

Acquia Hosting Product Overview

Why Acquia?

- One-stop Drupal infrastructure
- Highly available architecture
- Multiple caching layers
- Performance tuned
- 64 bit server instances
- Secure and private
- Hosted SVN access
- Functional staging server
- Nightly backups

Acquia Hosting is a highly available cloud-based hosting platform tuned to meet the performance needs of large Drupal websites. A complete infrastructure is delivered to support Drupal deployment workflow processes, from hosted SVN access and staging, to production instances. Together with Acquia Network subscriptions, Acquia delivers comprehensive Drupal infrastructure support, including:

Complete, single-vendor Drupal infrastructure support

Acquia is your one-stop shop for Drupal infrastructure maintenance and support. We'll keep your Drupal and LAMP stack secure, up-to-date and performing to meet your business requirements. Acquia Hosting offers everything you need to run a dynamic, high performance, scalable Drupal website. With Drupal infrastructure as a service, site management efforts are simplified and costs are reduced.

Highly available, high performance architecture

Eliminate unexpected site downtime with our clustered, multi-tier cloud-based architecture. Load-balanced servers with built-in redundancy ensure scalability and performance requirements are met. Optimized for Drupal site performance, our dynamically available shared pool of infrastructure resources improves performance, lowers costs, and provides continuous platform improvements.

Integrated with your development workflow

Integrate your development and deployment processes to Acquia Hosting with hosted SVN repositories for code management, on-demand staging environments for testing and automated deployment to production instances.

Fully managed hosting

Each component in the Acquia Hosting architecture represents a pool of server resources. By centrally managing all of the infrastructure and software layers, Acquia delivers your Drupal hosting platform as a service, simplifying site operations and eliminating operations headaches.

Drupal optimized

Acquia Hosting is tuned exclusively for Drupal performance, providing higher PHP memory allotment, Drupal-specific LAMP stack tuning, automatic high availability database configuration, opcode caching and much more. The result is faster dynamic content rendering and improved site reliability.

Acquia Hosting Customer

“Acquia is responsive and targeted in their troubleshooting. That’s doubly important with hidden or indirect problems. It’s as if Acquia support engineers have an instinctual ability to discover problems.”

- Robert Wise, System Administrator at Mother Jones, on how Acquia hosting and support are a winning combination.

Benefits of Acquia Hosting

Benefits for Site Visitors and Members

Fast - Speed matters on the Web. Built and tuned for Drupal performance, Acquia Hosting will delight your visitors by serving pages fast and focusing them on the reason they navigated to your site - your content.

Reliable - When your competitors are just a click away, the site’s availability is paramount. Because Acquia is a one-stop shop for support of your entire Drupal infrastructure, we are here to ensure your site is available and your visitor’s experience exceeds their expectations.

Social publishing at its best - Drupal is unique in its ability to combine content and community together in a unified experience. When deployed on Acquia Hosting, the dynamic elements of your Drupal website will perform better, ensuring that your visitors will experience firsthand the powerful social publishing capabilities that made you choose Drupal in the first place.

Benefits for Site Administrators

Secure - Built on the Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) with automated four hour snapshots, nightly backups and data retention, security monitoring and notifications, and support for SSL certificates, Acquia Hosting delivers enterprise-class security and reliability to safeguard your data and automate disaster recovery processes.

High availability, high performance - Acquia Hosting is tuned for large Drupal sites where performance for both static and dynamic content is critical. Our team of Drupal experts can help you manage and scale your Drupal site as it grows over time, taking advantage of the redundancy and scalability features built into the managed Acquia Hosting environment.

One-stop shop - Because Acquia is focused on hosting and support exclusively for Drupal, you get the benefit of our experience troubleshooting Drupal websites of every size across every industry. We’ll keep your Drupal and LAMP stack secure, up-to-date and performing to meet your business requirements. No more fingerpointing between your hosting provider and your application support team. Acquia supports your entire Drupal infrastructure, providing the reassurance of a single number to call for any problem your site encounters. Acquia is your one-stop shop for maintenance and support for your entire Drupal infrastructure.

Integrated with your workflow - Each Acquia Hosting account includes a “staging” server where you can upload and test your content prior to production. We support Subversion, the popular code management tool for developers and designers, following industry best practices for revision control.

Acquia Hosting Features

Smart Routing Layer: Varnish, Nginx

The entry point for all requests coming into the Acquia Hosting service, requests of every size flow through this high performance caching and routing proxy layer.

Your Drupal site contains a combination of static and dynamic content. Native caching support gives your site a huge performance boost when application and infrastructure caching are working together seamlessly. If the requested content is available in the static cache, the cache returns the request immediately. When dynamic content is requested, this layer is tuned for high performance and handles HTTP-level processing, including SSL and file store requests for anonymous visitors, before passing connections immediately into the stack. We manage the front-end servers, including DNS, load balancing, and fail-over across the machines for optimum site responsiveness.

Drupal Engine Layer: Drupal

This is where Acquia Hosting makes your Drupal site shine; the Drupal Engine delivers outstanding performance on high traffic Drupal websites.

When running inside the Drupal Engine Layer, your code takes advantage of a expandable pool of web server resources to ensure your dynamic content elements load fast. We scale our Drupal Engine Layer independently from your Drupal site and we maintain excess capacity in reserve, enabling our web servers to respond in real time to changing traffic patterns and unexpected bursts. As a result, we are able to maximize the amount of PHP memory available to your site at any time, improving performance of your dynamic page elements across your site.

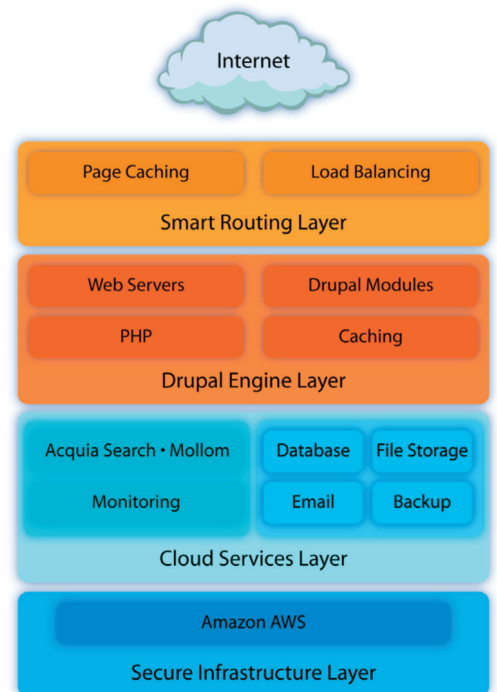
The LAMP stack components in this layer are configured for optimal Drupal performance. Additionally, we use opcode caching to save compiled PHP code and reduce dynamic page load times. The result is your site performs better when you need it most.

Drupal developers access their code on Acquia Hosting via hosted SVN repositories for source code version control. Check out code for local development, push to staging for functional testing and finally push live to your production site directly from your dedicated SVN repository.

Cloud Services Layer: MySQL, GlusterFS, Exim, Acquia Search

The Cloud Services layer is a robust set of back-end resources designed to improve scalability, performance, and reliability of your Drupal website, as well as connect into additional cloud-based services to extend your site's capabilities.

Our MySQL database layer is tuned for Drupal and automatically configured for high availability, offering redundancy through an active / passive setup. Our fault tolerant network file system optimizes static file request routing based on access privileges, eliminating database calls when possible.



Acquia's Hosting Features

We have implemented a consistent hot backup process, with four hour snapshots taken directly off the running servers to eliminate partially complete backups that cannot be restored. Additionally, on a nightly basis, the latest snapshot of your site and data is made available as a customer downloadable file from the Acquia Network.

We offer reliable email services via an Exim-based email delivery service. This is intended for low-volume uses such as registration or verifications email. For email campaigns and other high-volume email uses, we can work with you to find the right partner.

Your Drupal site will benefit from a direct connection to services from the Acquia Network, including Acquia Search. Because Acquia Hosting is connected directly to the Acquia Network, your site will experience better performance from cloud-based services that extend your Drupal site and improve your visitors' user experience.

Secure Infrastructure Layer: Amazon Web Services

Acquia's managed hosting environment takes advantage of industry leading cloud-computing platforms to provide the highest levels of security, fault-tolerance and operational controls possible in the cloud. Acquia Hosting is built on Amazon Web Services (AWS) to deliver enterprise-class security on a SAS70 certified platform, ensuring your data is protected by industry standard operational and security controls at all times. Our operations team maintains our hosting infrastructure to protect your data with HMAC authentication policies, automated security monitoring, automated backup and data retention, breach notifications, and support for SSL certificates.

AWS provides a highly reliable cloud computing infrastructure with 99.95% uptime and the elasticity necessary to quickly respond to changing traffic conditions. Utilizing a combination of AWS and custom built monitoring tools, the operations team at Acquia conducts 24X7 monitoring of all server environment components, notifying customers immediately of environment changes that impact their site.

You can protect network communications from your site by adding SSL certificates to your Drupal site, encrypting and protecting your data while in transit.

Mediacurrent

Mediacurrent is a world-class Drupal consultancy with a proven, successful track record of working with globally recognizable brands. We strongly believe in open-source principles.

About Acquia

Working with Mediacurrent, Acquia helps organizations of all sizes build social publishing websites quickly, easily and with lower total cost of ownership by leveraging Drupal. Drupal is the open source social publishing platform that blends content and community. Our products, services and support enable companies to leverage the power, technical innovation and economic value of Drupal while simplifying the experience, removing the complexity and minimizing the risk.