

Solution Brief

Publishing Microsoft Remote Desktop Services with Barracuda's Application Delivery Controller

Easily deploy a Remote Desktop Services farm to deliver remote desktop and application services to your organization, while boosting performance and user experience. Scale your deployment across multiple data centers using Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB). Publish secure Remote Desktop Services with SSL/TLS and protect it against application attacks.

Challenges

- Efficient load balancing of Remote Desktop Services server farms
- Improving user experience for remote and mobile users
- Creating geo-dispersed Remote Desktop Services deployments
- Deploying Remote Desktop Services securely

Solution

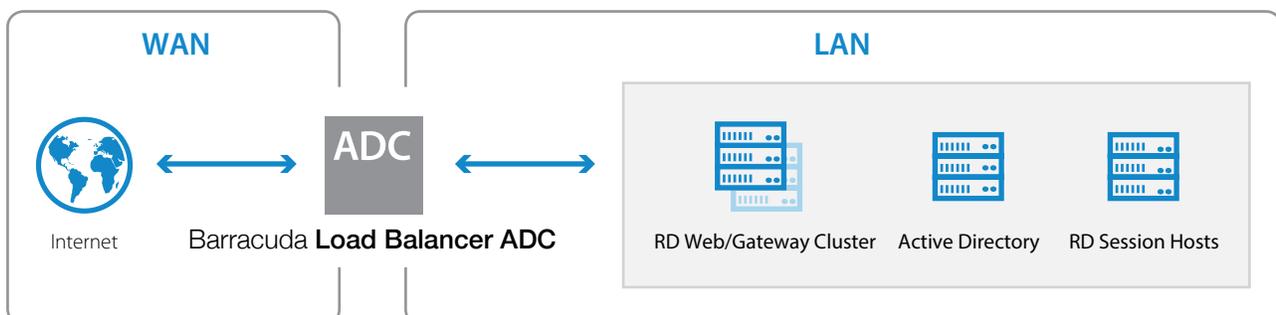
- Barracuda Load Balancer ADC
- Included Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB), Session Persistence, Application Security, and SSO
- Up to 15Gbps throughput
- Physical and virtual form factors

Benefits

- Performance-aware load balancing extracts the best performance from the Remote Desktop Services clusters
- Session persistence ensures faster load times and improved user experience
- Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB) enables geo-dispersed deployments
- SSL/TLS offload secures all connections between clients and the server farms

Many organizations are moving towards using Microsoft's Remote Desktop Services (RDS) to deliver Windows desktops, or individual applications (RemoteApps). Microsoft RDS provides some very compelling advantages for organizations: It simplifies the standardization and deployment of desktops and applications, reduces the cost of hardware and application licenses, improves remote availability of resources to roaming users and provides for data security, especially in BYOD environments.

The increasing usage of Remote Desktop Services has organizations scaling up their deployments to provide the required hardware resources. Microsoft offers load-balancing solutions to enable this within the remote desktop solution, but these solutions have their own issues. In addition to this, the end of life of Microsoft's TMG security solution has pushed customers to add third-party solutions to obtain security and granular access policies to protect their RDS deployments.



The Barracuda Application Delivery Controller

Publish Remote Desktop Services with Confidence

Easily deploy a Remote Desktop Services farm to deliver remote desktop and application services to your organization, while boosting performance.

When deployed to load balance the Remote Desktop Gateway cluster, the Barracuda Load Balancer ADC enhances the performance of the cluster. It also enables you to avoid the issues seen with Windows Network Load Balancer (WNLB) or DNS Round Robin. With WNLB, the heartbeat traffic typically causes traffic flooding; DNS Round Robin is simplistic Round Robin load balancing without the ability to be aware of high availability.

The Barracuda Load Balancer ADC applies performance-aware load balancing to enhance the performance of any connected Remote Desktop Services server farm. The Barracuda Load Balancer ADC continually polls the servers in the RDS farm to identify their current load. The built-in adaptive scheduling algorithm uses this information to connect new sessions to servers with the least load, ensuring optimal user experience. The Barracuda Load Balancer ADC also ensures that any server downtime does not affect users attempting to connect to the server farm. If a Remote Desktop Gateway or Session Host fails, the client does not need to continually try to connect to the failed server—another server in the cluster will be used instead.

Remote users may connect to their desktop sessions through varied devices and locations. With session persistence, the Barracuda Load Balancer ADC ensures that a user's session will be directed to the same server (even when logging in from different locations), enabling quicker load times. This ensures that even when the Internet connection is bad, users do not lose their work in a disconnection, and can resume where they left off.

The Barracuda Load Balancer ADC also enables you to spread out your Remote Desktop Services farm across multiple data centers. It provides Global Server Load Balancing capabilities to direct users to the nearest data center, reducing latency and enhancing productivity. In the event a Remote Desktop Services farm goes down, users are directed to the next closest data center. This ensures that there is no lost productivity due to downtime. Within each data center, the Barracuda Load Balancer ADC improves the performance of the RDS server farm by applying performance-aware load balancing (as discussed above).

The Barracuda Load balancer ADC applies comprehensive traffic protection by encrypting all the connections between the RD Gateway, RD Web Access and Clients. When used with Remote Desktop Web Access, along with performance-awareness and high availability, the Load Balancer ADC also ensures full SSL/TLS security for the web access. Application security features ensure that all application layer attacks against our infrastructure are blocked.

With continuous server health check and automated content routing, administrators can ensure the highest levels of availability, while broad monitoring and logging helps you manage potential networks and security issues before they cause service interruptions.

Application Delivery with Barracuda

Designed for today's high-traffic data centers, the Barracuda Load Balancer ADC is a high-performance application delivery controller that combines application acceleration, availability, and control with advanced security capabilities. Deployed by thousands of organizations worldwide, the Barracuda Load Balancer ADC is a robust, proven solution that manages and secures billions of application transactions daily. It's available as a multiport platform with fiber and copper network interfaces, as well as a virtual appliance.

To learn more about upgrading your Forefront TMG installation to Barracuda's Application Delivery Controller solution, visit www.barracuda.com/ADC. Or call 1-408-342-5400 or 1-888-268-4772 (US & Canada) to request a free 30-day trial.

About Barracuda Networks, Inc.

Protecting users, applications, and data for more than 150,000 organizations worldwide, Barracuda Networks has developed a global reputation as the go-to leader for powerful, easy-to-use, affordable IT solutions. The company's proven customer-centric business model focuses on delivering high-value, subscription-based IT solutions for security and data protection. For additional information, please visit www.barracuda.com.