



7 Tips to Shift Your Tableau Server from Sluggish to Speedy

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I was reminded again recently, when a client asked for some help, that often people experience their Tableau Servers as sssssllllllloooooooowwwwww. I often forget this, because ours purrs like a kitten. With that being said, when it comes to the performance of Tableau Dashboards, who/what is really to blame? There's (usually) no single answer, but here are the top 7 things I suggest people look at, in no particular order:

1. Insufficient Hardware Resources
2. Inefficient Extracts and Data Source Structure
3. Inadequate Server Configuration
4. Underutilization of Caching
5. Network Latency and Bandwidth Limitations
6. User Behavior and Training
7. Suboptimal Dashboard Design



Most of those items are more easily listed than fixed. However, if you are a Tableau Creator, the Suboptimal Dashboard Design is totally in your control, and likely your best bet for seeing a significant performance improvement once you address it.

There are a ton of things you can do however the one I would start with is: Replace Quick Filters with Dashboard Actions!!! I know, I know... all of your users ask for filters. Well, users can only ask for what they have seen before. So, show them how much they can accomplish with Dashboard Actions instead of filters.

IMO, using Quick Filters is just turning Tableau into a souped-up Excel, which means you are not getting the most out of it.

The question I have for folks isn't necessarily "How fast is your Tableau Server now?" (because the answer is frequently too slow). Rather, I ask, "Why wouldn't you do everything you can to make your Tableau Server hum along as efficiently as possible?"

*Written by Chris Cox
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