Marc Laporte wrote:

Norm Daoust (http://www.normandaoust.ca) brought this to my attention:

Thirteen Simple Rules for Speeding Up Your Web Site

And the video:

The gist of it is that some low-tech easy stuff can be done to improve user experience. For example, moving the javascript to the bottom of the page. Here is an excerpt of rule #6:

"6: Put Scripts at the Bottom
Rule 5 described how stylesheets near the bottom of the page prohibit progressive rendering, and how moving them to the document HEAD eliminates the problem. Scripts (external JavaScript files) pose a similar problem, but the solution is just the opposite: it's better to move scripts from the top to as low in the page as possible. One reason is to enable progressive rendering, but another is to achieve greater download parallelization. With stylesheets, progressive rendering is blocked until all stylesheets have been downloaded. That's why it's best to move stylesheets to the document HEAD, so they get downloaded first and rendering isn't blocked. With scripts, progressive rendering is blocked for all content below the script. Moving scripts as low in the page as possible means there's more content above the script that is rendered sooner."

Another quote:
"It turns out that most of web page performance is affected by front-end engineering, that is, the user interface design and development."

So I tested the yslow plugin for Firebug (itself a plugin for Firefox).
http://developer.yahoo.com/yslow/
The results are below. There is some low-hanging fruit to be picked. 😊

http://tiki.org/tiki-index.php?page=home (1.10)
B 1. Make fewer HTTP requests
F 2. Use a CDN
F 3. Add an Expires header
F 4. Gzip components
A 5. Put CSS at the top
C 6. Move scripts to the bottom
A 7. Avoid CSS expressions
n/a 8. Make JS and CSS external
A 9. Reduce DNS lookups
B 10. Minify JS
A 11. Avoid redirects
A 12. Remove duplicate scripts
F 13. Configure ETags

http://doc.tiki.org/tiki-index.php (1.9 with custom theme)
F 1. Make fewer HTTP requests
F 2. Use a CDN
F 3. Add an Expires header
F 4. Gzip components
A 5. Put CSS at the top
B 6. Move scripts to the bottom
A 7. Avoid CSS expressions
n/a 8. Make JS and CSS external
A 9. Reduce DNS lookups
B 10. Minify JS
A 11. Avoid redirects
A 12. Remove duplicate scripts
F 13. Configure ETags

http://themes.tiki.org/tiki-index.php (1.9 with tikineat.css theme)
B 1. Make fewer HTTP requests
F 2. Use a CDN
F 3. Add an Expires header
F 4. Gzip components
A 5. Put CSS at the top
C 6. Move scripts to the bottom
A 7. Avoid CSS expressions
n/a 8. Make JS and CSS external
A 9. Reduce DNS lookups
B 10. Minify JS
A 11. Avoid redirects
A 12. Remove duplicate scripts
F 13. Configure ETags
Franck Martin, who lives in the Fiji Islands (where Internet access is much slower/expensive than in Europe or North America) was reporting some performance issues.

According to my tests on themes.tiki.org, the css & js files are not gzipped.

- **HTTP headers** (1.9K)

  http://themes.tiki.org/lib/phplayers/layerstreemenu.css

- **HTTP headers** (3.8K)

  http://themes.tiki.org/styles/transitions/1.8to1.9.css

  - **HTTP headers** (40.1K) http://themes.tiki.org/styles/tikineat.css
  - **HTTP headers** (31.3K) http://themes.tiki.org/lib/tiki-js.js
  - **HTTP headers** (5.9K)

  http://themes.tiki.org/lib/phplayers/libjs/layersmenu-library.js

  - **HTTP headers** (7.0K)

  http://themes.tiki.org/lib/phplayers/libjs/layersmenu.js

  - **HTTP headers** (1.4K)

  http://themes.tiki.org/lib/phplayers/libjs/layerstreemenu-cookies.js

  - **HTTP headers** (49.2K) http://themes.tiki.org/lib/overlib.js