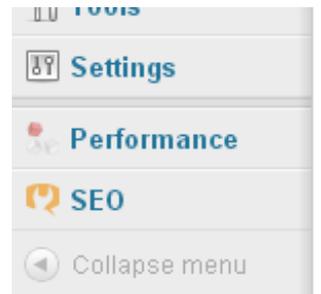


Setting Up Guide for W3 Total Cache

Here comes an Ultimate Guide to **W3 Total Cache** WordPress Plugin. Yet a top plugin which let's you make your site load faster in just a few minutes. This plugin provides all in one user experience to make your site a lot faster. Today, we are going to show you the basic settings of W3 Total Cache. How to use it, discussing on the most common factors of this plugin and a lot more.

Read: [Get 95+ Score on Google Page Speed Insights \(WordPress Only\)](#)

So before we start just install and activate **W3 Total Cache** for better understanding. If you've just installed this plugin, from now you can see that your blog has a new tab called **Performance** below settings tab. Alright!



W3 Total Cache Settings

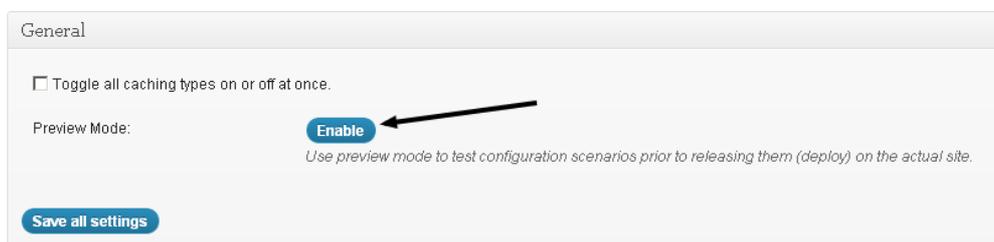
Now, on clicking the performance tab you will be able to access the **General Settings Page** of this plugin. Where you can see these of the following things:

Basic Assumptions

1. General
2. Page Cache
3. Minify
4. Database Cache
5. Object Cache
6. Browser Cache
7. CDN

1. General

Remember before you make any change first enable the **Toggle** all caching types to prevent the mixing settings.



2. Page Cache

Before we began to enable **Page Cache** through general settings page, we must take a look in-depth to the page caching options by going to **Performance > Page Cache**.

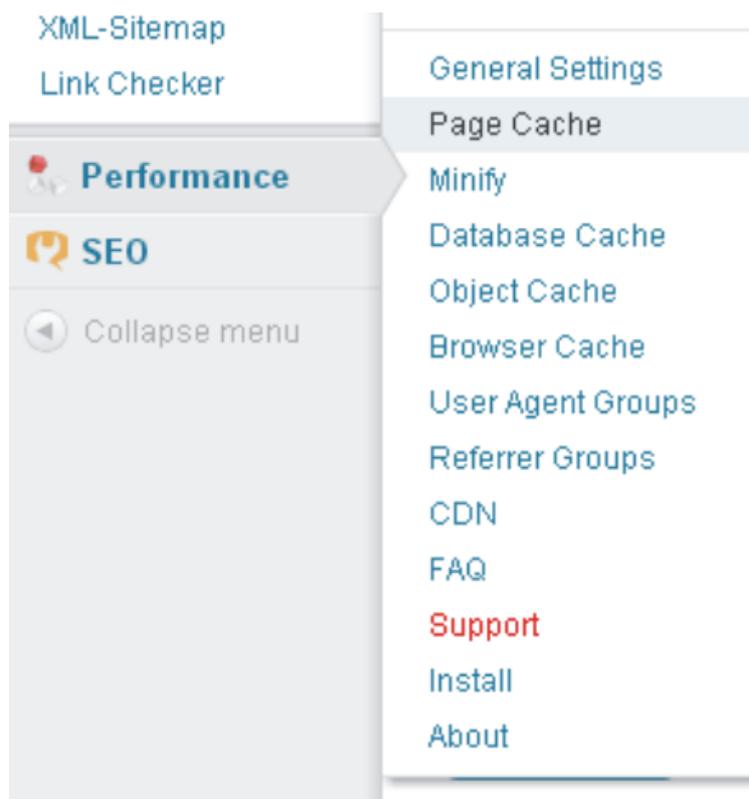
Now, here in **Page Cache Settings**, the following four (4) options needed to be correct:

- General
- Advanced
- Cache Preload
- Purge Policy

General

Actually the **Page Cache** indicates that whether a page should be cached or not. The only mean is that whenever we install anything like plugins, themes, etc, **W3 Total Cache** automatically seeks to make empty all the cache. In this way these of the following things will be cached out. We can see the check boxes on each of the following:

- Cache home page (Checked)
- Cache feeds: site, categories, tags, comments (Unchecked)
- Cache SSL (https) requests (Checked)
- Cache URIs with query string variables (Checked)
- Cache 404 (not found) pages (Checked)
- Cache requests only for www.yourdomain.com hostname (Checked)
- Don't cache pages for logged in users (Checked)



General

- Cache home page
For many blogs this is your most visited page, it is recommended that you cache it.
- Cache feeds: site, categories, tags, comments
Even if using a feed proxy service (like [FeedBurner](#)), enabling this option is still recommended.
- Cache SSL (https) requests
Cache SSL requests (uniquely) for improved performance.
- Cache URIs with query string variables
Search result (and similar) pages will be cached if enabled.
- Cache 404 (not found) pages
Reduce server load by caching 404 pages. If the disk enhanced method of disk caching is used, 404 pages will be returned with a 200 response code. Use at your own risk.
- Cache requests only for www.softsribe.com hostname
Cache only requests with the same URL as the site's [site address](#).
- Don't cache pages for logged in users
Users that have signed in to WordPress (e.g. administrators) will never view cached pages if enabled.

[Save all settings](#)

Advanced

Here's nothing that we change, so I guess don't touch this section. Leave this section on its own.

Cache Preload

Alright!

- Automatically prime the page cache (Checked)
- Update interval (900 seconds)
- Pages per interval (less is more 7 to 10 would be better not more than 10)
- Sitemap URL (<http://www.yourwebsite.com/sitemap.xml>)

Cache Preload

Automatically prime the page cache

Update interval: seconds
The number of seconds to wait before creating another set of cached pages.

Pages per interval:
Limit the number of pages to create per batch. Fewer pages may be better for under-powered servers.

Sitemap URL:
A [compliant](#) sitemap can be used to specify the pages to maintain in the primed cache. Pages will be cached according to the priorities specified in the [XML](#) file. [Google XML Sitemaps](#) is recommended for use with this feature.

[Save all settings](#)

Purge Policy

There is no need to touch this section. These of the following things should be checked.

- homepage
- post page
- blog feed
- rss2 (default)

Purge Policy

Specify the pages and feeds to purge when posts are created, edited, or comments posted. The defaults are recommended because additional options may reduce server performance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home page	<input type="checkbox"/> Post comments pages	<input type="checkbox"/> Post comments feed	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily archive pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post page	<input type="checkbox"/> Post author pages	<input type="checkbox"/> Post author feed	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly archive pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blog feed	<input type="checkbox"/> Post terms pages	<input type="checkbox"/> Post terms feeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Yearly archive pages

Specify the feed types to purge:

rdf
 rss
 rss2 (default)
 atom

[Save all settings](#)

Finally, go through the general settings page and Enable the **Page Cache** safely.

Page Cache

Enable page caching to decrease the response time of your site.

Page Cache: **Enable**
Caching pages will reduce the response time of your site and increase the scale of your web server.

Page Cache Method:

[Save all settings](#) [Empty cache](#)

3. Minify

Most of people use [wp-minify WordPress plugin](#) to minify such files i.e, CSS, JS files. Although they already have the options to minify these files in their w3 total cache plugin but they don't use it anymore. Because they really don't know how it works. Here we'll take a look on how to set up minification using w3 total cache plugin on your site.

Minify

Reduce load time by decreasing the size and number of CSS and JS files. Automatically remove unnecessary data from CSS, JS, feed, page and post HTML.

Minify: **Enable**
Minification can decrease file size of HTML, CSS, JS and feeds respectively by ~10% on average.

Minify mode: Auto **Manual**
Select manual mode to use fields on the minify settings tab to specify files to be minified, otherwise files will be minified automatically, but will not use the CDN.

Minify Cache Method:

HTML minifier:

JS minifier:

CSS minifier:

[Save all settings](#) [Empty cache](#)

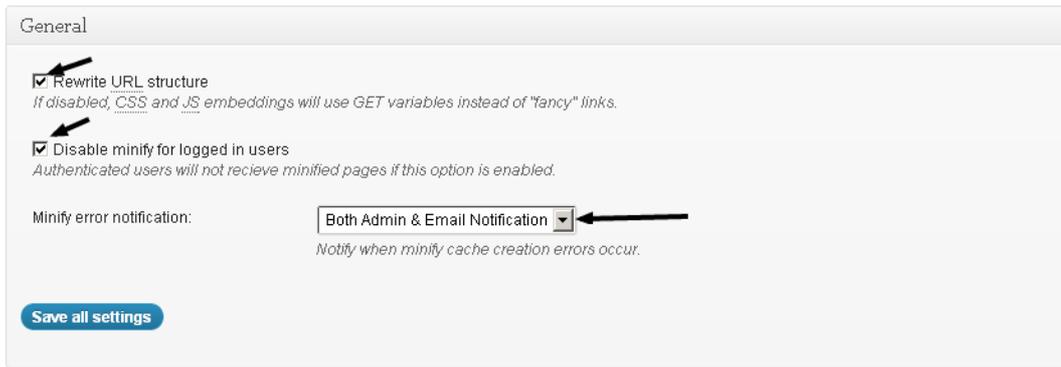
Now, here in **Minify Settings Tab**, the following five (5) options needed to be correct:

- General
- HTML and XML
- JS
- CSS
- Advanced

General

Well, you just need to check box on following:

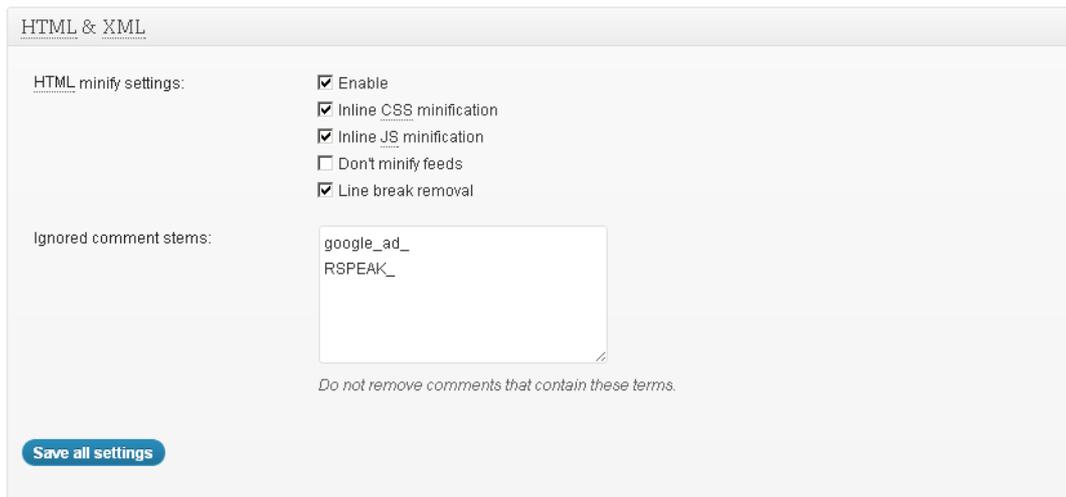
- Rewrite URL structure (Must be checked)
- Disable minify for logged in users (Must be checked)
- Minify error notification (For both Admin and Email notification)



HTML and XML

Enable HTML minify settings:

- Enable (Checked)
- Inline CSS minification (Checked)
- Inline JS minification (Checked)
- Don't minify feeds (Unchecked)
- Line break removal (Checked)



Move on to JS Section

Enable JS minify settings:

- Enable (Checked)
- Combine only after <head> (Unchecked)
- Combine only after <body> (Unchecked)
- Combine only before </body> (Unchecked)
- Preserved comment removal (not applied when combine only is active) (Checked)
- Line break removal (not safe, not applied when combine only is active) (Checked)

JS

JS minify settings:

- Enable
- Combine only after <head>
- Combine only after <body>
- Combine only before </body>
- Preserved comment removal (not applied when combine only is active)
- Line break removal (not safe, not applied when combine only is active)

JS file management:

Theme: **Simple Catch (active)**

Files are minified by template. First select the theme to manage, then add scripts used in all templates to the "All Templates" group. Use the menu to manage scripts unique to a specific template. If necessary drag & drop to resolve dependency issues (due to incorrect order).

File URI:	Template:	Embed Location:
1. <input type="text" value="wp-includes/js/jquery/jquery.js"/>	All Templates	Embed before </body>

Move on to CSS Section

Enable CSS minify Settings:

- Enable (Checked)
- Combine only (Unchecked)
- Preserved comment removal (not applied when combine only is active) (Checked)
- Line break removal (not applied when combine only is active) (Checked)

CSS

CSS minify settings:

- Enable
- Combine only
- Preserved comment removal (not applied when combine only is active)
- Line break removal (not applied when combine only is active)

@import handling: **Process**

CSS file management:

Theme: **Simple Catch (active)**

Files are minified by template. First select the theme to manage, then add style sheets used in all templates to the "All Templates" group. Use the menu above to manage style sheets unique to a specific template. If necessary drag & drop to resolve dependency issues (due to incorrect order).

File URI:	Template:		
1. <input type="text" value="wp-content/themes/simple-catch/style.css"/>	All Templates	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Verify URI"/>

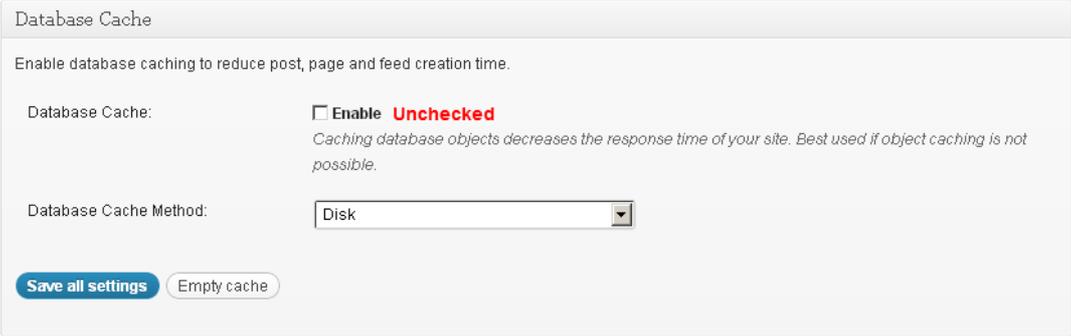
Advanced

Now, we just have to specify the time period in which the external JS as well as CSS files should be cached out, (21600 seconds for both) would be better to choose. Because the less you select the time the more benefit will your blog have.

- Update external files every (21600 seconds)
- Garbage collection interval (21600 seconds)

4. Database Cache

We don't need to make any change in the **Database Cache** just disable it through **General Settings Page** (Unchecked).



Database Cache

Enable database caching to reduce post, page and feed creation time.

Database Cache: **Enable Unchecked**
Caching database objects decreases the response time of your site. Best used if object caching is not possible.

Database Cache Method:

[Save all settings](#) [Empty cache](#)

5. Object Cache

We don't need to touch this section **Object Cache** just disable it through **General Settings Page** (Unchecked).

6. Browser Cache

Basically, the browser cache helps your blog to load quickly by reducing the Yslow grade and rewriting the rules in your .htaccess file. This provides the information to the browser when the browser should cache such files (CSS, JS, HTML, XML, Media and others files) by specifying the time period for them.

Now, here in **Browser Cache Tab**, the following five (4) options needed to be correct:

- General
- CSS & JS
- HTML & XML
- Media and other files

General

Specify global browser cache policy by enabling those which are useful and also exclude those which are useless.

- (Checked)

CSS & JS

Now, we have to specify the time to cache for CSS and JS files. **604800 Seconds** will be better as this mean 168 hours according to apache configurations.

CSS & JS

Specify browser cache policy for Cascading Style Sheets and JavaScript files.

Set expires header
Set the expires header to encourage browser caching of files.

Expires header lifetime: seconds

Set cache control header
Set pragma and cache-control headers to encourage browser caching of files.

Cache Control policy:

Set entity tag (eTag)
Set the Etag header to encourage browser caching of files.

Set W3 Total Cache header
Set this header to assist in identifying optimized files.

Enable HTTP (gzip) compression
Reduce the download time for text-based files.

Prevent caching of objects after settings change
Whenever settings are changed, a new query string will be generated and appended to objects allowing the new policy to be applied.

[Save all settings](#)

HTML & XML

This section **HTML & XML** in browser cache refers to specify the cache policies for posts, pages, feeds and text-based files. So, specify the time be carefully or take a look on my own settings below:

HTML & XML

Specify browser cache policy for posts, pages, feeds and text-based files.

Set expires header
Set the expires header to encourage browser caching of files.

Expires header lifetime: seconds

Set cache control header
Set pragma and cache-control headers to encourage browser caching of files.

Cache Control policy:

Set entity tag (eTag)
Set the Etag header to encourage browser caching of files.

Set W3 Total Cache header
Set this header to assist in identifying optimized files.

Enable HTTP (gzip) compression
Reduce the download time for text-based files.

[Save all settings](#)

Media and other files

- Set expires header (Checked)
- Expires header lifetime (31536000) seconds
- (Checked)
- (Checked)

7. Content Delivery Network (CDN)

Enable the CDN from General Settings Page. Now, login to your Cpanel to make separate sub-domain for your

CDN. I guess make a sub-domain with (cdn.yourdomain.com). If you've done creating the sub-domain then create FTP login for it by going to FTP accounts from your hosting.



On this page fill out the login information for the selected root directory.

Add FTP Account

Login: @

Password:

Password (Again):

Strength (?):

Directory: /home/

Quota: MB
 Unlimited

Alright, all we've done. Now get back to **W3 Total Cache > CDN** and here you'll see over three (3) options the following are these:

- General
- Configuration
- Advanced

General

- Host attachments (Checked)
- Host wp-includes/ files (Checked)
- Host theme files (Checked)
- Host minified CSS and JS files (Checked)
- Host custom files (Checked)
- Force over-writing of existing files (Unchecked)
- Import external media library attachments (Unchecked)

General

Host attachments
If checked, all attachments will be hosted with the CDN. [Upload attachments](#)

Host wp-includes/ files
If checked, WordPress static core file types specified in the "wp-includes file types to upload" field below will be hosted with the CDN. [Upload includes files](#)

Host theme files
If checked, all theme file types specified in the "theme file types to upload" field below will be hosted with the CDN. [Upload theme files](#)

Host minified CSS and JS files
If checked, minified CSS and JS files will be hosted with the CDN. [Upload minify files](#)

Host custom files
If checked, any file names or paths specified in the "custom file list" field below will be hosted with the CDN. [Upload custom files](#)

Force over-writing of existing files
If modified files are not always detected and replaced, use this option to over-write them.

Import external media library attachments
Download attachments hosted elsewhere into your media library and deliver them via CDN.

[Save all settings](#)

Configuration

- Use passive FTP mode (Unchecked)
- FTP Hostname (means the URL of your sub-domain)
- FTP Username (Insert the username using FTP information)
- FTP Password (Insert the password using FTP information)
- FTP path (public_html/cdn or whatever your sub-domain starts with)

For the overall nature to set up configuration part for your CDN. See the following image:

Configuration

Use passive FTP mode
Enable this option only if there are connectivity issues, otherwise it's not recommended.

FTP hostname:
Specify the server's address, e.g.: "ftp.domain.com". Try "127.0.0.1" if using a sub-domain on the same server as your site.

FTP username:

FTP password:

FTP path:
Specify the directory where files must be uploaded to be accessible in a web browser (the document root).

SSL support:
Some CDN providers may or may not support SSL, contact your vendor for more information.

Replace site's hostname with: **This is DNS record automatically created when creating**

1. **sub-domai**

Enter the hostname or CNAME(s) of your FTP server configured above, these values will replace your site's hostname in the HTML.

Double if the test passed mean this means the information is correctly added.

Advanced

No need to touch this section. Just press the buttons which says **save all settings**. Lastly to ensure proper operation of your self-hosted CDN just export the media library files to your sub-domain directly by clicking **Export Media Library** button.

Make sure to and upload the , , , , files to the CDN to ensure proper operation.

Woops, we have all done. Congratulations with your super fast speed website.

Let's See the Performance Report by GTMETRIX

Latest Performance Report for: http://www.softstribе.com/

 [Download PDF](#)

Report generated: Mon, Dec 3, 2012, 4:38 AM -0800
Test Server Region: Vancouver, Canada
Using: Firefox 14.0.1, Page Speed 1.12.9.1, YSlow 3.1.4



Looks like you're running WordPress
[Have a look at our WP optimization tips >](#)

Summary

Page Speed Grade:
(43%)_↓

F

YSlow Grade:
(83%)_↑

B

Page load time: 1.58s
Total page size: 912KB
Total number of requests: 31

Latest Performance Report for: http://www.softstribе.com/

 [Download PDF](#)

Report generated: Mon, Dec 3, 2012, 4:51 AM -0800
Test Server Region: Vancouver, Canada
Using: Firefox 14.0.1, Page Speed 1.12.9.1, YSlow 3.1.4



Looks like you're running WordPress
[Have a look at our WP optimization tips >](#)

Summary

Page Speed Grade:
(60%)_↓

D

YSlow Grade:
(88%)_↑

B

Page load time: 4.29s
Total page size: 955KB
Total number of requests: 27

Lastly, please disable the Toggle all caching types from general settings page.

General

Toggle all caching types on or off at once.

Preview Mode: **Disable** Preview Deploy

Use preview mode to test configuration scenarios prior to releasing them (deploy) on the actual site.

Save all settings

Alright! Thanks for reading, and good-bye.