wrk HTTP load tester

CONCEPTS

Load test only systems you own or have written permission to test. wrk can take a server down.

Connections are split across threads (connections / threads each), so -c must be at least -t. Use as many threads as cores, no more.

setup once per thread
↓ start
init per thread, gets args
↓ loop
request / response every call
↓ end
done final summary

How a script hooks into a run

wrk reports requests/sec; for constant-rate load and coordinated-omission-free latency use the wrk2 fork (-R rate).

RUNNING A TEST

wrk -t<n> -c<n> -d<time> <url>
Run a benchmark

-t, --threads *<n>*
Worker threads

-c, --connections *<n>*
Open connections in total

-d, --duration *<time>*
Test length (2s, 2m, 2h)

--latency
Print latency distribution

--timeout *<time>*
Timeout per response

-H, --header "<name: value>"
Add a request header

-s, --script *<file>*
Load a Lua script

-- <arg>...
Pass args to init(args)

RUNNING A TEST (cont.)

-v, --version
Show version

Raise open-file and ephemeral-port limits (ulimit -n) on the client, and keep the server's listen backlog above -c.

READING OUTPUT

Output lines

Line	Meaning
Latency	Per-request time: avg, stdev, max
Req/Sec	Per-thread rate, not total
Requests/sec	Total throughput
Transfer/sec	Bytes read per second
Socket errors	connect/read/write/ timeout counts
Non-2xx or 3xx	Responses with error status

Check for socket errors and non-2xx counts first: fast errors inflate requests/sec.

With --latency read the 99% line, not the average.

LUA SCRIPTING

wrk.method = "POST"
Set the HTTP method

wrk.body = '<data>'
Set the request body

wrk.headers["<name>"] = "<value>"
Set a header

wrk.path / wrk.host / wrk.port
Target parts (read)

function request()
Return the next request

wrk.format(method, path, headers, body)
Build a request string

function response(status, headers, body)
Inspect each response

LUA SCRIPTING (cont.)

function init(args)
Per-thread setup

function setup(thread)
Run once per thread

function done(summary, latency, requests)
Custom final report

function delay()
Return ms to wait

latency:percentile(99.0)
Latency percentile in done()

summary.errors.timeout
Error counters in done()

thread:set("<k>", v) / thread:get("<k>")
Share data with threads

Static changes (method, path, headers, body) cost nothing. Building a request per call or using response() lowers the load wrk can generate.

RECIPES

Basic latency run

```
wrk -t4 -c100 -d30s --latency
http://localhost:8080/
```

POST JSON (post.lua)

```
wrk.method = "POST"
wrk.body   = '{"name":"x"}'
wrk.headers["Content-Type"] =
"application/json"

# wrk -t2 -c20 -d10s -s post.lua
http://localhost:8080/items
```

Vary the path per request

```
counter = 0
request = function()
  counter = counter + 1
  return wrk.format("GET", "/
item/" .. counter)
end
```

Print status errors

```
response = function(status,
headers, body)
  if status ~= 200 then
print(status) end
end
```