

The Hirslanden Group Chooses The Application Delivery Controller By A10 Networks



HIRSLANDEN

Industry | Healthcare

Minimum response times and maximum availability of IT applications are a necessity in healthcare. Hirslanden Private Hospital Group has therefore opted for two geographically separate data centers with an integrated load-balance cluster. This ensures dynamic load balancing and delay-free work.



In order to ensure an IT infrastructure with the highest possible availability, we chose high performance products that we could operate comfortably with our Cisco expertise. The Application Delivery Controller by A10 Networks meets our highest expectations.

– Marco Gruber
Network Engineering
The Hirslanden Group



Network Solution
A10 Thunder® ADC



Critical Issues

- Ensure fast response times and maximum high availability performance of approximately 400 applications across 16 clinics in Switzerland
- Preserve two geographically separate data centers with an integrated load-balance cluster to maximize dynamic load balancing and delay-free work with mission-critical health care applications

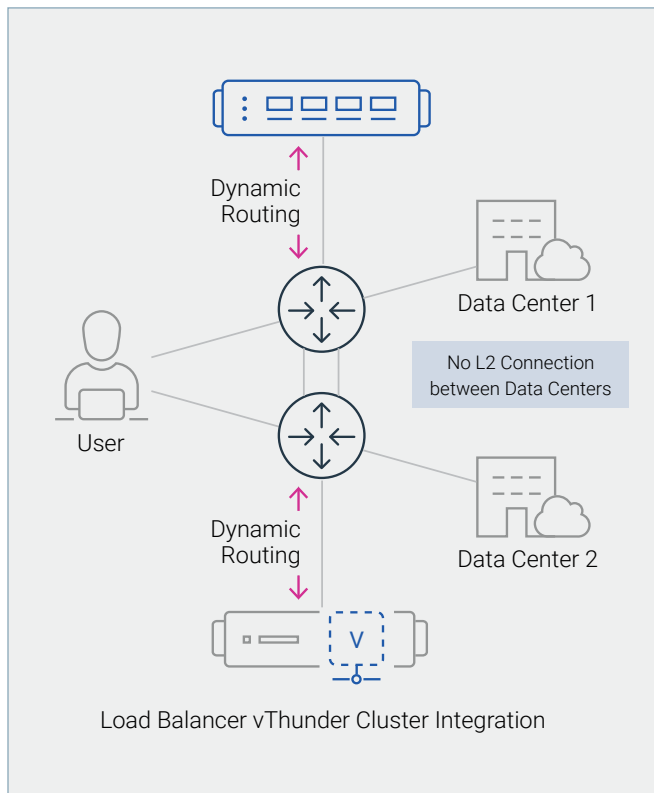


Results

- Improved latency-free access and availability for mission-critical health care applications
- Improved usability thanks to Cisco-like CLI and web GUI
- Combined application delivery controller and server load balancer functionality and redundant integration with automatic fail-over ensures seamless availability of the KIS application in event of a data center failure

Initial Situation

The use of the Clinical Information System (HIS) by the Hirslanden private clinic group is the focal point of all patient-related activities, whether it is an inpatient hospital stay or outpatient treatment. It supports the workflow of physicians and nurses, and makes it possible, for example, to request medical results, document care measures or retrieve information from the electronic patient file. Marco Gruber, Network Engineer at Hirslanden, comments, "The Clinical Information System is of central importance for our 16 clinics in Switzerland and, as a result, must always be available. In addition, applications provided through Citrix or the web portal must have no noticeable response times, even at full load. In order to meet these requirements, we carried out an evaluation of powerful load-balancers and opted for the Application Delivery Controller of the Thunder series by A10 Networks. We were completely satisfied with the two-month test phase, which met all our requirements in terms of functionality, performance, scalability and handling."



The Solution

The virtual appliances from A10 Networks combine all the relevant application delivery controller (ADC) and server load balancer (SLB) functions, and ensure latency-free access to the centrally hosted KIS application at all times. They distribute the load dynamically to the appropriate server and guarantee uninterrupted operation, even in the event of a server or data center failure, thanks to the redundant integration of the ADC with automatic "fail-over." In addition, the two data centers – in the LAN area and the DMZ zone – are each fitted with an "active-active" ADC cluster.

In addition to the functional and performance aspects, the ease of use of the system is of central importance to the IT managers of the Hirslanden Group.

"Thanks to the Cisco-like CLI and Web-GUI, we were instantly familiar with the A10 platform. Accordingly, the installation, configuration and maintenance work have been very smooth for us," said Marco Gruber.

Selection Criteria

The following factors led to the choice of the A10 Networks Thunder ADC solution:

- Simple operation thanks to the Cisco-like CLI (Command Line Interface) and Web-GUI
- Robust operation
- Transparent licensing model – there were no additional costs for the individual function modules
- Attractive price-performance ratio

Figure 1: The load-balance cluster pair of the Thunder series by A10 Networks distributes requests dynamically to the appropriate server, and thanks to the automatic "fail-over" ensures the seamless availability of the KIS application in the event of a data center failure.



About The Hirslanden Group

The Hirslanden Private Hospital Group consists of 16 hospitals in 11 cantons. The Group has a good 2,100 employed and affiliated doctors, and 7,800 staff members. Hirslanden is the leading private hospital group and the largest medical network in Switzerland. In the 2013/14 financial year, it generated a turnover of 1,437bn Swiss francs. On 31 March 2014, over 87,200 patients were being treated as inpatients at the 14 hospitals with a total of 420,000 inpatient days. In insurance terms, the patient mix consists of 41.4% basic, 33.0% semi-private, and 25.6% private insured patients. Hirslanden operates a total of 12 emergency units and emergency admission, and thus contributes to the basic medical cover for the Swiss population. The private hospital group was formed in 1990 out of the merger of a number of private hospitals, and became part of the South African hospital group Mediclinic International Limited in 2007.

About EB-Qual

Founded in 2002, the ICT service provider eb-Qual AG specializes in consultation, planning, conception and implementation for sophisticated IT security and network solutions. With bases in Fribourg and Zurich, the Swiss company specializes in two distinct areas: Information Security and IT Network Automation. As a privileged partner of well-known American suppliers, eb-Qual works and collaborates with medium-sized companies to groups operating on a global scale by applying the best solutions portfolio. For more information, visit: eb-qual.ch





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A10 Networks (NYSE: ATEN) provides secure application services for on-premises, multi-cloud and edge-cloud environments at hyperscale. Our mission is to enable service providers and enterprises to deliver business-critical applications that are secure, available and efficient for multi-cloud transformation and 5G readiness. We deliver better business outcomes that support investment protection, new business models and help future-proof infrastructures, empowering our customers to provide the most secure and available digital experience. Founded in 2004, A10 Networks is based in San Jose, Calif. and serves customers globally.

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