



## TRADESY



Tradesy enables women to maximize both their personal fashion and their personal finances. The mobile and online clothing re-sale service launched in October 2012. In three short years, it has grown from a nimble, seven-person startup to a 130-person company that is a hip destination for millions of users eager to buy and sell clothes. Tradesy's innovation lies in its model: by directly connecting women's closets, Tradesy lets users upgrade their looks and turn clothes they don't use into cash. As with all user-driven platforms, Tradesy gives control of data input to its users. Though this is a huge benefit to the users, it also makes database management more challenging. Between Tradesy's rapid company growth and the huge volume of data in its system, it has extremely high standards for how well its developers can navigate its systems.

VividCortex helps Tradesy achieve those standards. In the months since Tradesy began using VividCortex, their engineering team has successfully minimized CPU usage, disposed of distracting fire-drills, produced powerful charts and graphs, and monitored deployments with high confidence and impressive insight.

“ VividCortex is incredibly straightforward, and it proves to be helpful with each and every use. It's especially easy for common use cases like diagnosing queries -- the best MySQL tool I've ever used to monitor and analyze databases. ”

**Jesse Forrest**

Tradesy Engineering Manager

# Initial Reactions



**Jesse Forrest**

Tradesy Engineering  
Manager

“ If you are using MySQL or Redis in your production stack, VividCortex is a must have. You would be foolish to exclude it from your tooling. ”

By design, Tradesy’s IT team is comprised of full-stack engineers, meaning each of its developers also takes care of his or her own database administration and sys-ops. That kind of structure has proven to be a huge boon to the company, reducing bottlenecks and improving utilization efficiency. But such generalization also means that there’s no one at Tradesy with specialized DBA expertise.

Despite the obvious advantages of such a set-up, when data activity gets dicey and complex, it can be dangerous. Before Tradesy began using VividCortex, database incidents were frequent, causing reactive fire-drills. Devs spent valuable time trying to troubleshoot performance issues with cumbersome log file analysis.

Previously, Tradesy relied on query logs and Nagios. “In the past,” Jesse Forrest, Tradesy’s Engineering Manager, said, “it was extremely difficult to understand inefficiencies in our databases. VividCortex has a swath of tools that empower the user to truly understand everything that is happening under the hood of their databases. One of the most powerful features we have found is the ability to pinpoint inefficiencies in queries.”

Tradesy began by rolling out VividCortex to ten Tradesy developers. Set-up was a snap. The team was soon able to identify issues in its system with precision. As a result, there were fewer surprising setbacks, even without a specialized DBA onhand.



**Jesse Forrest**

Tradesy Engineering  
Manager

“ Even with only a few members of our team initially using VividCortex, it was so easy to spot problems. We were able to bring maximum CPU utilization spikes down from 80% to 10%.... VividCortex gave us the necessary information to determine what was problematic. We have been safely fluctuating under 10% utilization for many months now. ”

Tradesy has now deployed VividCortex across its team. All of Tradesy’s engineers can proactively monitor their database and maintain high awareness of its activity. Time-consuming fire-drills are a thing of the past.

## Simple and Elegant

Simplicity and elegance are enduring cornerstones of the finest wardrobes; similarly, engineers worldwide appreciate simple and elegant database systems. Tradesy has found that VividCortex fits that cut.

“ VividCortex’s footprint on our production clusters is extremely lightweight and easy to setup. Once in place, it provides quick access to the information you need to make sense of your database clusters. VividCortex also focuses on database centric insights, providing data around actual queries. We can see what’s happening in real time, as opposed to just seeing the symptoms of an issue, whether that be spiking CPU, network bottlenecks, or memory consumption. Additionally, receiving daily updates about our top queries lets us become aware of any potentially problematic new queries that may have found their way into production. ”

Tradesy also praised the immediacy with which engineers can begin using VividCortex. “It’s so user friendly, there’s no need for training. Your engineers should be able to dive in and start using it.” And its effects were apparent right away: “The immediate insights you are able to gather via VividCortex makes it the strongest MySQL and Redis monitoring tool available.”

## Empowering Continuous Delivery

Tradesy deploys code multiple times per day. Using a series of automated tests, Tradesy’s team ensures that inefficient and problematic code does not make it to production. But in Tradesy’s own words, “We don’t naively think that our tests cover every scenario. For that reason, engineers follow a series of post deployment checks to make sure that code changes and database migrations have squashed issues and/or not introduced problems. VividCortex has been added to our arsenal of tools that are used to monitor our platform after deployments.”

Since introducing VividCortex, Tradesy has achieved higher deployment frequency. Deployments are faster too, and Tradesy developers find any setbacks “super easy to spot.” From there, they’re pros at making quick fixes, adding indexes, or addressing whatever else needs to be handled. “VividCortex is the only tool we’ve seen that provides query-level performance data. We could never do this before. We’re able to rollout code, see if anything spikes on VividCortex, rollback if problems occur.”

## Moving Forward

With Tradesy’s full-stack engineers empowered by VividCortex, the risk for bottlenecks is on its way out. The team can stay lean and spry without sacrificing specialization. As members of the team continue to implement VividCortex in their regular work, Tradesy expects the issues in their databases to be spotted quickly -- and spot-cleaned just as fast.



**Jesse Forrest**  
Tradesy Engineering  
Manager

“ In addition to evaluating queries across your databases, VividCortex has phenomenal charts that have helped us digest what is happening at the CPU, disk, InnoDB, memory, and network level. As a little sugar on top, VividCortex allows users to find related metrics based on similarly shaped graphs, helping us identify impacted metrics during events to assist with root cause analysis. ”

VividCortex has outfitted Tradesy’s deft engineers with a new level of flexibility and insight. As Tradesy introduces sleekness and elegance to closets around the world, VividCortex is delivering the same to Tradesy’s database practices, from minimizing CPU usage to providing powerful visuals and graphs.

## About VividCortex



VividCortex is the new face of database monitoring, delivered as SaaS and built to address the pain of scaling massive systems. Unlike traditional monitoring software, VividCortex measures and analyzes the system's work and resource consumption. The comprehensive tool provides actionable insight and a high definition window into the database with unprecedented detail, accuracy, and ease-of-use. This leads directly to better performance for IT as a whole, at reduced cost and effort. Visit us at [VividCortex.com](http://VividCortex.com) and read our blog at [VividCortex.com/blog](http://VividCortex.com/blog).

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