1 Introduction

Memcached is defined in Wikipedia as follows, Memcached is a general-purpose distributed memory caching system that was originally developed by "Danga Interactive" for LiveJournal, but is now used by many other sites, for example in Moodle 2.2 onwards these is implemented. We can also explains these memcached as follows, Memcached is a high-performance, distributed memory, object caching system, generic in nature, but originally intended for use in speeding up dynamic web applications by alleviating database load.

These memcache API's provide a hash table which used to distribute the across multiple machines. Memcached is an in-memory key-value store for small chunks of arbitrary data (strings, objects) from results of database calls, API calls, or page rendering. When the table is full, subsequent inserts cause older data to be purged in least recently used (LRU) order.

In order to avoid costly repeated database quires, we are using cache. These cache concept is implemented in Moodle 2.4 which is Moodle universal cache.
2 Types of cache in moodle

1. Request cache - The request cache is available for the duration of every page request. It is not shared between users and is used and cleared on every Moodle request.

2. Session cache - The session cache is available through a users session in Moodle. It is not shared between users, but persists for a single user throughout their session (i.e. from when they logon til when they log off)

3. Application cache - The application cache is a shared cache which is available for every request. It can be shared between users and the cached data can be kept indefinitely if required.

Earlier versions of moodle.2.2, users had to purge the browser caches manually.

3 Memcached Installation in ubuntu

Steps for installing memcache in Ubuntu as follows

1. sudo apt-get install memcached
2. sudo apt-get install php-pear
3. sudo apt-get install php5-dev
4. sudo apt-get install libmemcached-dev
5. sudo pecl install Memcache
6. sudo /etc/init.d/apache restart

These memcache is supports moodle 2.2 onwards.

4 References