



Ecclesiastical Insurance optimizes IT performance working with Loadbalancer.org

Specialist insurer Ecclesiastical Insurance was setting up an increasing number of load balanced solutions and wanted to reduce administration overheads whilst improving performance. It found a cost-effective alternative from Loadbalancer.org and now relies on Loadbalancer.org's hardware appliances to optimize the performance and availability of its IT infrastructure.

"The main goal of any IT department is to ensure maximum system availability. Using resilient pairs of Loadbalancer.org products helps us achieve this and deliver responsive applications for 850 users."

David Pearce,
Server Infrastructure Technician,
Ecclesiastical Insurance



Challenges

- Replace Microsoft NLB



Solution

- Loadbalancer.org Enterprise MAX hardware solutions



Partnership Benefits

- Optimises application performance for 850 users
- Improves application availability, by eliminating scheduled downtime
- Aids application management with valuable reports
- Simplifies configuration to save time in the IT department
- Supports business agility, with capacity to add apps in the future



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Challenges

Ecclesiastical Insurance was using the Windows Network Load Balancing (NLB) feature, a software-based load balancing solution bundled with Microsoft Server. However, when the company decided to deploy a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) application, it was recommended that a hardware appliance be used.

Furthermore, during a major IT project to virtualize its server environment, Ecclesiastical Insurance migrated away from a virtual load balanced solution to a dedicated hardware appliance. A larger chunk of the company's core IT infrastructure, including accounting and email systems, was due to be transferred to the new virtualized server platform, so upgrading to a more reliable load balancing solution quickly became a priority.

Solution

The hardware appliances from Loadbalancer.org offered all the performance, manageability, reporting and scalability features that the business needed.

Ecclesiastical Insurance now has two clustered pairs of Loadbalancer.org Enterprise MAX appliances which support its server platform, CRM solution and wider infrastructure. A fifth Enterprise MAX device runs at the organization's remote disaster recovery site.

Results

By balancing traffic evenly and rapidly across all available servers, the Loadbalancer.org products ensure the high performance of key business applications. They optimize the responsiveness of systems used by 850 employees, at head office and six regional offices, helping them to work productively.

Proven to be highly reliable, the Loadbalancer.org products improve the availability of critical systems like email, Web applications and CRM, by enabling the IT team to perform maintenance on individual servers without having to disable the entire system. IT technicians can install patches on servers during working hours and without scheduling downtime, to help the company achieve its availability targets.

Ecclesiastical Insurance particularly appreciates the built-in reports generated by Loadbalancer.org, which allow IT technicians to monitor application health on an ongoing basis. "We can proactively check the performance of applications and intervene if necessary to keep systems running optimally," says David Pearce, Server Infrastructure Technician at Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Offering good value for money, the Loadbalancer.org products have all the capacity that Ecclesiastical Insurance needs to support future growth.

Finally, the Loadbalancer.org products save time in the IT department, as they make it easier to configure and manage servers. Pearce observes, "Previously it may have taken an hour to set up a system using traditional NLB, and it now takes minutes using Loadbalancer.org."

About Loadbalancer.org

Loadbalancer.org provides highly dependable, versatile and affordable load balancers, developed to improve the availability of critical IT applications. With extensive experience solving application delivery challenges for customers around the globe, you can expect honest advice and outstanding support from the Loadbalancer.org team who truly are experts.