

Simply Secure

HIRSLANDEN

Maximum availability of applications

The Hirslanden Group chooses the Application Delivery Controller (ADC) by A10 Networks

Minimum response times and maximum availability of IT applications are a necessity in healthcare. Hirslanden Private Hospital Group has therefore opted for two geographically separate data centers with an integrated load-balance cluster. This ensures dynamic load balancing and delay-free work.



Initial situation

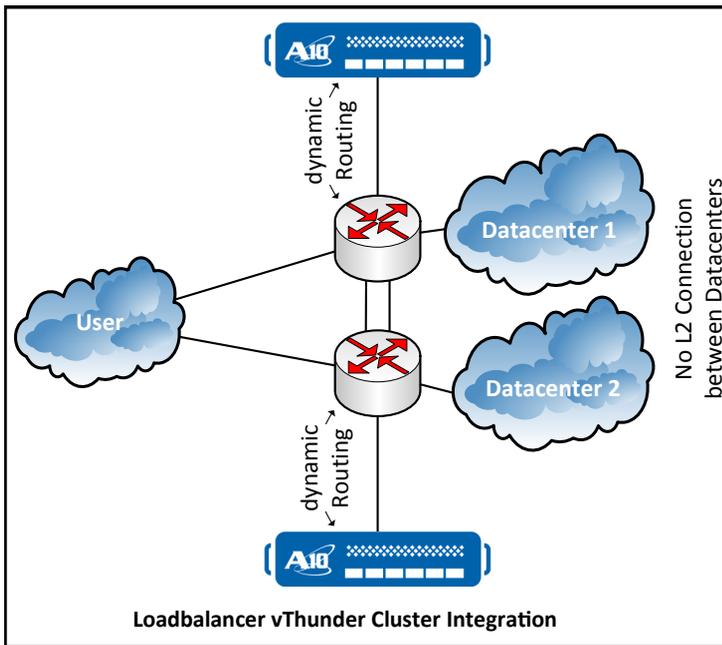
The use of the Clinical Information System (HIS) by the Hirslanden private clinic group is the focal point of all patient-related activities, whether it is an inpatient hospital stay or outpatient treatment. It supports the workflow of physicians and nurses, and makes it possible, for example, to request medical results, document care measures or retrieve information from the electronic patient file. Marco Gruber, Network Engineer at Hirslanden, comments: «The Clinical Information System is of central importance for our 16 clinics in Switzerland and, as a result, must always be available. In addition, applications provided through Citrix or the web portal must have no noticeable response times, even at full load. In order to meet these requirements, we carried out an evaluation of powerful load-balancers and opted for the Application Delivery Controller of the Thunder series by A10 Networks. We were completely satisfied with the two-month test phase, which met all our requirements in terms of functionality, performance, scalability and handling.»

The solution

The virtual appliances from A10 Networks combine all the relevant ADC (Application Delivery Controller) and SLB (Server Load Balancer) functions, and ensure latency-free access to the centrally hosted KIS application at all times. They distribute the load dynamically to the appropriate server and guarantee uninterrupted operation, even in the event of a server or data center failure, thanks to the redundant integration of the ADC with automatic 'fail-over'. In addition, the two data centers – in the LAN area and the DMZ zone – are each fitted with an active-active ADC cluster.

In addition to the functional and performance aspects, the ease of use of the system is of central importance to the IT managers of the Hirslanden Group. Marco Gruber: «Thanks to the Cisco-like CLI and Web-GUI, we were instantly familiar with the A10 platform. Accordingly, the installation, configuration and maintenance work have been very smooth.»





The load-balance cluster pair of the Thunder series by A10 Networks distributes requests dynamically to the appropriate server, and thanks to the automatic 'fail over' ensures the seamless availability of the KIS application in the event of a data center failure.

Selection criteria

The following factors led to the choice of the ADC by A10 Networks:

- Simple operation thanks to the Cisco-like CLI (Command Line Interface) and Web-GUI
- Robust operation
- Transparent licensing model (no additional costs for the individual functional modules)
- Attractive price-performance ratio



«In order to ensure an IT infrastructure with the highest possible availability, we chose high-performance products that we could operate comfortably with our Cisco expertise. The Application Delivery Controller by A10 Networks meets our highest expectations.»

Marco Gruber, Network Engineering,
Hirslanden Group

A10 Networks

Founded in 2004 and quoted on the NYSE since March 21, 2014, A10 Networks specializes in the development, production and worldwide distribution of high performance networking and security solutions. With its head office in San José (Silicon Valley, USA) and branch offices in 23 countries, this rapidly growing company develops and markets innovative Application Delivery Controllers and Server Load Balancers for the enterprise market in order to accelerate, optimize and secure applications.

Hirslanden Group

The Hirslanden Private Hospital Group consists of 16 hospitals in 11 cantons. The Group has a good 2,100 employed and affiliated doctors, and 7,800 staff members. Hirslanden is the leading private hospital group and the largest medical network in Switzerland. In the 2013/14 financial year, it generated a turnover of 1,437bn Swiss francs. On 31 March 2014, over 87,200 patients were being treated as inpatients at the 14 hospitals with a total of 420,000 inpatient days. In insurance terms, the patient mix consists of 41.4% basic, 33.0% semi-private, and 25.6% private insured patients. Hirslanden operates a total of 12 emergency units and emergency admission, and thus contributes to the basic medical cover for the Swiss population. The private hospital group was formed in 1990 out of the merger of a number of private hospitals, and became part of the South African hospital group Mediclinic International Limited in 2007.