

Scaling Web Application Delivery for Government Sector

“We researched incumbent solutions but discovered the products used older technologies and designs, while including a significant expense. We chose A10 ADCs as they deliver 3X the hardware capability at half the cost, plus unique features such as aXAPI and a support team that we can trust.”

Joshua Suggs
Web Developer
Florence County

Florence County Government, located in Florence South Carolina, provides basic and necessary services consistent with the needs of its citizens in a cost-effective, efficient, and customer friendly manner. Its website, www.florenceco.org, includes the county website, Sheriff’s county website, Intranet and internal applications for Florence County, with three million unique viewers a month.

Running a demanding Web environment, Florence County’s traffic relies on Web servers in a clustered VMware environment and SQL server cluster. To ensure that the county information and applications are always available for users, a server load balancer solution was required.

To meet this requirement, Florence County considered F5’s BIG-IP but discovered the products used older hardware designs, while including a significant expense. Florence County ultimately selected A10 Networks® Application Delivery Controllers’ (ADC) advanced server load balancers, as they deliver a high-performance, carrier-grade solution at a very competitive price.

A10 ADC: 3X Hardware Capability at Half the Cost

Florence County chose two A10 ADCs in a High Availability (HA) pair. The compelling reasons for choosing A10 ADCs resulted from Application Delivery requirements and core server load balancing functionality, including:

- **Application Acceleration for VMware:** A10 ADC treats Florence County’s virtual server cluster just as if it was a cluster of physical servers. With the TCP Session Reuse and hardware-based SSL offload features used for the virtual servers, Florence County has seen a dramatic increase in user response times. Reducing both the number of incoming TCP connections and the CPU usage is directly attributable. The back-end VMware environment now has the flexibility to offer increased user capacity and/or the number of virtual servers that can be run. The A10 ADC has compounded the initial VMware virtualization savings.
- **aXAPI® for Custom Management:** Florence county has quickly and easily automated tasks with A10’s REST-based XML API. The RESTful approach offers key benefits versus competitors’ more cumbersome and hard to use SOAP/XML APIs. A benefit example includes reduced IT management costs related to mundane tasks, such as taking a server



out of service for maintenance. A second example for Florence County is to pull A10 ADC statistics to display in a custom interface for specific reporting requirements.

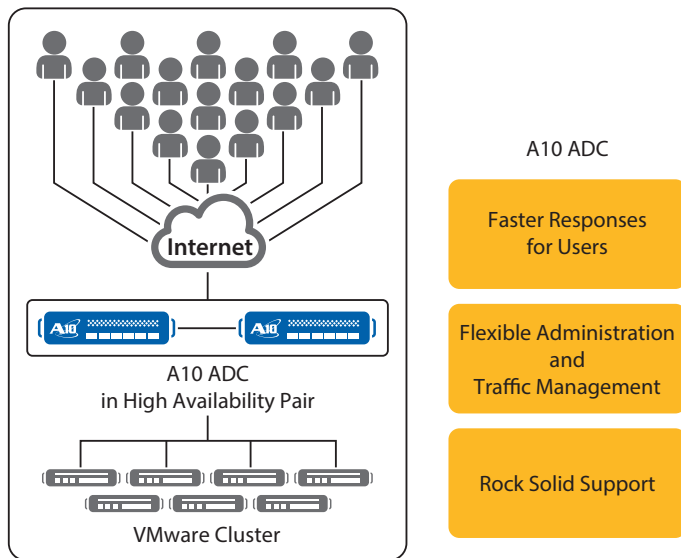
- **aFlex® Flexibility:** Florence County provides many vendor supported applications without access to the source code. To improve security measures, Florence County leverages A10 ADCs' flexible aFlex scripting tool to minimize and correct security issues with third party applications. The county organization is also leveraging aFlex scripts for external health checks on the backend servers to ensure availability.

Measured Success through Customer Feedback

Florence County relies on user feedback to measure success. Since production in early Q1 2009, the A10 ADC has exceeded expectations. End users have called in to say, "What have you done to speed up the website?; it is incredibly fast now."

In addition to performance and innovative functionality, the A10 support team also shined for Florence County. A10 worked closely and proactively with Florence County to ensure all deployment concerns, custom or not, were resolved before they had a chance to become issues. In fact, Florence County was pleased to comment, "You don't see support like this anywhere else."

Florence County's Network



About Florence County

Florence County is in the center of northeastern South Carolina at the junction of interstates 95 and 20. With nearly 75 percent of the nation's population within a day's drive, it is an ideal location for construction manufacturing and retail. The County provides basic and necessary services consistent with the needs of its citizens in a cost-effective, efficient, and customer friendly manner. County Government assumes a proactive leadership role in determining the future direction of the county. Florence County Government exists to serve the needs of its citizens for a safe, secure, and healthy environment. It seeks to foster planned and managed growth and desirable economic development that creates prosperity and job opportunities for all its citizens. For more information, visit: www.florenceco.org

About A10 Networks

A10 Networks is a leader in application networking, providing a range of high-performance application networking solutions that help organizations ensure that their data center applications and networks remain highly available, accelerated and secure. Founded in 2004, A10 Networks is based in San Jose, California, and serves customers globally with offices worldwide. For more information, visit: www.a10networks.com

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To learn more about the A10 Thunder Application Service Gateways and how it can enhance your business, contact A10 Networks at: www.a10networks.com/contact or call to talk to an A10 sales representative.

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