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Nguyen Anh Tuan
Technology Director



Vega Corp. Speeds Access to Video-Sharing Site with BIG-IP LTM

Industry

Software development, Web 2.0

Challenges

- Manage a large volume of users uploading and viewing videos
- Deliver highly available video services at all times
- Improve access speed
- Scale servers to support rapid growth of users

Solution

F5 BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™

Benefits

- Improved customer experience
- Increased high availability of online video services
- Scalability without downtime to cope with rapid traffic growth
- Reduced administration and management time
- Continuous server availability for video uploading and viewing

Overview

Clip.vn is a video-sharing website created in early 2007 by Vega Corporation, a Vietnam-based software company headquartered in Hanoi. Out of the 80 staff in the company, 18 are involved in content verification and network development for Clip.vn. The site hosts a wide variety of user-generated video content, including movie clips, TV clips, and music videos, as well as amateur content such as video-blogs and short original videos.

Clip.vn started as an online community for video sharing and was the first site of its kind in Vietnam. The portal has since evolved into a large online community. By September 2007, just seven months after its introduction, the website had attracted more than 70,000 members and received more than 60,000 uploaded video clips.

The website continues to experience exponential growth. By February 2008, Clip.vn had over one million subscribers and was receiving 100,000 hits a day, with over 1,000 videos uploaded daily. By June, the site was handling uploads of 1,500 videos per day.

Challenges

Beginning mid-June 2007, Clip.vn encountered several technical problems due to a high volume of

traffic to the portal—traffic that surpassed all previous forecasts. With a growing number of users accessing the website each day, hundreds of gigabytes of bandwidth were being used.

As a result, Clip.vn’s servers were overloaded and ran sluggishly during peak hours as large numbers of users tried to access the servers. Users complained about slow access speeds, inconsistent video quality, and unexpected interruptions during video uploads. To solve these issues, Vega’s technology group attempted several solutions using the technologies they had on hand—such as implementing proxy servers and clustering—to no avail.

“We realized that we needed an Application Delivery Networking solution to address the issue comprehensively,” said Nguyen Son Tung, Head of the Clip.vn Development Group at Vega Corp. “One of our most significant challenges was enhancing scalability to meet the demands of Clip’s increasing popularity.”

After speaking to their technology partners and surveying the products available in the market, Vega concluded that F5 offered the best Application Delivery Networking technology. They decided to deploy the F5® BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™ (LTM) 3400 solution.



“We chose the F5 product because it could be easily incorporated into our system without affecting our existing infrastructure. More importantly, F5 helped us solve Clip’s persistent problems, including bandwidth and application delivery challenges,” said Nguyen Anh Tuan, Technology Director of Vega Corp.

Solution

Local distributor Transition System Vietnam and system integrator SyncTech Jsc. were involved in the implementation of BIG-IP LTM and successfully transitioned Vega to the new technology.

With intelligent and flexible application delivery capabilities, Clip’s servers are now thoroughly optimized, and site content remains secure, fast, and available. The company can maximize its capacity while responding to the large volume of requests from Internet users.

The BIG-IP LTM 3400 device’s intelligent platform consolidates millions of requests sent to Clip.vn and immediately searches and transfers them to a selected server, which can best fulfill the job in the shortest period of time.

In addition, Clip.vn is leveraging BIG-IP LTM technologies such as Dynamic Caching and Intelligent Compression to streamline its application delivery environments, cutting costs and providing a better user experience.

“The speed at which users could access the website and watch and upload videos has improved remarkably,” added Nguyen Son Tung. “The system no longer gets suspended suddenly due to an overload. Another very important improvement is users’ data on the servers is better safeguarded.”

Conclusion

Today, Clip.vn can meet the demands of millions of Internet users accessing the website. And Clip.vn’s technicians are confident that they can expand and upgrade the capacity of the system at any time, with support from F5, Transition System Vietnam, and the System Integrator, SyncTech Jsc.

Currently, Vega is focusing on developing Beta 2, its server application that hosts the online videos. Beta 2 will offer features like reduced file upload time, a more user-friendly interface, and will allow even non-members to upload videos.

As the company improves and expands Clip.vn, Vega will continue to look at implementing additional F5 solutions to further optimize its network infrastructure.

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