

Magento's Solr Integration Meets the Needs of Growing Businesses

Presented by Magento's Expert Consulting Group (ECG)

Webinar Recap

In this webinar, the Magento Expert Consulting Group presented a high level overview of why merchants should consider using Magento's out-of-box integration with Solr as their search engine. The main focus was to show that Solr is more than just a search platform by demonstrating its support of catalog and traffic growth. The webinar also covered solutions to possible hurdles a business may encounter with using Solr and provided a set of resources for further investigation of the topics discussed.

Here are the key takeaways:

- Solr's search capabilities provide a better site experience than MySQL LIKE or Full-text
- Solr is more than a search platform; it is a key for scalability and growth
- Solr's data import handler keeps Solr performing well as your catalog grows
- Solr replication helps accommodate growing traffic
- Solr shards help keep indexing execution time and search response times low for very large catalogs
- Listening to the MySQL bin log can help facilitate a continuously updating catalog

Webinar Questions and Answers

Q. Will there be any information regarding configuring Solr outside of the limited Magento Enterprise Edition settings?

A. There is a plan to expand the partial re-indexing that was introduced in Magento Enterprise Edition 1.13 to Solr. Currently, this addition is planned for some time later this year. In addition, Magento makes every possible effort to provide configurations of third-party systems; however, if you really want to go beyond search with Solr, those configurations are not something Magento would provide. Instead, you can obtain guidance on these through the additional links included in the webinar slides.

Q. Can you go into a bit more detail about how Solr handles and provides its search suggestion functionality?

A. For search suggestions, Solr has a component called the "suggester." You feed this component with words from the Solr index during the re-indexing process. This is different from the native Magento Enterprise Edition implementation which picks up words which have already been searched.

Q. We set up Solr, but are not getting good results. Is there a basic configuration guide somewhere for Solr?

A. The answer to this question depends on the results that you're currently seeing and why you feel they are not up to par. The Magento Enterprise Edition User's Guide provides some basic information about how to connect Solr and Magento Enterprise Edition, as does the Magento wiki. Additionally, if you're having issues with search relevance with Solr, you can look into its attribute-weighting capabilities as well as stop-words.

Q. Is there a ready-to-use Data Import Handler for the Magento Enterprise Edition?

A. ECG has an example of a data import handler which, while not quite ready-to-use, should provide the DIH functionality for some cases, as well as some general guidance on how to continue its configuration to suit individual needs. Feel free to reach out to us for more information about this.

Q. Will there ever be a way to incorporate deeper Solr configuration into the Magento Enterprise Edition backend? Things like matching all partial searches, restraining search stop words, and so on in future Magento Enterprise Edition releases?

A. The Magento Product team is continuously looking into search as one of the more important functionality areas of an eCommerce website. It's difficult to say what level of integration is planned, but we do believe that the implementation of the partial indexing support for Solr will make a notable difference in how Solr is used together with Magento Enterprise Edition in the future.

[Watch this free webinar now](#) and be sure [take our quick survey](#) to let us know what you think.

Stay tuned for upcoming ECG articles on Nginx and Redis.