

“We gain tremendous efficiencies by offloading a multitude of server functions down to a single device. By offloading persistence, SSL, caching, and compression and integrating it with Oracle SSO, BIG-IP LTM gives us a much more efficient environment.”

Danilo Bonfim
IT Manager,
EZTec



EZTec Streamlines the Deployment and Management of Oracle Collaboration Suite Using F5's Application Ready Network



Industry

Real Estate Development and Construction

Challenges

- Efficiently deploy an integrated infrastructure for Oracle 10g Application Server and Oracle Collaboration Suite (OCS)
- Achieve high availability
- Optimize application performance
- Simplify the management of the IT infrastructure

Solution

- F5 Application Ready Network (ARN) for Oracle 10g Application Server and Oracle Collaboration Suite Solutions
- F5 BIG-IP® Local Traffic Manager™ 3400
- F5 BIG-IP Link Controller™

Benefits

- Smooth and efficient deployment
- Optimized IT investment
- High availability and top application performance
- Simplified IT infrastructure and reduced management resources

Summary

EZTec is a construction company headquartered in São Paulo, Brazil, with a focus on large residential development projects. The company has built more than one million square meters (10.7 million square feet) in its 30-year history, and it has grown quickly in recent years. The increasing complexity of EZTec's IT infrastructure that resulted from this growth was having a negative impact on the performance and availability of its applications, which are essential to the company's operations.

Through its technology partner, DBMaster Informática, EZTec used F5's Application Ready Network [Deployment Guides for Oracle 10g Application Server](#) and [Oracle Collaboration Suite](#) to successfully implement these Oracle solutions with F5 BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager.

As a result, EZTec has established a solid, integrated platform that simplifies the management of its IT infrastructure by offloading load balancing, application persistence, caching, HTTP/HTTPS compression, and SSL certificate management. The company has achieved high availability that keeps its applications' users productive and its operations running efficiently.

Challenge

With dozens of ongoing construction projects at any given time, EZTec relies on its applications to ensure that its users—including 350 engineers, salesmen, brokers, project managers, and buyers as well as 200 external brokers at satellite and sales offices throughout the state of São Paulo—can share CAD files, spreadsheets, and other important documents efficiently. In this fast-paced business, downtime and slow application performance have a direct impact on expenses and the company's ability to meet its deadlines and budgets. It's essential that EZTec's systems keep its employees working without delays or interruptions.

As EZTec grew, it added new applications and IT infrastructure to meet its expanding needs. Integrating multiple solutions from different providers created a complex system that became difficult to manage. This complexity translated into slower application performance, increased downtime, and more time and resources spent on IT maintenance.

EZTec found the integrated enterprise solution it needed in Oracle 10g Application Server and Oracle Collaboration Suite (OCS). This solution provides EZTec with a



unified communication environment for a full range of services, including file sharing, mail, calendar, project collaboration, web conferencing, single sign-on (SSO), and forums.

Once the Oracle solution components were selected, EZTec recognized that in order to ensure availability and business continuity, it needed a secure and optimized platform to front-end the data center application environment of Dell Power Edge servers, HP EVA storage, and EMC storage.

Beyond application system fault tolerance and stability, the company also wanted the same device to accelerate and optimize delivery to achieve the highest levels of application performance and user satisfaction.

Solution

EZTec turned to its technology consulting partner, DBMaster, which specializes in Oracle implementation services, to identify a solution that would not only function well with specific processes but also fully optimize all of the available IT resources.

DBMaster evaluated a number of technology providers, including Juniper, Cisco, and Linux Virtual Server, and recommended F5. EZTec's F5 solution includes BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager (LTM) with its Application Ready Network (ARN) for Oracle 10g Application Server and Oracle Collaboration Suite solutions, as well as BIG-IP Link Controller to intelligently manage bi-directional traffic flow through policies.

Through its extensive experience with Oracle deployments, DBMaster

recognized that F5 is the only vendor to offer a comprehensive, Oracle-specific ARN that simplifies the design, deployment, and management of Oracle applications across the network.

Using F5's step-by-step ARN Deployment Guides and pre-configured policies, DBMaster implemented two BIG-IP LTM 3400 appliances, which not only provide intelligent load balancing but also offload application persistence, caching, HTTP/HTTPS compression, and SSL certificate management for six application servers. At the same time, BIG-IP Link Controller ensures optimal performance by intelligently routing incoming and outgoing traffic based on prioritization rules set by EZTec.

Benefits

Using F5's BIG-IP LTM and ARN for Oracle, EZTec and DBMaster were able to deploy the Oracle solutions with the F5 appliances quickly and efficiently. The company has achieved high availability and fast performance for its applications that enable employees to communicate and collaborate with no interruption to their productivity. This integrated environment has simplified management of the application servers, decreasing the IT resources needed and reducing any negative impacts to end users.

"The Brazilian construction market is overheated, with many players entering this highly profitable market. There is no doubt that the solution we helped EZTec to implement represents a huge competitive advantage, due to the fact that it gives the company speed and reliability that their competitors can't match," says Joao Oliveira, CTO at DBMaster.

Faster and easier deployment

To achieve the successful deployment of Oracle 10g Application Server and OCS with BIG-IP LTM, DBMaster used F5's documented, step-by-step configuration procedures and Oracle-specific acceleration and security policies. These procedures and policies are tested, proven, and certified in real-world environments at both the F5 Technology Center and Oracle labs, and can be demonstrated at Oracle Enterprise Tech Centers (ETC) around the world.

"A lot of times there can be unexpected problems when you deploy something of this scale," says Oliveira. "The partnership between F5 and Oracle eliminated a lot of the unknown and let us focus on achieving the best possible performance for EZTec's users as quickly as possible."

Big efficiency gains

BIG-IP LTM provides the cookie-based persistence that is required in Oracle's advanced unified communication environment. Offloading persistence to BIG-IP LTM reduces the need to build out the Oracle identity management infrastructure to manage it, allowing more server resources to focus on serving business logic.

And persistence is just one of the functions that BIG-IP LTM optimizes for EZTec. "We gain tremendous efficiencies by offloading a multitude of server functions down to a single device," says Danilo Bonfim, IT Manager at EZTec. "By offloading persistence, SSL, caching, and compression and integrating it with Oracle SSO, BIG-IP LTM gives us a much more efficient environment."



BIG-IP LTM also ensures that servers are fully utilized to provide maximum benefit to the entire organization. "Now when we add an application server, BIG-IP LTM integrates it into the server pool so it doesn't add value to just a single process, but to the entire company," explains Bonfim.

High availability

Eliminating downtime was perhaps the most important factor in EZTec's decision to implement its new solution, and they have achieved this goal. "We run a fast-paced construction business, and when

our applications are down, a vital function of our business is down," says Bonfim. "Now we can add or remove servers from the server pool without affecting the end user at all. F5 helps us take full advantage of the 'high availability' concept."

Higher ROI, lower TCO

In an industry where staying within budget is essential to success, EZTec has benefitted not only from streamlining the deployment of the IT infrastructure but also from simplifying its ongoing management. For example, offloading SSL management to

BIG-IP LTM not only reduces CPU usage on the application servers by 20 to 30 percent, but also reduces the resources required to continually manage SSL certificates by centralizing and consolidating them on one device.

"We keep a close watch on our IT budget," says Bonfim. "It's important for us to have infrastructures that are efficient, have a fast return on investment, and are extremely easy to manage, and that's what F5 has done for us."

F5 Networks, Inc.
Corporate Headquarters
401 Elliott Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 272-5555 Phone
(888) 88BIGIP Toll-Free
(206) 272-5556 Fax
www.f5.com
info@f5.com

F5 Networks
Asia-Pacific
+65-6533-6103 Phone
+65-6533-6103 Fax
info.asia@f5.com

F5 Networks, Ltd
Europe/Middle-East/Africa
+44 (0)1932 582 000 Phone
+44 (0)1932 582 001 Fax
emeainfo@f5.com

F5 Networks
Japan K.K.
+81-3-5114-3200 Phone
+81-3-5114-3201 Fax
info@f5networks.co.jp