



INRS rolls out Exceliance ALOHA Load Balancers to improve its new website's quality of service

On the occasion of a complete overhaul of its website, the Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS), the French research and safety institute for the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases, has selected and deployed ALOHA load balancers.

Objectives: ensure the availability and improve the performance of its informative mission critical website.

Partnership with :



Project at a Glance

Customer:

Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité

Acronym:

INRS

Vertical Industry:

Non-profit organization dedicated to preventing occupational accidents and diseases

Location:

2 offices, in Paris and Lorraine, France

Customer requirements:

For its newly redesigned website:

- Optimize the web infrastructure to enhance its overall performance and better absorb load peaks
- Redirect thousands of old URLs to the appropriate pages on the new website

Solution:

Cluster of 2 ALOHA Load Balancer 8K

A website at the core of INRS's educational mission

Established in 1947, the INRS's mission is to help prevent occupational accidents and diseases, in particular by identifying occupational risks and highlighting dangers in the workplace, analyzing their impacts on health and safety, and developing and promoting means to control said risks.

Over the years, the INRS website has become an authority on workplace health and safety, as well as a key component of the INRS's mission. In 2008, the organization initiated a project to redesign its website. INRS decided to keep its existing databases and focus on improving the ergonomics, creating subject-based navigation – with several reading levels – and adding new functions (such as RSS feeds).

Managing load spikes and keeping old URLs

Despite implementing a new architecture that performed better and was 100% open source (Apache, MySQL and CMS Magnolia), INRS was looking for a system capable of better absorbing load spikes, for example when there are important government announcements.

The new content management system's new tree structure and automatic URL writing module required changing the URL name of 3,000 existing pages that needed to be switched over to the new website. The teams responsible for the project at INRS needed to find a system that could handle, without any loss of performance, redirecting thousands of URLs to the website's new pages. "To prevent 404 errors, which hurt the INRS's image and the website's search engine optimization," said Nino Di Renzo, Network and IT Safety Manager.

Oversized – and therefore very expensive – and complex to take on and administer, the IT Department at INRS

was not impressed by the leading commercially available load balancers. In comparison, the ALOHA load balancers recommended by **RMI Adista** were perfectly suited to their needs, had a simple administration interface and could handle old URL redirection. *"Another selling point for us was the fact that Excelliance products are based on open source HAProxy software, which has an excellent reputation,"* stated Nino Di Renzo.

Fast rollout, new future uses

After a URL redirection prototyping and configuration phase and redundancy testing, INRS selected an architecture of two 8K redundant ALOHA load balancers. Online in just a month, no special training was required to use the load balancers and they perfectly met the INRS's expectations in terms of absorbing load spikes and improving the website's overall performance, in addition to redirecting old URLs.

Now considered to be a core component of the Web architecture, ALOHA load balancers will be installed upstream from other INRS websites, starting with the vocational training management website.

Project Overview

Summary

Since September 2011, INRS relies on Excelliance load balancing solutions to ensure quality and continuity of service of its informative mission critical website

Challenges

- Ensure availability and optimize its website response times, especially during important announcements from the French government
- Deploy a simple solution to redirect individual old pages to their corresponding new equivalents

Key benefits

- Solution deployed in a month, no training required
- Redirection of 3,000 old pages to new ones, without loss of performance
- Streamlined navigation and improved overall performance



Excelliance offers a full line of load balancers to improve performance, guarantee quality of service and ensure the availability of critical business applications.

Developed using HAProxy open source load balancing software, Excelliance solutions are known for their processing performance, reliability and wealth of features. Offered at more affordable prices than other commercial solutions, they cover 100% of the needs of 95% of companies and are easy to deploy and to administer.

Headquartered in Jouy-en-Josas (Yvelines, France) has around 100 customers in the banking, retail groups, energy and e-commerce industries and the public sector. Excelliance solutions are also used by many hosting providers.

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