

How to tweak IIS to improve your coldfusion sites' performance

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Following on from yesterday's review of [High Performance Web Sites](#), I had a quick go with [YSlow](#), to see where I could optimise this site.

The starting point was a respectable score of C(71) for the home-page. The first rule that didn't score well was number 2: Use a Content Delivery Network. A CDN is over-kill for a blog, so that left me looking at the following rules 3 (Add Expires Header), 4 (Gzip components) and 13 (Configure Etags).

All of these rules would be fixed on IIS, which wasn't covered in enough depth in the book. Some quick googling found the following two articles; [YSlow using IIS?](#) and [IIS 6 GZIP compression](#).

Rule 3 (Add Expires Header)

This is fairly straight-forward - in the IIS Manager, right-click on a file or folder and HTTP Headers >> Enable Content Expiration, and set a value of 30 days. This was done for all images, scripts and css files.

Luckily this site is fairly well structured, so I just had to set this for 2 folders. Ideally though, I would like to be able to set this for all static files on the server. That way I don't need to redo this as sites change. Does anyone know an easy way to do this?

Rule 4 (Gzip components)

This only really applies to css and javascript files. Other static files such as images are already compressed, so gzipping them would only decrease performance.

The following commands at the command prompt got it going, and unlike with the rule 3, I don't need to come back to this.

```
cd %systemdrive%\Inetpub\AdminScripts
cscript.exe adsutil.vbs set W3Svc/Filters/Compression/GZIP/HcFileExtensions "htm" "html" "js" "css" "xml" "xlt"
cscript.exe adsutil.vbs set W3Svc/Filters/Compression/DEFLATE/HcFileExtensions "htm" "html" "js" "css" "xml" "xlt"

cscript.exe adsutil.vbs set W3Svc/Filters/Compression/GZIP/HcScriptFileExtensions "cfm" "cfc"
cscript.exe adsutil.vbs set W3Svc/Filters/Compression/DEFLATE/HcScriptFileExtensions "cfm" "cfc"
IISreset.exe /restart
```

Rule 13 (Configure Etags)

In my situation, it was best just to remove etags. To do this on the server, go to the IIS Manager and right-click on Web Sites >> HTTP Headers >> Add and set the key to "Etag" and leave the value blank. Like rule 4, this is a one-off setting for the whole server.

Result

After these 3 steps, my homepage is now up to an excellent score of B (88), and only 2 points away from an A. Even the busier blog pages still get a very high score of C (79).