

# Advance7 bulletin 21

# ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE

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## ANALYSING SECURE WEB APPLICATIONS

Perhaps the most challenging project we undertake is the performance analysis of a secure web application. The SSL encrypted traffic is extremely secure and therefore almost impossible to decipher.

As a spin-off of a website stress analysis project, we have developed a method of intercepting the HTTP stream prior to SSL encryption, which we then use to translate encrypted trace data into clear text. A key advantage of database tuning is that it's transparent to the application, so no code changes are needed. What's needed is an understanding of the overall workload to ensure improvements in one area don't have an adverse impact elsewhere.

This allows us to deliver analysis results more quickly and include a much greater level of detail.

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## PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS WHITEPAPER

In the fifth paper of our Executive Whitepaper Series, Paul Offord explains how advance7 analyses complex business systems and why it's unlikely that an off-the-shelf tool will become available any time soon.

[Click here](#) to request this whitepaper.

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## FACES

**Don Smith** - Originally from Oklahoma, Don has 20+ years of IT experience in the US and here in Europe. Aside from his many years of networking engineering and consultancy work, he has provided expert technical support to equipment manufacturers such as Riverstone.

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## RECENT PROJECTS

### Financial Services

Managed the migration of ten international sites to a VPN based

### Utility

Determined cause of intermittent performance problems with an

Wide Area Network.

ASP provided logistics system based on secure web browser technology.

### **Voice System Manufacturer**

### **Leisure**

Developed policies and procedures to secure our customer flagship messaging and conferencing system.

Assisted IT staff and suppliers to tune the performance of our customer's high profile eCommerce web site based on iPlanet, ColdFusion and Oracle technology.

### **Housing Association**

### **Leisure**

Audited the ruleset of our customer's CheckPoint firewall and recommended changes to improve security and performance.

Upgraded our customer's website to increase the capacity to 3 million users, which included building and installing 24 new IIS servers and a new SQL server.

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