Proactive CDN Monitoring Checklist

Ready to gain a competitive edge and wow management? Follow this monitoring checklist for optimal results.

☐ **Decide whether you'll be monitoring micro vs. sustained incidents**

A micro-incident is short lived, generally less than 20 minutes. A sustained incident is of a longer duration.

☐ **Decide whether you'll be monitoring regional vs. system-wide incidents**

A regional incident applies to a specific Point of Presence (PoP) or region. A system wide incident applies to a majority of the CDN.

☐ **Check DNS resolution**

Monitor whether CDN nameservers are slow to respond, resulting in performance degradation (use synthetic monitoring for DNS and the webpage itself).

☐ **Monitor DNS performance of CDN vs. origin**

Correlate dips in availability with spikes in CDN DNS response time.

☐ **Check CDN mapping**

Monitor domain names mapped to the CDN, domain names overriding IP addresses to that of the origin servers, number of hops required to reach a server when using a CDN vs. otherwise, and performance metrics of the CDN against origin for optimal mapping.

☐ **Check cache hit ratio**

Monitor CDN cache vs. CDN origin to compare the origin vs. cache KPIs per city, average ping round trip times, average response, average connect, and so on.

☐ **Measure end-user-to-edge location latency**

Track performance degradation between the end user and a specific edge server or across multiple edge servers.

☐ **Measure edge-to-origin data center latency**

Do this if you have multiple origin data centers.

☐ **Uncover bottlenecks**

Use metrics like page response or availability to find bottlenecks on a page once hosts have been segregated based on first-party, CDN, third-party, etc.

☐ **Balance loads**

Ensure optimal load balancing and alerts for unusual traffic surges.

☐ **Check image optimization**

Capture and compare metrics relevant to image optimization, running performance comparisons before and after optimization.

☐ **Monitor the last mile network**

Verify optimal CDN performance and ensure that it is mapping end-users to the relevant PoP.

☐ **Track performance across multiple devices, networks, and locations**

Ensure consistent performance.

☐ **Optimize applications**

Use performance data (content, code, and user journey) for optimization.

☐ **Perform A/B tests**

Evaluate how content changes impact end-user experience.

☐ **Benchmark performance**

Especially important in a multi-CDN environment.

☐ **Track CDN performance**

Keep an eye out for SLA breaches.

catchpoint