

CLAIMS

1. A computer-implemented method, operable with a content delivery network (CDN), the method comprising, by a node in the CDN:

(A) in response to a request for content, determining if the content is cached locally;

(B) when it is determined that said content is cached locally, then:

(B)(1) determining a current cache policy associated with the content; and

then

(B)(2) determining, based on said current cache policy associated with the content, whether it is acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally;

(B)(3) based on said determining in (B)(2),

(i) when it is not acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally, obtaining a new version of the content and then serving the new version of the content, and

(ii) when it is acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally, serving the content that is cached locally.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

(C) when it is determined that said content is not cached locally, then (C)(1) obtaining the content and then (C)(2) serving the content obtained in (C)(1).

3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the request comprises an HTTP request and wherein the content comprises one or more resources.

4. The method of any preceding claim wherein the current cache policy is determined from a location distinct from the node.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the location is a database.

6. The method of any preceding claim wherein the cache policy relates to caching content within the CDN.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the cache policy also relates to caching content outside the CDN.

8. The method of any preceding claim wherein version identifiers are associated with caching policies, and wherein said determining said current cache policy in (B)(1) comprises: (i) comparing a first version identifier associated with the current cache policy with a second version identifier associated with a cache policy associated with the content at the node in the CDN; and (ii) using the cache policy associated with the content at the node as the current cache policy when the first version identifier is identical to the second version identifier, otherwise obtaining the current cache policy from a location distinct from the node.

9. A computer program product having computer readable instructions stored on non-transitory computer readable media, the computer readable instructions including instructions for implementing a computer-implemented method, said method operable on a device comprising hardware including memory and at least one processor and running a service on said hardware, said method operable in a content delivery service (CDN), said method comprising:

(A) in response to a request for content, determining if the content is cached locally;

(B) when it is determined that said content is cached locally, then:

- (B)(1) determining a current cache policy associated with the content; and then
- (B)(2) determining, based on said current cache policy associated with the content, whether it is acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally;
- (B)(3) based on said determining in (B)(2),
 - (i) when it is not acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally, obtaining a new version of the content and then serving the new version of the content, and
 - (ii) when it is acceptable to serve the content that is cached locally, serving the content that is cached locally.

10. The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the method further comprises:

- (C) when it is determined that said content is not cached locally, then (C)(1) obtaining the content and then (C)(2) serving the content obtained in (C)(1).

11. The computer program product of claim 9 or 10 wherein the request comprises an HTTP request and wherein the content comprises one or more resources.

12. The computer program product of any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the current cache policy is determined from a location distinct from the node.

13. The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the location is a database.

14. The computer program product of any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the cache policy relates to caching content within the CDN.

15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein the cache policy also relates to caching content outside the CDN.

16. The computer program product of any one of claims 9 to 15 wherein version identifiers are associated with caching policies, and wherein said determining said current cache policy in (B)(1) comprises: (i) comparing a first version identifier associated with the current cache policy with a second version identifier associated with a cache policy associated with the content at the node in the CDN; and (ii) using the cache policy associated with the content at the node as the current cache policy when the first version identifier is identical to the second version identifier, otherwise obtaining the current cache policy from a location distinct from the node.