



The Hindu  
supercharges  
and automates  
cache purging  
with Varnish

Case Study:

The Hindu

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# Varnish Enterprise enables time savings and cache invalidation efficiency

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## Background

The Hindu is an Indian English-language daily newspaper owned by The Hindu Group. It began as a weekly in 1878 and became a daily in 1889. It is one of the Indian newspapers of record and the second most circulated English-language newspaper in India.

As a news media company, content caching is a critical part of delivering content to readers.

Varnish has been The Hindu's go-to caching solution and cache policy engine almost since Varnish's inception. The Hindu subscribed to the enterprise version of Varnish early on, switched to the community version of Varnish Cache, but then realized that Varnish Enterprise would solve a key challenge with their cache invalidation strategy and making cache purging considerably easier with key Varnish Enterprise features.

## The challenge

The Hindu, as Varnish Cache users for a number of years, were familiar with the flexibility of the solution and its Varnish Configuration Language (VCL). Caching is central to making sure fresh content would be delivered to readers in near real time and that their site would constantly be available.

However, cache invalidation started to become a more complex problem than they could manage with open-source Varnish Cache and the Varnish Cache VMOD, Xkey, which could not support the invalidation strategies The Hindu wanted to implement.

## The Hindu at a glance

### Organization

- The Hindu is an Indian English-language daily newspaper owned by The Hindu Group and is one of the Indian newspapers of record and the second most circulated English-language newspaper in India.

### Challenge

- Switched from Varnish Cache to Varnish Enterprise to take advantage of more granular, automated cache invalidation

### Varnish Enterprise

- Ykey cache invalidation/purging VMOD
- Varnish Controller for managing VCL and automating invalidationEngine; Hitch/TLS/SSL



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# The solution

## High-performance caching and cache invalidation

Encountering issues with their purging logic, The Hindu turned to Varnish to run a proof of concept with the Varnish Ykey VMOD to boost their cache invalidation and purging efficiency and flexibility and to introduce automation to their cache invalidation.

## Automated high-frequency cache invalidation with Varnish Controller

Even before the PoC was concluded, The Hindu moved their traffic to production to take advantage of Ykey purging benefits. They now use the Varnish Controller purging API to increase the efficiency of their cache purges. Automating their frequent cache invalidations makes Varnish Controller indispensable to The Hindu's caching strategy and overarching content delivery.

# Results

## Greater efficiency and automated cache invalidation

The Hindu makes frequent changes to their VCL. Before achieving greater efficiency with Ykey and Varnish Controller, each of these changes had to be made manually by logging in to each Varnish server individually, making the required changes and restarting.

Automation of high-frequency cache invalidation relieves The Hindu's engineering team from having to manually perform cache invalidation tasks, saving time and cost and enabling focus on other more valuable projects.

The Varnish Controller has helped automate this repetitive process and significantly reduced the time required for managing changes across both production and non-production environments.

## The Hindu and Varnish: Paving the path to the future

The Hindu will continue to use Varnish Controller as its go-to for flexibly deploying their VCL and cache invalidation logic.





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