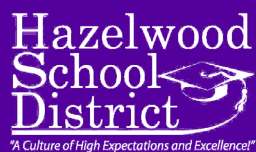


## School District relies on Loadbalancer.org for Horizon VDI uptime

Resilient Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) was critically important to Hazelwood School District, directly impacting the ability of students, teachers, and administrators to access essential learning tools and resources.

The District's existing F5 BIG-IP appliances were proving too complicated to handle, creating an urgent need for a more intuitive load balancing solution to ensure high availability.



*We couldn't get our F5s to failover correctly, causing vulnerabilities in our network that required immediate attention."*

**David McCorkle,**  
CIO,  
Hazelwood School District

### Challenges

- Protect more than 2,000 virtual machines from downtime

### Solution

- 2 x Loadbalancer VA Prime virtual appliances
- 3 year 24/7 support

### Benefits

- Simple to configure and easy to use
- Resilient VMHorizon virtual infrastructure
- Service continuity during planned maintenance
- 24/7 support on hand, if needed

## Challenge

Hazelwood School District's CIO, David McCorkle, had been instrumental in the design, implementation, and management of the School's network and server infrastructure, as well as application development and system automation initiatives.

McCorkle knew the importance of the District's virtual desktop infrastructure and was frustrated to find that the complexities of their existing F5 BIG-IPs were undermining the availability of critical staff and student services.



He needed to find an alternative solution. One that could more easily support the scalability of his VDI environment based on fluctuating student populations, new programs or seasonal demands, and ensure continuous learning.

The load balancer needed to provide immediate failover in the event of an external or internal broker failure in order to keep their 2,000 virtual machines operating as needed.

## Solution

The School District's Horizon VDI environment had existed for 15 years, and remained a core part of their educational service delivery provision.

They needed to find a load balancer that was more intuitive and easier to manage and maintain than their F5s. As the engineers' choice for smarter application delivery, Loadbalancer.org's clever but not complex appliances appeared to fit the bill.

Having downloaded Loadbalancer's Free Trial directly from their website, McCorkle and his team were quickly able to establish a clear Proof of Concept, and subsequently purchased a pair of virtual load balancers to create a clustered HA pair.

## Benefits

Loadbalancer's virtual appliances were critical in effectively load balancing their VMware Horizon VDI deployment, providing a multitude of benefits, including the following:

### Simplified maintenance and management

Loadbalancer's intuitive Enterprise Application Delivery Controller (ADC) is designed to save time and money with a clever, not complex, WebUI and clear, step-by-step documentation. This means Hazelwood School District can easily configure, deploy, manage, and maintain their load balancers; reducing complexity and the risk of human error.

### High availability and disaster recovery

VMware Horizon relies on a number of different brokers and components, including Unified Access Gateways (UAGs). In the event of a server or component failure, the load balancer automatically detects the issue and redirects new connections to the remaining healthy servers, resulting in seamless failover and an uninterrupted user experience. This maintains service continuity and prevents disruption to staff and students.

### Enhanced scalability and performance

The load balancer helps the VDI infrastructure absorb a surge in users during peak times, intelligently distributing incoming user connections and requests across available Horizon components. This prevents any single server from becoming overloaded, which can lead to slow login times, laggy desktops, and frustrated users.



With Loadbalancer's virtual appliances, Hazelwood School District was therefore able to overcome the challenges they had faced with their F5 load balancers, and ensure high availability and enhanced scalability for their VMware Horizon VDI deployment, ultimately improving user experience, system reliability, and operational efficiency for both staff and students.

