact, the sites loads faster than most on my iPhone.

Anyone know where MySpace ranked?

[Flag](#)

Like

[Taylor Walsh](#) 2 years ago

I'm sometimes surprised FB is as speedy as it us, with scores of new apps being piled into the site by the day. I see no degradation at all.

[Flag](#)

Like

[robojiannis](#) 2 years ago

MySpace actually ranked very well (SPI of 923).

I agree with James; Facebook is not popular for its speed, its popular for its community.

When I recommended other social networks (in particular kaioo) than Facebook a comment was:

"Im in facebook for my friends, even if i choose to leave, how am i suppose to convince 70 people to leave facebook, in order to be able to communicate with them, somewhere else?"

[Flag](#)

Like

[Dragonl](#) 2 years ago

Load times are directly proportionate to the number of Facebook app's you have installed :)

[Flag](#)

Like

guest 2 years ago

Ever look at the source code for a facebook page? They have about 10 css files and 20 or so javascript files per page. Even at high speeds, that's a lot of http requests just for the base files. They could probably speed things up a bit if they consolidated some of those files.

[Flag](#)

Like

[Aaronontheweb](#) 2 years ago

Speaking as a Facebook Application developer and someone who's been using the site since 2004, I can attest that the performance issues have gotten a lot worse. Whomever is in charge of managing their server clusters is doing a shitty job as my connection resets constantly when I browse the site.

[Flag](#)

Like

[hobnobLover](#) 2 years ago

I completely agree with Aaronontheweb. Same thing happens to me.

Guest, that's not really how it works. It depends on the cache. Moreover, you should never join 20 or so files into one. That would create more problems. If you want to request one function in file # 5, then loading a smaller file would be better than loading that big file. Having very large files messes up the purpose of cache. :)

"Im in facebook for my friends, even if i choose to leave, how am i suppose to convince 70 people to leave facebook, in order to be able to communicate with them, somewhere else?" -robo

But isn't this exactly what people said when they were on MySpace? I've read the exact statement, except it had MySpace instead of facebook.

[Flag](#)

Like

[Angela](#) 1 year ago

I've actually had a few problems with Facebook, they might seem minor but they're pretty annoying.

I'm also stumped at a glitch my friend experienced. She was on a computer and didn't tick the "Remember Me" thing.

After she finished using it, a few minutes later her partner logged in with his account details... he didn't realise it til later on but he was actually posting as her.

[Flag](#)

Like

enehlanmahadhey 1 year ago

for me, whenever i try to log in from facebook, the status bar always get stuck at "waiting for static.ak.facebook.com" and it loads in about 20~30 mins. plus i use also only one application, and that is fighters' club! no other apps installed on it, so it can't be the apps which are making it slow. it must be something that the admins are doing in the facebook... and um....yea'...talking about the Scripts...try disabling yo' JavaScript on yo' browser...it'll load the pages like a super engined rocket! but you can't do anything like any buttons if you disable it..so it means facebook is using a lotta scripts to run!
try seeing yo' error console if you doubt me!

my conclusion : facebook is slow and unresponsive

[Flag](#)

Like

Guest 1 year ago

I disagree with the apps thing, I have no apps installed and it takes 10 minutes to load a friends page.

[Flag](#)

Like

Robert Adrian 5 months ago

My goodness..it takes like forever to open up applications in Facebook..going into Friend's Stock is ridiculous..not too mention going into other areas like "Request" Updates..etc etc..when is FB going to do something about this..

[Flag](#)

Like

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)

[Share Page](#) | [Fan Page](#) | [Stumble It!](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Digg This](#)

[Chat with your friends](#)