Caching servers

Introduction

Many members of the construction supply chain have problems delivering their knowledge base across multiple offices or locations. Workspace provides a centralised corporate knowledge management system. However the standard product relies on all documents being stored and accessed from a central point. Caching Server is an additional module that provides a facility to allow remote locations to store and access documents locally, ensuring they have fast local access to them and are not having to download everything from a remote, central server.

Main features

- All remote sites have their own Cache Server to store Workspace documents locally.
- When a user publishes a document the record of its existence is made in the central SQL server database but the file is stored on the local Cache server.
- At some point, either real-time or scheduled over-night, new files stored on all local Cache servers are collected by the central server for backup purposes.
- It is possible to override the instance of a document not existing centrally by forcing it to be pulled on demand from the cache server, overriding the scheduled task.
- If a local user requests a file that was created locally at any point in the future it will be served directly from their local server across the LAN.
- If the user requests a file that is not currently at their location the system will download the file from the main server or from another cache server on demand.
- From this point any other requests for the same file from that location will be served from the local server, again reducing WAN traffic.
- Document versions are always checked; if a document requested is available from the local cache but has been superseded centrally the new version will be downloaded to the remote Cache server and the document served from there.

Who uses it?

The Workspace Caching Server is normally implemented in all multi site configurations. Several benefits accrue from its use mainly relating to the performance of document retrieval across the organisation and a significant reduction in the WAN traffic required to support business-wide document management. The main focus is to ensure that users are not always dependant on the performance of their Internet connection to potentially access any document created in the business.