FFF ENTERPRISES INCREASES PERFORMANCE AND FLEXIBILITY FOR ONLINE VACCINE PURCHASING APPLICATION

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>
> **Bob Coates** | VP of Technology FFF Enterprises

A10

CASE STUDY

COMPANY

FFF Enterprises

INDUSTRY

Healthcare

NETWORK SOLUTION

Thunder ADC

FFF Enterprises, founded in 1988, is a multidimensional healthcare company and the nation's largest distributor of plasma products, vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals. It serves over 80% of U.S. hospitals and supplies the nation's leading non-acute care group purchasing organizations.

MyFluVaccine™ (**www.myfluvaccine.com**), delivered by FFF Enterprises, is the nation's first online vaccine portal, allowing vaccine providers to order a dedicated supply of vaccines for guaranteed delivery on the dates they choose. To run the MyFluVaccine™ portal, FFF Enterprises has a data center of Web servers that serve up the online vaccine purchasing application. Users from clinics, pharmacies and hospitals leverage the MyFluVaccine™ portal regularly.

During the flu season, pharmacies, hospitals and doctors' offices increase activity on the portal, creating peak usage conditions. To prepare for the flu season peak, FFF Enterprises began evaluating Juniper's DX line of server load balancers to ensure MyFluVaccine's™ performance and availability to customers. However, shortly after the initial evaluation, Juniper announced it would end of life its DX family with a smooth transition for customers.

FFF Enterprises concurrently read about A10 Networks® Application Delivery Controllers (ADC) in the news, highlighting recent independent third-party performance from the Tolly Group, which proved that A10 ADC delivers over double the performance at less than half the price of incumbents. As a result, FFF Enterprises chose to evaluate the A10 ADC, a next-generation server load balancer platform that has garnered numerous awards for its multi-core CPU architecture that is tuned for high volume web applications such as MyFluVaccine™.

SOLUTION

FFF Enterprises selected A10 ADCs' Advanced Traffic Manager as it delivers all the required features to ensure the MyFluVaccine™ portal performs as desired, especially during peak usage conditions. The key A10 ADC features that FFF Enterprises leverages include Layer 4-7 server load balancing, SSL acceleration/offload, application persistence and aFleX® for advanced scripting.

With SSL acceleration/offload, CPU intensive encrypted traffic required for Web transactions is offloaded by the A10 ADC server load balancer. This reduces the number of servers required to support Web transactions, while at the same time increasing transaction speed so that more orders can be processed in the same amount of time.

For MyFluVaccine™, the A10 ADC provides FFF Enterprises with application persistence to the same server across ports and domain names, ensuring a positive Web experience for customers placing orders in the portal.

FFF Enterprises is leveraging the aFleX advanced scripting tool to customize policies to manipulate Layer 7 traffic, which can eliminate traffic bottlenecks during peak usage conditions. aFleX is based on the industry-standard TCL programming language and does not suffer from performance degradation when numerous features are turned on, due to A10 ADCs' scalable Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS®) architecture that is tuned for multi-core CPUs.

FFF Enterprises also deployed Imperva's SecureSphere Web Application Firewall to secure Web applications and comply with PCI regulations. A10 Networks and Imperva partner to deliver the industry's best-of-breed server load balancer and application rewall solution.

FFF ENTERPRISES' WEB PORTAL: MYFLUVACCINE™
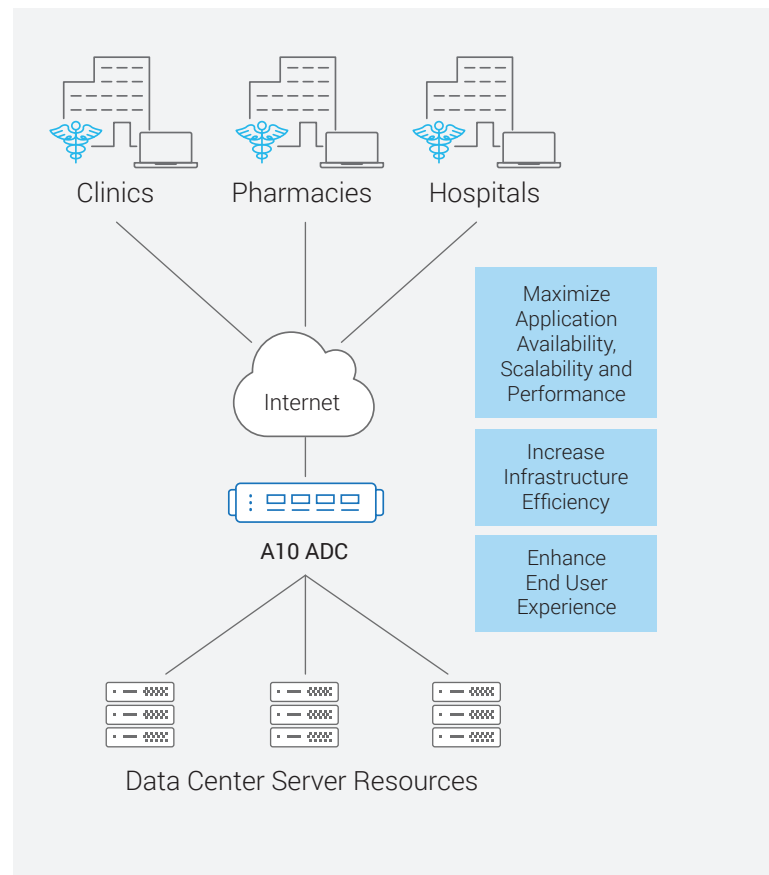
SUCCESS

Since deploying the A10 ADC, FFF Enterprises' MyFluVaccine™ Web portal has been performing as desired, especially during peak usage conditions. The A10 ADC is fronting the portal's infrastructure to increase Web server efficiency, maximize Web application delivery, scalability and performance and create a favorable portal experience for its customers.

"We chose to evaluate A10 ADC for our server load balancing solution after reading positive accounts about its price/performance advantage over established incumbents," said Bob Coates, VP of Technology for FFF Enterprises. "We purchased the A10 ADC after testing its performance with our MyFluVaccine™ Web portal and observing that everything we read was true. In addition, the A10 team provides superior service and support, which is of primary importance to ensure high availability for our eCommerce application, especially during peak usage conditions. A10 ADC came to us at the perfect time."

ABOUT FFF ENTERPRISES

Founded in 1988, FFF Enterprises is a multidimensional healthcare company, delivering innovative solutions in biopharmaceutical management and distribution, managed healthcare services, health information management and consumer healthcare services. FFF's infuenza vaccine innovation, MyFluVaccine.com, launched in 2006, revolutionized the infuenza vaccine marketplace, allowing healthcare providers to select their infuenza vaccine delivery dates – bringing confidence to the marketplace. For more information about FFF Enterprises and MyFluVaccineTM, visit **www.fenterprises.com.**

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 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/load-balancer-application-delivery**

ABOUT A10 NETWORKS

A10 Networks (NYSE: ATEN) provides Reliable Security Always™ through a range of high-performance solutions that enable intelligent automation with deep machine learning to ensure business critical applications are protected, reliable and always available. Founded in 2004, A10 Networks is based in San Jose, Calif., and serves customers globally with offices worldwide.

For more information, visit: **a10networks.com** or tweet **@A10Networks**.

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