Delivering high-performance and availability for leading insurer Uniqa.

Barracuda Load Balancer ADC ensures insurer's

web proxies never miss a beat.

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APPLICATION PROTECTION

Customer

- Uniqa Group AG is one of the largest insurance groups in Central and Eastern Europe
- Around 21,000 employees and exclusive sales partners serve more than 17 million customers across 17 countries

Challenges

- Improve availability and performance of web proxy services in two datacenters
- Preserve employee experience

Solutions

Barracuda
Load Balancer ADC™

Benefits

- Supports improved employee productivity
- Enhances availability, performance, reliability and scalability
- No web proxy service outages have been recorded since implementation

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Server infrastructure plays a critical role in supporting modern business operations. But what happens when those servers aren't performing as expected? Business-critical applications, and those who rely on them, start to suffer. It's a challenge that recently faced Mr. Jan Blažek, IT Infrastructure Services Manager at Uniqa Group.

Fortunately, Mr. Blažek was able to harness the power of Barracuda Load Balancer ADC to get his web proxy infrastructure back firing on all cylinders in no time.

Time to call Barracuda

Uniqa's challenge was simple on paper. They resolved to boost the performance of the existing endpoints, by purchasing load balancers. These physical or virtual appliances sit between user and server to dynamically distribute network traffic across resources — increasing overall reliability and availability. Mr. Blažek's specific focus was improving the performance and availability of web proxy services running on five servers in Uniqa's Czechia and Slovakian datacenters. The need was particularly acute at peak times, when employees struggled with poor application performance.

Mr. Blažek turned to IT partner M-COM s.r.o. (now Thein Security s.r.o.) to help find the right solution. Fortunately, the service provider had a strong relationship with Barracuda, successfully deployed Barracuda Web Application Firewall (WAF) for clients. It also highly rated Barracuda's local language sales team, and the opportunity to test products in a real-

world environment prior to purchase.

Set up within a day

Barracuda Load Balancer ADC provides advanced Layer 4 and Layer 7 load balancing with TLS Offloading and Application Acceleration. As well as preserving application resources by offloading compute-intensive TLS transactions, it features caching, compression and TCP pooling for faster application delivery and scalability. Available in hardware, virtual and cloud versions, the Microsoft-certified offering use health and performance checks to distribute traffic most efficiently. A built-in Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB) module supports redundancy across multiple sites — to boost availability, improve client response time, and accelerate disaster recovery.

Security is also a key part of the product's feature set. An Application Security module delivers comprehensive web application protection, including against OWASP Top 10 threats and application DDoS attacks. It also monitors outbound traffic with Data Loss Prevention. Initial work to get the product up and running only took Uniqa and its implementation partner around a day.

"The deployment went very smoothly thanks to good technical documentation and an intuitive setup of the load balancer environment. Unlike competing products, Barracuda's are highly intuitive in terms of administration, configuration and implementation," Mr. Blažek says. "We also had a good experience with Barracuda technical support, specifically resolving the display of access logs

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Mr. Blažek, IT Infrastructure Services Manager
Uniqa Group

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Keeping users productive

With Barracuda Load Balancer ADC on board, Uniqa has been able to support its employees and enhance its business continuity preparedness.

"The existing web proxy architecture only allowed clustering in active-passive mode, but with the Barracuda deployment, the web proxies can run in a multi-node active-active cluster," explains Mr. Blažek. "Thanks to this, we are able to ensure the availability of web proxy services, even in case of a failure of one of the datacenters, without impacting end users."
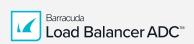
It means Uniqa has the peace of mind that its business operations will always be running at maximum speed, even during times of peak server utilization. The project impressed Mr. Blažek so much that Uniqa was happy to put additional services under load balancer management — including multi-factor authentication and SMTP relay.

"With Barracuda we get availability, performance, reliability and scalability. And there have been no outages of web proxy services since deployment," Mr. Blažek concludes. "Given our experience with Barracuda, the product's reliability and technical

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Mr. Blažek, IT Infrastructure Services Manager
Uniqa Group

Learn more:

Barracuda
Load Balancer ADC™

Barracuda Load Balancer ADC is a Secure Application Delivery Controller that enables Application Availability, Acceleration and Control, while providing Application Security Capabilities. It's available in hardware, virtual and cloud instances.

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APPLICATION PROTECTION

About Barracuda

At Barracuda we strive to make the world a safer place. We believe every business deserves access to cloud-first, enterprise-grade security solutions that are easy to buy, deploy, and use. We protect email, networks, data and applications with innovative solutions that grow and adapt with our customers' journey. More than 200,000 organizations worldwide trust Barracuda to protect them — in ways they may not even know they are at risk — so they can focus on taking their business to the next level. For more information, visit barracuda.com.