

## Oad Group: Revolutionizing Travel Reservations with the AX Series



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 concentrates on three business areas:

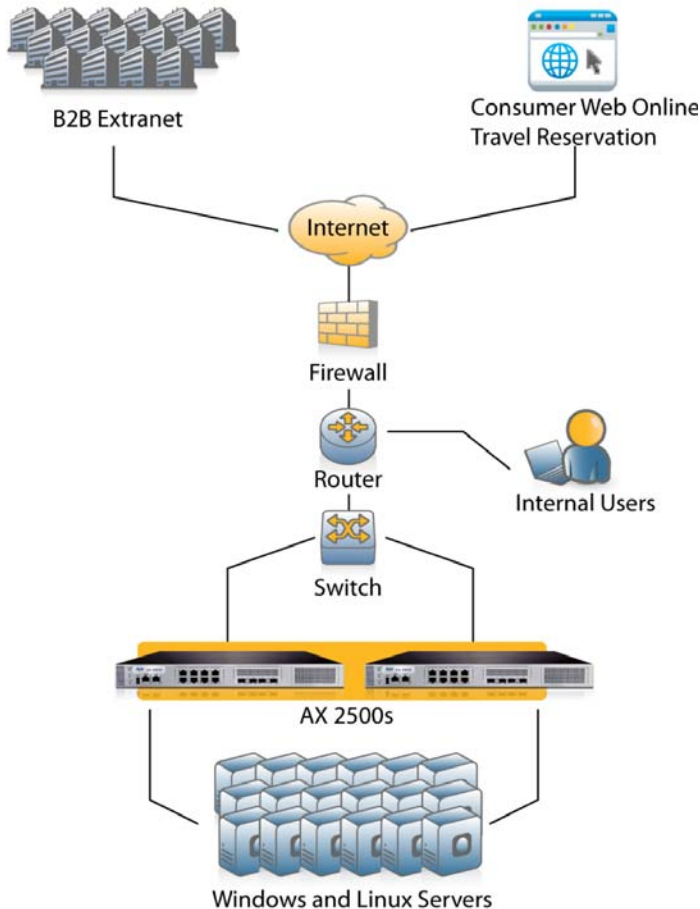
- **Oad Reizen:** The fastest growing tour operator in the Netherlands
- **Oad Coach Company:** The largest private coach fleet in the Netherlands
- **Globe Travel Agency Group:** 220 travel agencies, plus eight subsidiaries that specialize in business travel with IATA licensees

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' AX Series 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 AX Series 2500s could do the job," Luten said. "What got Oad Group interested with the AX Series is the all-inclusive licensing. The AX Series ensures that we are ready for the future without worrying about licensing and hardware upgrades."

**The Oad Group selected the AX Series for the following reasons:**

- **aFlex Scripting Tool:** The AX Series 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 AX 2500 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 AX 2500s offer 10-Gb throughput capacity and the AX Series' 64-bit scalability can support up to 32 million concurrent users.
- **SSL Acceleration:** The 64-bit AX 2500s include 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 AX Series within the Oad Group network was quick and easy," Luten concluded. Since deploying the AX Series, Oad Group is benefitting from the AX Series' advanced features, performance, security and reliability. The Oad Group IT team is very pleased with their AX 2500s and sees a significant advantage with the A10 Network solution.

**Highlights****A10 Networks Partner:**

Infradata, Leiden, The Netherlands  
[www.infradata.nl](http://www.infradata.nl)

**Critical Issues:**

Legacy infrastructure,  
no configuration sync support,  
need for increased performance

**AX Selected Due To:**

High performance, DDoS  
protection, no licensing fees,  
SSL Offload, IPv6 support,  
aFlex Layer 7 scripting

**Application/Traffic Type:**

HTTP/HTTPS

**Features Used:**

Advanced health monitoring,  
SSL acceleration, DDoS protection

**Product Choice:**

64-bit AX 2500

**Results:**

Improved website performance  
and enhanced application security

## **About AX Series**

A10 Networks' AX Series is the industry's best price/performance advanced traffic manager – helping enterprises and ISPs maximize application availability through a high-performance and scalable web Application Delivery platform. The AX's Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS) architecture has garnered the company numerous awards and is revolutionary by market standards due to its scalable symmetrical multiprocessing (SSMP), shared memory architecture. AX includes an optimized multi-CPU architecture built from the ground up that leaps ahead of the competition in terms of performance, scalability, and reliability. For more information, visit: [www.a10networks.com/products/axseries](http://www.a10networks.com/products/axseries)

## **About A10 Networks**

A10 Networks was founded in 2004 with a mission to provide innovative networking and security solutions. A10 Networks makes high-performance products that help organizations accelerate, optimize and secure their applications. A10 Networks is headquartered in Silicon Valley with offices in the United States, United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Brazil, Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. For more information, visit: [www.a10networks.com](http://www.a10networks.com)

## **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](http://www.oad.nl)