

Groupama Seguros Uses Radware Solutions to Raise Web Application Performance, Ensure Security and Privacy

Summary

Business Need

At Groupama, a leading European insurance firm, maintaining reliable and secure Internet service is absolutely vital. With offices across several countries, and 7,000 daily website users, the company needed a geo-dispersed, balanced web platform that would deliver top-rate performance while ensuring communications privacy and protection against attacks.

Why Radware's Solutions

Spanish subsidiary Groupama Seguros deployed core products of Radware's APSolute suite, AppDirector, AppXcel and DefensePro, which together optimize application delivery and protect against emerging attacks. Groupama Seguros selected Radware's APSolute suite over its current solution because it provided all the vital security features, was cost-effective and could flexibly integrate with the company's various services.

Solution

Radware's APSolute suite provided Groupama Seguros with a global redirection solution that supports a wide set of application acceleration and security services, enabling complete transaction reliability and fast application and translation response times. In addition, business continuity is maintained while the IP network is protected against existing and potential threats.

Benefits

All of Groupama Seguros' Internet services and several of the corporate intranet services are currently supported by Radware platforms. The thousands of people using Groupama's website each day enjoy better performance due to the Radware-enabled load balancing, acceleration of secure protocols and application security.

Overview

Groupama Seguros is the Spanish subsidiary of Groupama, a worldwide mutual insurance, banking and financial services group that is currently the leader in mutual insurance companies in Europe. With 150 years of history in the Spanish market, Groupama Seguros is highly acclaimed for both its technological innovation and the quality of its products. It caters to a broad clientele by offering life and non-life insurance, savings and a range of banking services.

Groupama Seguros' Challenges:
To guarantee security and improve website performance in a high-availability environment with geographical dispersion.

The company's web applications are used every day by approximately 7,000 employees, partners and customers located in multiple countries. They conduct a number

of activities that all require a seamless, fast and reliable connection, 24*7. Local and global visitors processing online transactions need continuous connectivity. They furthermore need to be directed to the most suitable site that will provide optimal service and have a record of their relevant data.



Case Study: Insurance

“Radware’s “scale-as-you-grow” approach enabled us to decrease our operational and capital expenditure making it possible to upgrade only when necessary in a cost-effective manner.”

In June 2008, Groupama Seguros began searching for ways to provide a better user experience. As the company is responsible for large volumes of confidential data, including customer accounts and personal information, customers required a secure platform to perform their online transactions. This meant that network attacks and unwanted malware such as worms, viruses, reconnaissance, Trojans and VoIP attacks needed to be intercepted.

Taking all these issues into account, Groupama Seguros searched for a load balancing platform that would also guarantee privacy and protect against attacks.

The Solution: Internet Load Balancing with Radware’s, AppDirector and AppXcel, and Increased Security with Radware’s DefensePro.

Groupama deployed Radware’s intelligent application delivery controller to provide optimal application delivery through real-time traffic redirection, local and global server load distribution, and comprehensive dynamic bandwidth.

Groupama Seguros’ deployment of AppDirector ensures full application continuity and redundancy by eliminating traffic surges, server bottlenecks, disconnection of connectivity and downtime. The AppDirector’s global re-direction solution enables transaction completion and fast response times across multiple data centers to the high rate of global Groupama Seguros customers visiting the website. AppDirector’s “Pay-as-you-Grow” scalability option allows Groupama Seguros to

upgrade to a higher bandwidth when necessary. This enables real reductions in CAPEX and OPEX as costs apply only to the bandwidth that is consumed.

In order to offer customers complete transaction reliability and fast application and translation response times, Groupama Seguros deployed AppXcel, which assures client- and server-side SSL security by expanding the capabilities of all network security devices to scan SSL encrypted traffic. This enables Groupama Seguros to detect hacking or information leaks in real time.

Groupama Seguros is faced with a number of attacks which occur at the perimeter of the network. The company therefore selected Radware’s DefensePro, which delivers advanced security intelligence to isolate, block and prevent attacks in real-time, ensuring high performance for legitimate traffic while protecting against vulnerability-based and non-vulnerability-based threats. Operating in Groupama Seguros’ network core, DefensePro inspects all network traffic and protects the core network against network attacks deploying DefensePro’s signature detection technology against the know vulnerability based attacks and deploying DefensePro behavioral-based real-time signatures against the zero-minute and non-vulnerability based attacks that misuse the network service.

According to José Luis Piédrola Nadal, IT Deputy General Manager of Groupama Seguros, “Although we evaluated the option of evolving to higher versions of the platforms we were already using at the time, we researched a number of

competitor vendor solutions. We finally selected Radware’s solution, since it is service-oriented, cost-effective and provides the necessary security features required. We believe that these products are more advanced than current market solutions and are easily adaptable to the different services we use, whereas alternative solutions forced the service to be adapted to the tool’s capabilities.” Piédrola added: “We also had very good references about Radware. They let us test their technology with no commitment. The results we obtained in these tests convinced us completely”.

Benefits

As a result of deploying Radware’s APSolute product suite, Groupama has achieved optimal application delivery to its web users through real-time traffic redirection, local and global server distribution, and comprehensive dynamic bandwidth management. Groupama Seguros’ entire network resources are able to perform optimally while compressing web content and keeping access and transfer times consistently low. Quick processing of SSL transactions and digital certificates has reduced the workload on application server CPUs and ensures fast and reliable process flows. And, users can now conduct even the most sensitive transactions with full confidence, as Groupama Seguros’ website is now fully protected against external intrusions and threats. Moving forward, thanks to Radware’s cost-effective method of scaling up bandwidth, Groupama Seguros can increase its web capacity without incurring additional hidden costs.