

UCLA Information Technology Infrastructure Services Counts on Thunder ADC Solution from A10 Networks

Company

- UCLA

Industry

- Education

Network Solution

- Thunder ADC line of Application Delivery Controllers

Critical Issues

- Needed a new solution for a deployment of UCLA's revitalized home page/portal
- Wanted to utilize advanced application delivery controller (ADC) features such as next-generation load balancing
- Needed migration from current system to be as easy as possible while improving security
- Required scalability for future growth

Results

- The A10 Thunder ADC solution was chosen primarily for performance, price and a robust feature set
- Intuitive web-based GUI and de facto standard CLI provide flexible management and easy deployment
- Non-licensing policy means no budget surprises and no need to purchase licenses during unforeseen peak loads

“The A10 guy came in and laid out in simple terms what the company could offer. Performance is definitely important to us. We need to be sure everything works well. Price is also an enormous factor. I could pay over twice as much for a competitive solution and I'm very glad that I didn't. I've found that the A10 solution does all that our previous system did – and more.”

Jeff Barnes
Senior Development Engineer
UCLA

UCLA is known worldwide for the breadth and quality of its academic, research, healthcare, cultural, continuing education and athletics programs. The IT Infrastructure Services (IS) unit focuses on the provisioning and management of Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) and Platform as a Service (PaaS), as well as reliable mainframe and data center operations.

Application-Aware Network Solution Needed for University's Revitalized Home Page/Portal

The demands of a university's network correlate closely with the demands of the university. Webpage traffic spikes when admissions deadlines loom, for example, and it's critical that the system can handle these fluctuations.

Server load balancers efficiently distribute workloads across numerous computing resources, minimizing response time and avoiding overload on any one resource. An advanced application delivery controller (ADC) will include server load balancing (SLB), custom health checks, application acceleration through caching and compression, TCP and SSL offloading, and other features to minimize network strain while lowering overall expenses.

UCLA had used a Cisco CSS solution to handle the university's networking traffic for years – until it was no longer being sold by Cisco. Jeff Barnes, Senior Development Engineer at UCLA, needed a new solution, especially for a deployment of UCLA's revitalized and redundant home page/portal. He wanted to use advanced ADC features such as next-generation load balancing, security such as Web Application Firewall (WAF), Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB) for a Disaster Recovery initiative, and other robust features that would make migration off the Cisco system as easy as possible while improving security. The new solution also needed to be scalable for future growth.

Why UCLA Chose the A10 Thunder ADC Solution

A committee at UCLA evaluated vendors and narrowed down the possibilities. The A10 Networks® Thunder® ADC solution was chosen primarily for performance, price and a robust feature set.

"The A10 guy came in and laid out in simple terms what the company could offer," said Barnes. "Performance is definitely important to us. We need to be sure everything works well. Price is also an enormous factor. I could pay over twice as much for a competitive solution and I'm very glad that I didn't. I've found that the A10 solution does all that our previous system did – and more."

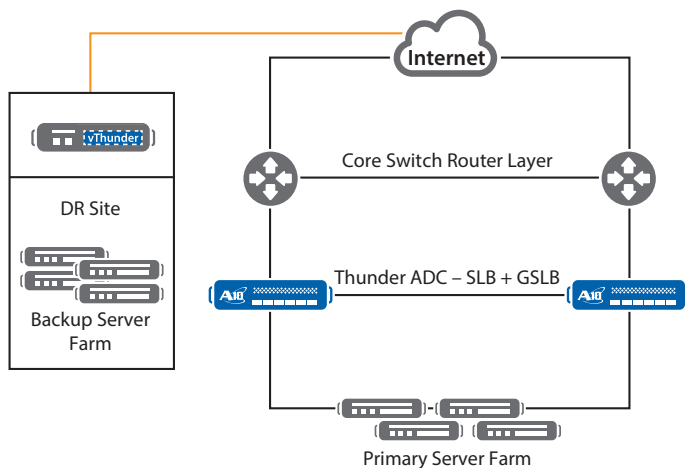


Figure 1. The A10 Thunder ADC solution meets the scalability, server availability and failover demands of a university's network.

Performance, Load Balancing, Security = Stellar Solution

The A10 Thunder ADC solution gives UCLA the following differentiators:

- **Competitive Performance.** "I like the 10 Gigabit connections; those really boost performance, along with the speed of the machine itself," said Barnes. "We can do 15,000 page loads a second now."
- **Ease of Deployment.** A10's intuitive web-based GUI and de facto standard CLI provide flexible management and easy deployment. The RESTful aXAPI® functionality enables UCLA to integrate the A10 Thunder ADC solution into its production systems for custom management and monitoring of application streams.
- **Lower Total Cost of Ownership.** Competitive pricing and high performance through specialized Flexible Traffic Accelerator (FTA) hardware has resulted in favorable total cost of ownership (TCO).
- **No Licensing Model Means No Budget Surprises.** "With the competition, additional features can cost more – that drives me crazy," said Barnes. "I don't want to have to buy extra licenses, for example." A10 ADC hardware appliances and virtualized solutions include all features and performance without licenses, ensuring

no budget surprises and no need to purchase licenses during unforeseen peak loads. All innovative and advanced features are included, such as application acceleration and TCP optimization, Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB), Web Application Firewall, Application Access Management (AAM) and aFlex® TCL-based scripting; also included is aXAPI, a REST-based Application Programming Interface (API) for management. In addition, annual support costs are significantly lower than those of industry competitors.

- **Exceptional Service and Support.** "We were dealing with several projects that had the same timeline, which made things even more stressful and difficult for our folks," said Barnes. "The A10 engineering support guys went above and beyond in helping with our deployment. A10 did not let us down."

A10 Passes the Networking Test with Flying Colors

"It's a pleasure doing business with A10," said Barnes. "I'm very happy with the A10 people and solutions. I've given A10's outstanding efforts my highest recommendation."

The A10 Solution

A10 Thunder ADC product line enhances service availability and optimizes network infrastructure efficiency. The A10 Thunder ADC is built upon A10's Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS®) platform, with our Symmetric Scalable Multi-Core Processing (SSMP) software architecture that delivers high performance and a range of deployment options for dedicated, hosted or cloud data centers. For management and oversight, aGalaxy® provides a consolidated interface to manage and monitor A10 devices. A10's varied product offerings for scaling, optimization and monitoring provide the most efficient hardware and virtual form factors, to ensure that your data center resources are used efficiently. The combination of high performance in a small form factor results in lower costs through reducing power usage, rack space consumption and cooling requirements. For more information, please visit: www.a10networks.com/solutions/service_provider_networks_solutions.php.

About ACOS

The ACOS platform is an application networking software architecture optimized for 64-bit multi-core processor systems. In order to maximize the capabilities of these increasingly dense multi-core CPUs, ACOS implements a shared memory architecture that scales more efficiently than conventional memory management architectures, like inter-processor communications (IPC). This shared memory architecture enables A10 products to utilize these increasingly common multi-core CPUs efficiently and scale performance with increasing CPU cores, enabling ACOS-based products to process two to five times more web transactions in certain head to head product comparisons per unit of computing and memory resources, power, rack space or list price. For more information, please visit: http://www.a10networks.com/about/technology_platform_acos.php.

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.