

Varnish for Beginners

Shielding Drupal from the internet

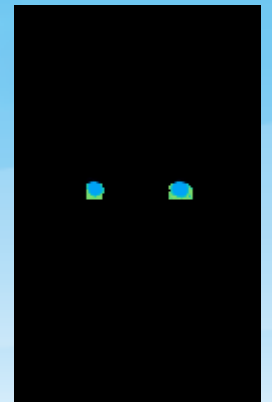
Acquia®

By Adam Malone



What is Varnish

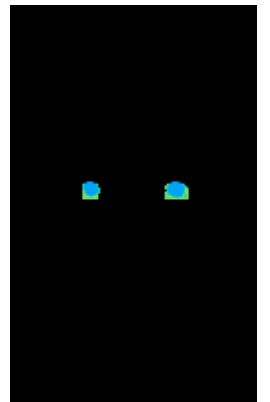
- Reverse proxy HTTP accelerator
- Apache/Nginx
- Memory based



Varnish Installation

(yum|apt-get|brew) install varnish

CentOS installation requires [varnish repo](#)



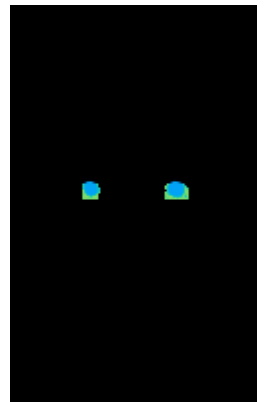
Varnish Configuration

/etc/varnish/default.vcl

```
backend default {  
    .host = "127.0.0.1";  
    .port = "8234";  
}  
  
sub vcl...
```

/etc/sysconfig/varnish

```
DAEMON_OPTS="-a :80 \  
             -u varnish -g varnish \  
             -T localhost:6082 \  
             -f /etc/varnish/adam.vcl \  
             -S /etc/varnish/secret \  
             -s malloc,256M"
```



VCL

sub

vcl_recv

vcl_pipe

vcl_fetch

vcl_deliver

vcl_error

return()

pipe

fetch

restart

deliver

pass

lookup

error

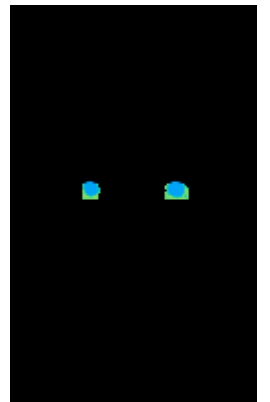
request objs

req

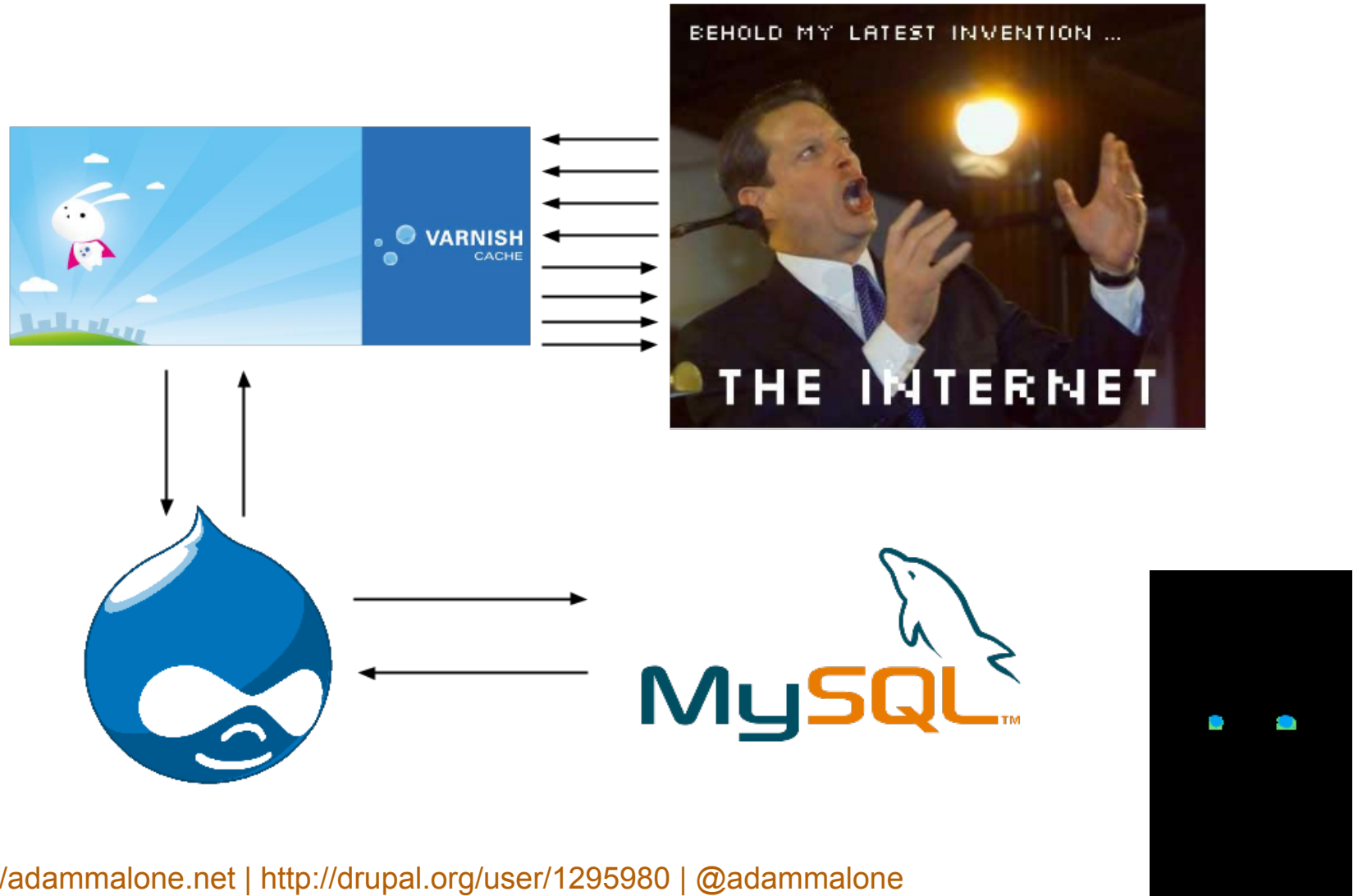
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[VCL docs](#)

[Four Kitchens VCL](#)

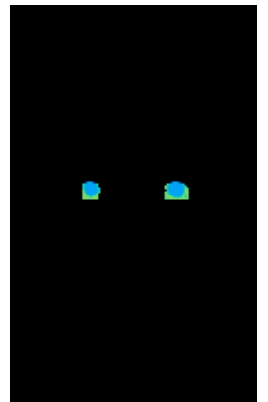


Shielding Drupal from the Internet



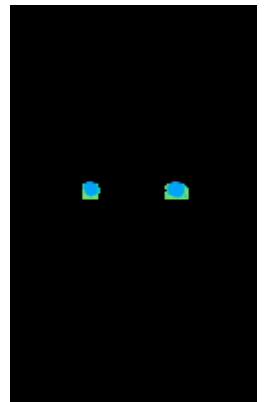
Checking Varnish works

- Inspecting Headers
- Watch the network tab
- Check varnishlog (more later)
- isvarnishworking.com



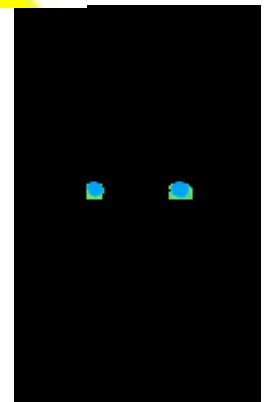
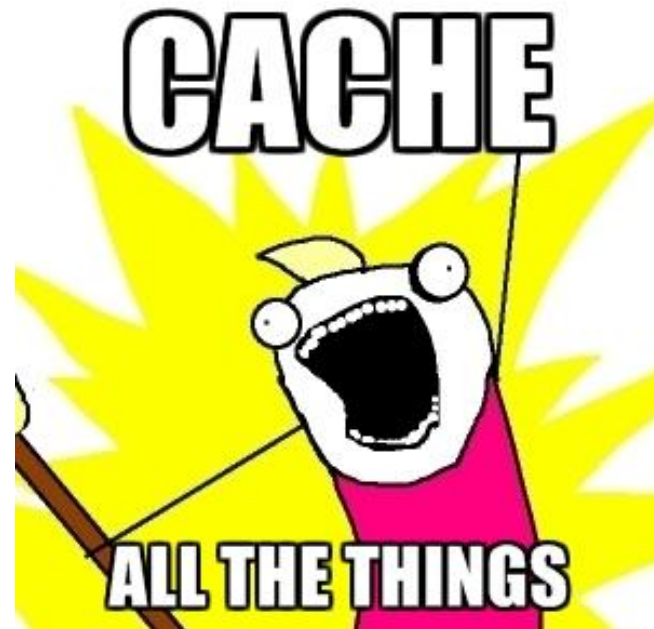
Breaking Varnish

- Setting `$_SESSION`
 - Authenticated users do not benefit
 - Check {sessions} table
- Cookies
- Unique query paths
- `.htaccess`



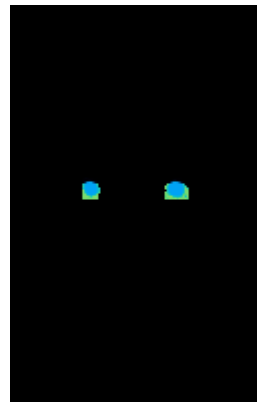
Varnish and Drupal

```
1 <?php
2
3 $conf['reverse_proxy'] = TRUE;
4
5 $conf['reverse_proxy_addresses'] = array(
6   '127.0.0.1', '192.168.1.10'
7 );
8 $conf['page_cache_invoke_hooks'] = FALSE;
9
10
11
```



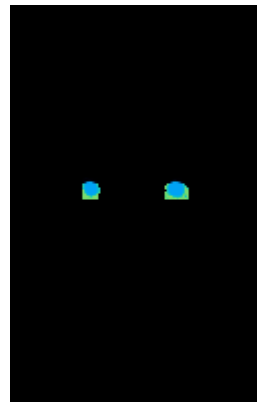
Comparison to other caches

- Drupal cache tables
- Boost
- MongoDB
- Memcache



Varnish Tools

- `varnishstat`
- `varnishlog`
- `varnishncsa`
- `varnishhist`

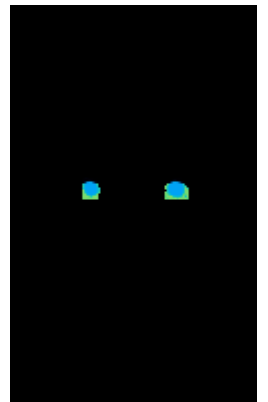


Extending Varnish

- ESI
- Varnish mods (vmods)

Gotchas

- Don't be too greedy when caching
- Don't deliver too promiscuously



Questions

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 <http://adammalone.net>

