

ZXTM gets Skyrock closer to its listeners



accelerator in front of their Apache web servers. However, this combination caused its web sites to crawl, even under moderate load, and maintaining the services was a complex and painful task. Hardware load balancers were considered to replace Squid, however their high cost, inadequate performance and poor user interface ruled them out as a viable option.

The Solution

Zeus Extensible Traffic Manager (ZXTM) was deployed to manage all the network traffic to Skyrock's web sites. In doing so, Skyrock has established significantly higher performance and a more stable foundation for their web sites than Squid or hardware load balancers were able to provide.

The Results

ZXTM's powerful traffic routing capabilities provided by TrafficScript™ enabled requests to be directed to the optimal server in the cluster

ZXTM's unique acceleration capabilities allowed Skyrock to extract greater performance and ROI from their existing Apache web servers

The intuitive user interface provided by ZXTM enabled Skyrock to manage and monitor their traffic easily and securely.

ZXTM has enabled Skyrock to operate high-intensity web logging services for their listeners without the fear of poor performance or unreliability. ZXTM processes over 220,000 hits per minute, or 210 Mb/s sustained throughput on a single 3 GHz Xeon server with 1 GB of RAM. In the words of Frank Denis, System Administrator at Skyrock, "ZXTM has been rock-solid".

Skyrock at a glance:

Skyrock, created in 1986, is France's leading radio station for the under-25s with an audience of 4 million listeners every day.

Inspired by the free radio movement, Skyrock is the free-expression radio station of the new generation. The "Radio Libre" interactive talk programme hosted by Difool is the most popular radio programme in the evening slot in France, all radio stations taken together.



Skyrock, France's leading radio station for the under-25s, provides a number of interactive services to its growing community of listeners. These include its web site, skyrock.com, which is viewed by over 3 million separate individuals each month and its 4ISKY text messaging service whose users send more than 150,000 messages each month.

The latest is a free service called Skyblog, which allows users to publish their own personal diary online. According to Skyrock, it is now the number one web logging site in France. Along with their main web site, www.skyblog.com is managed and accelerated by ZXTM, the next-generation load balancer from Zeus Technology.

The Challenge

Skyrock's previous solution relied heavily on Squid proxy server acting as a HTTP



“When it comes to flexibility and speed, ZXTM outperforms any other solution we’ve looked at.”

Frank Denis, System Administrator, Skyrock

Solution Components Application Acceleration

Through its unique software architecture and high-performance process model, ZXTM accelerates the performance of your existing application infrastructure by:

- Acting as a data buffer between the application server and slow, unreliable Internet connections;
- Preventing excessive load on any one application server through effective cluster management and server selection;
- Offloading CPU-intensive tasks such as SSL processing from the application server onto ZXTM itself.

In each case, the application goes faster because it has less work to do. It uses the processing power freed up to handle more transactions and is therefore more productive. As a result, ZXTM can accelerate Apache web server by as much as 100 times.

TrafficScript™

TrafficScript™ is the most powerful and intuitive traffic management language available today. It gives you the ability to read the entire incoming request for any protocol, make traffic routing decisions based on your business logic

and then direct it to the most appropriate server on your network without placing unnecessary constraints on the way in which you can do it.

Intuitive User Interface

Having a highly capable and fully-featured traffic manager is a real asset to your network, but only if it is easy to use. If the task of configuring your traffic manager is too complex, you either end up having to pay all over again to have an expert configure it for you, or you don't bother to use the advanced features that you bought it for in the first place. ZXTM is not like other traffic managers; its secure web-based user interface (UI) is attractive yet intuitive, simple yet powerful.

Trying ZXTM For Yourself

ZXTM is the next generation in high-availability, application-centric traffic management and load balancing, providing unparalleled control, intelligence, security and resilience for all your application traffic.

To find out how ZXTM will enhance the performance, scalability and ease of management of your applications, try it out for yourself.

Download your free 30-day evaluation copy of ZXTM from [our web site](#).

Zeus at a glance:

Zeus Technology has a well-earned reputation for providing robust, secure and scalable traffic management solutions to organisations in a wide range of sectors including, media and content providers, telecoms and hosting providers, finance, education, government and online retailers.

Using the experience gained from our relationships with organisations as diverse as the Federal Railroads Administration, NEC, British Telecom, Play.com, Telewest, Thus Plc., TD Waterhouse, Telecom Italia Mobile, Ciao Group and eXpansys, Zeus is in a unique position to assist any business looking to enhance their mission-critical Internet service infrastructure. For more information visit our web site at <http://www.zeus.com/>

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