Oad Group: Revolutionizing Travel Reservations with the A10 Application Delivery Controllers

Company:
- Oad Group

Industry:
- Internet and Web 2.0

Critical Issues:
- Legacy infrastructure, no configuration sync support, need for increased performance

Selection Criteria:
- High performance, DDoS protection, no licensing fees, SSL Offload, IPv6 support, aFleX Layer 7 scripting

Results:
- Improved website performance and enhanced application security

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> **Ronald Luten**
> Systems Engineer at the Oad Group

The Oad Groep (also known as the Oad Group), is headquartered in Holten, Netherlands and is one of the leading travel operators in the country.

The company offers tour packages across all types of transportation, including air, train, car and boat, with cruises to more than 60 countries worldwide.

The Oad Group is a privately-held company consisting of three divisions that cover both consumer and corporate travel: Oad Reizen (Oad Travel), the Globe Travel Agency Group, and Oad Coach Company. The Oad Group has 2,000 employees worldwide and books more than 750,000 passengers every year. Its 2010 revenue amounted to nearly 1 billion Euros.

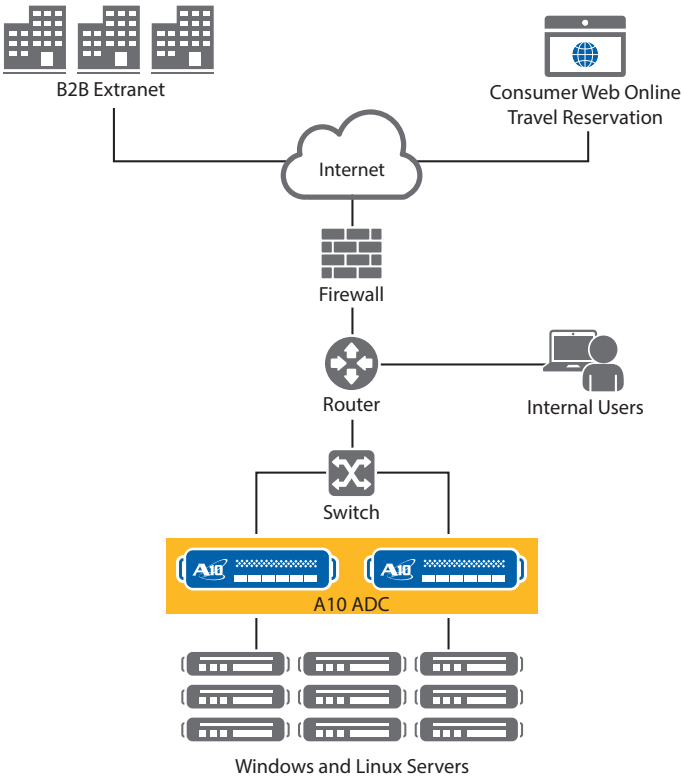
The Global Travel Agency division alone has 220 subsidiaries across the Netherlands, making the Oad Group the most successful tour operator in the region.

Scaling Web Application Delivery

The Internet has revolutionized the travel booking industry. The Oad Group has risen to the challenge by expanding its business to support an average of 75,000 clients daily within its consumer and corporate websites.

The Oad Group maintains a web server farm that hosts the online reservation applications for consumer and corporate websites, and requires a high-performance Application Delivery Controller (ADC)/server load balancing solution to meet the daily increasing demands of online traffic. Furthermore, High Availability (HA) support is needed to provide a more robust infrastructure capable of handling an ADC outage.

To support this growth in web traffic, the Oad Group was using Foundry/Brocade ServerIron XLs, but the IT team wanted to replace them because the ServerIrons did not support SSL Offload or configuration sync for redundancy. Moreover, the ServerIron XL product line had reached its end-of-life. The IT team conducted intensive research to find a new load balancer that could meet the following requirements: HA, advanced health monitoring, comprehensive IPv6 support, SSL Offload, Layer 7 TCL-based scripting, and domain and URL switching.



As part of its research, the IT team reviewed Gartner's ADC Magic Quadrant and discovered A10 Networks' ADC mentioned within. Ronald Luten, a Systems Engineer at the Oad Group said: "The Foundry ServerIrons did not support SSL Offload and we were looking for a simpler way to deal with SSL and SSL certificates. We were looking for a cost-effective and reliable load balancing solution to replace the old Foundry load balancers."

The Solution

After the Oad Group compared solutions from the ADC vendors in the ADC Magic Quadrant (including Cisco, Brocade, F5 Networks and Citrix), Luten discovered that A10 Networks offered the best solution. "We had a set of specific requirements and the regional A10 team demonstrated that a pair of 64-bit A10 ADCs could do the job," Luten said. "What got Oad Group interested with the A10 ADC is the all-inclusive licensing. The A10 ADC ensures that we are ready for the future without worrying about licensing and hardware upgrades."

The Oad Group selected the A10 ADC for the following reasons:

- **aFleX Scripting Tool:** The A10 ADCs' aFleX scripting tool enables advanced, highly-flexible and efficient Layer 7 traffic management. aFleX technology is based on the industry-standard TCL programming language. With the flexibility of aFleX, the Oad Group wrote a simple TCL script to utilize URL and domain switching at the same time.
- **DDoS Protection**: Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) protection is a crucial feature that ensures the Oad Group's web servers are protected from network attacks, including protocol anomaly attacks. The DDoS mitigation feature provides a secondary layer of protection to the Oad web servers, which serve more than 75,000 clients every day. The A10 ADC can support up to 2.1 million SYN flood attacks per second.
- **Superior Performance:** Providing superior website performance is critical to the Oad Group's ability to maintain its status as the leading travel operator in the Netherlands. The 64-bit A10 ADC offers 10-Gb throughput capacity and can support up to 32 million concurrent users.
- **SSL Acceleration:** The 64-bit A10 ADC includes high performance SSL acceleration ASICs that can support 178,000 SSL transactions per second. This improves server response time and reduces the number of servers required in a web server farm, through SSL Offload.

Success: More Room for Growth

Installing and deploying the new A10 ADC within the Oad Group network was quick and easy," Luten concluded. Since deploying the A10 ADC, Oad Group is benefitting from the A10 ADCs' advanced features, performance, security and reliability. The Oad Group IT team is very pleased with their A10 ADCs and sees a significant advantage with the A10 Network solution.

About A10 Application Delivery Controllers

A10 ADC is a scalable, high-performance application networking platform that delivers enterprises, web properties and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) with superior reliability and an energy-efficient footprint for low total cost of ownership (TCO). With A10 ADC, customers of all sizes benefit from application availability, scalability and performance, increased infrastructure efficiency and a faster end user experience. The A10 ADC has a comprehensive Layer 4-7 feature set and flexible virtualization technologies such as A10 Networks aVCS™ Virtual Chassis System, multi-tenancy and more for public, private and hybrid cloud environments. In addition, A10 ADC leads in IPv6 migration technologies with many large-scale deployments worldwide.

A10 ADC delivers an industry-leading return on investment (ROI) by leveraging A10's 64-bit Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS), with a scalable shared-memory parallelism architecture that surpasses the competition in scalability and flexibility.

For more information, visit: www.a10networks.com/products/application_delivery_controllers.php

About Oad Groep

Oad Groep, also known as the "Oad Group", is one of the leading online travel websites in the Netherlands. The website receives up to 2.2 million visitors per month. For more information, please visit: www.oad.nl

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.