

Website Publishing from a Staging Server to Multiple Web Servers

Introduction

More and more companies are hosting their Websites on more than one Web server. They either have multiple websites or are load balancing a Website across multiple servers. This allows them to improve site performance, minimize downtime, and maintain an automatic backup copy of all of their Web-related files. If the benefits of this approach are clear, so are the costs that are associated with it, which can often exceed the company's Web production budget.

Specifically, publishing or mirroring a Web site over N servers is a task that cannot be performed from within the most common HTML editors, such as Macromedia® Dreamweaver, Adobe® GoLive. The Web production team, which typically uses such programs, must turn to another application to handle the task.. *Microsoft® SiteServer* is no longer supported. Other hardware solutions (*e.g. F5 Global Site*) are available to effectively handle Web site mirroring, but they are in most cases expensive to deploy and maintain.

Because of budget and/or human resource constraints, small- and medium-sized companies often end up solving the problem in a manner that is far from ideal. That is, transferring files to each server separately using standard FTP clients. LinkPro's real-time file replication capabilities can provide a cost-effective solution to the problem of efficiently publishing a Web site to multiple servers.

File Replication: Some basics

File Replication, in the context of computer networks, is an automated method for distribution of synchronized data usually to many geographically dispersed networked PCs and servers. LinkPro's File Replication software manages a process whereby a source directory is replicated onto one or more destination directory(s) by adding, deleting, and updating files on the destination until they match those on the source. Only the files with differences are acted upon. This automated process reduces the chance of human error and ensures that the file replication takes place either on schedule or in real-time.

Website Mirroring and Publishing: Some basics

Website mirroring refers to the method of replicating exact copies one Web site (*i.e. Web pages, graphics, related documents etc.*) over multiple servers. The site's content becomes available at any given time from any number of servers, which can be geographically dispersed to reduce the average number of hops between the server and the visitor's PC. Mirrored Websites typically allow for increased page delivery speed and minimize downtime. Traffic to a Web site that is mirrored across multiple Web servers is redirected to the least busy server via a process called *load balancing*. Website Publishing refers the replication of individual web page or file updates to one or more production Web server.

Website Publishing Scenarios

The following scenarios illustrate how IPReplicator® can be used to provide automatic Website publishing across multiple servers.

CASE 1 - The company's Web servers are all located inside one data center, which resides outside of the company's computer network. Members of the Web production team publish new files to the staging server via FTP. The team manager administers IPReplicator to run scheduled or real-time replication of updated Web site files after reviewing them on the staging server.



CASE 2 - The company's Web servers are all located in two geographically dispersed data centers, which however are part of a wide area network as they belong to the same Web hosting provider. The location of the staging server is irrelevant as long as it is part of the WAN. Members of the Web production team publish new files to the staging server via FTP. The team manager administers IPReplicator to run scheduled or real-time replication of updated Website files after reviewing them on the staging server.



Web Site Mirroring and Publishing with IPReplicator

LinkPro's IPReplicator® software can simplify the task of managing Web content across multiple local or geographically distributed servers. Its features provide automatic directory and file replication from a staging server to multiple destination Web servers over LANs and WANs. IPReplicator performs scheduled and real-time automatic data replication running as a service on the staging server. The software is able to distribute data to the remote servers from the staging server using one-to-many file replication for synchronized data distribution. Among its features:

- Easily move web files from one source to multiple destinations for automated application data distribution.
- Provide scheduled or real-time operation
- Automatically distribute and synchronize files over LANs, WANs or the Internet even through firewalls.
- System administrators specify directories to be kept synchronized during data transfer.

IPReplicator® Product Overview

IPReplicator provides flexible and intelligent file replication for Windows NT, 2000 & 2003 servers over LANs, WANs and the Internet, even through firewalls. It can automatically replicate directories and files from a staging server to multiple production servers to publish and mirror websites.

IPReplicator provides secure, reliable, real-time and scheduled, one-to-many and many-to-one, file replication over TCP/IP based LANs, WANs and the Internet. Capabilities

- Concurrent operation - real-time and scheduled
- Scaleable – can support up to hundreds of servers
- Secure – encrypted connections
- Conserves - network bandwidth
- Central administration – setup, monitor and control

About LinkPro

LinkPro Technologies, Inc., based in Irvine, Calif., is a privately held corporation that specializes in data movement and protection software. Its products are sold worldwide through value-added resellers, international distributors, direct sales and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

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