

Primo: what does Multi Tenanted, Local and Direct do for me

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Otago : University



Otago's setup

- Live on Primo December 2013, connecting to Alma.
- Hosted direct with 2 x front end servers and SSH access – we have our own dedicated servers.
- Dedicated sandbox environment that has access to the same data as production (Premium Sandbox).
- In Dec 2015 we moved to N+1 and saw some speed benefits.



As “Hosted Direct” customers we get SSH access to our servers and full access in back office, but don’t have the additional server management overheads that come with a Local install.

We were upgraded to Premium Sandbox in 2015. Previously staging environment had access to only ~200k local records. Its been a great help for testing changes, especially to Primo normalisation rules.

It also means that if there’s a problem record we know it will be in both prod and sandbox.

Speed benefits: indexing around 50k records has gone from ~25mins to ~12 mins. So far we’ve done 1 full index since N+1 which took around 4 hours compared to 5.5 – 11 hours.

Also, in our ejournal list it used to take ~8 seconds to load the J’s and it now takes ~5 or so.

Otago's setup

- 6 main views with 1 Dev view, and each of the views has its own services page. Each view has its own institution.
- There's a desire to more heavily customize Primo.
- Primo updates are applied by Ex Libris to our staging environment around 2 weeks after multi-tenant customers. Installed on production 2 weeks after that.



Because of the desire to customise more heavily, we're quite interested to know how the new interface will affect things.

It gives a certain level of comfort to know that multi-tenant customers have been using the updates for a couple of weeks or so before we have our turn.

How we've used our Primo servers

- Tried to minimise changes on the server. Where possible changes are made via existing tools (back office) or custom header/footer files and javascript or css stored on a local web server.
- Initial investigations around custom log analysis.
- Login pages updated by editing files on the Primo server.



Its easier to debug and modify things external to the Primo servers.

More portable and handles upgrades better so, in theory, it should mean that going through upgrades is less disruptive.

Something we have had to change on the server is our login pages

What we like

- Freedom.



If we want to test something its quite easy to publish a couple of records from Alma to Primo, pipe and run an indexing process manually. This applies to both bug testing and checking changes before a full republish.

If there are any changes that need made, such as the login pages, we can do it ourselves.

They're potentially things that Ex Libris could do on our behalf, but that takes time and it's nice to be able to take care of it ourselves.

Ex Libris said at IGeLU that they were keen to move customers into a multi tenant environment. My understanding is that this isn't really an option for us because of our setup with multiple institutions.

