

Scalability & Performance

The Need

Today there is an unprecedented growth in digital content. Be it simple office files, strategic corporate documents, scanned paper forms, photographs, audio files or video — all of this content needs to be managed and controlled.

Companies are looking for content management solutions that can scale to cope with both the volumes of content and the numbers of users accessing it.

Challenges

Legacy, proprietary ECM solutions, designed back in the early 1990s, require significant hardware investments on top of their expensive software license costs. Departmental solutions may be less expensive, but they don't scale. To make matters worse, companies need solutions that can work in virtualized server environments.

Alfresco Solution

Alfresco Enterprise 4 is a modern content management platform, built for today's virtualized environments. Alfresco Enterprise has been deployed in over 2,500 enterprises in 55 countries, with mission critical deployments of over 100 million documents and tens of thousands of enterprise users. There are multiple deployment options available and these can grow as required to meet your company's needs. Some of the options available include:

- **Single Server**— A simple installation of Alfresco can be installed on a single server in a matter of a few clicks and a few minutes, including the database, application server and Alfresco application. This approach is suitable for proof of concept projects or for small, departmental deployments.
- **Horizontal Scalability**— Alfresco can be installed on more than one node (or server) in a cluster. Additional servers can be added or removed from the cluster to meet user demand. This HA-style configuration offers a higher level of reliability and resilience, and be scaled-out as you grow.
- **Vertical Scalability**— To further increase performance the Alfresco application can be separated into different tiers, so that the Alfresco content server and the Alfresco Share application can be run on separate servers that are optimized to those workloads.
- **Alfresco Index Server**— With Alfresco 4, content indexing can be run on a separate system to remove the indexing load from the Alfresco servers. All of the nodes in the Alfresco cluster can use this central index server, which can be scaled independently.

Alfresco customers can combine the techniques above to provide a solution that scales both horizontally and vertically to meet their needs. Additionally, Alfresco Professional Services can be engaged to help architect the Alfresco deployment that will best meet your specific needs. In internal testing, the improvements to Alfresco Enterprise 4 (over Alfresco 3.4) include:

- 10x faster Alfresco Share Dashboard Queries
- 3x faster content uploads (as much as 4x faster for bulk uploads)
- 25% faster loading the Document Library
- 50% faster loading Document Details
- Significantly improved search and indexing times

Benefits of Alfresco 4 include:

- Flexible — Multiple Deployments Options
- Elastic Scalability — Add nodes to the cluster as needed
- 3x faster content upload (over version 3.4)

