

SKYCable needed to address an IPv4 shortage and increased loads on DNS Caching Servers A10 CGN helped them provide a great ISP experience

SKYCable needed to extend IPv4 Based Connectivity and Address Increased Loads on their DNS and Caching Servers.

THE CHALLENGE

SKYCable, established in January, 1990, is the largest cable television provider in the Philippines. In 2008, SKYCable introduced SKYBROADBAND, the fastest residential Internet service in the country. Today, SKYCable has over 500,000 subscribers and is the number one service provider in the Philippines. SKYCable expects to see strong growth in demand for high-speed broadband services, and aims to maintain its leading position in the market.

With demand growing, SKYCable was facing a crunch on the availability of public IP addresses, and needed to find a way to maximize their current allocation until IPv6 adoption increased.

They needed to be able to provide IPv4 connectivity for its growing user base. Obtaining additional blocks of IPv4 addresses from the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) was becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible—a scenario that many ISPs face. SKYCable, with their absolute commitment to customer service, wanted to find a quick and effective solution to the issue.

At the same time, SKYCable was experiencing availability and load issues on their server farms, specifically on DNS and local cache servers. The use of complex route maps to distribute load among the servers can alleviate load issues in the short term. However, SKYCable needed to find a solution that is future proof and addresses their high availability and scalability concerns.

THE RESULTS

The A10 CGN addressed expansion issues for today and tomorrow by preserving IPv4 addresses and supporting future transition to IPv6. A10 provided strong support and helped SKYCable stand apart from the competition. This has allowed SKYCable to feel entirely comfortable with their choice of A10.

SKYCable deployed the A10 ADC to manage their DNS and local caching servers to improve server farm resiliency. This has improved service availability and significantly simplified SKYCable's network traffic management configurations. In addition, the appliances are much more compact in terms of the space required in their data center racks.

This is similar to the experience of other A10 customers, who have reported reductions of up to 50 percent in both power consumption and rack-space requirements through the deployment of A10 products for load balancing.

In addition, SKYCable found that there would be no need for additional training to be able to use the CLI and that existing configuration tools could be used, as the CLI follows industry standards.

“We chose the A10 ADC because it has the functionality that we need right now, the features that we need to migrate to IPv6 and is a cost effective solution. It does everything we need while taking up very little space in the rack.”

Eugene Flores, NOC Supervisor, SKYCable

A10 CGNAT and ADC



- ✓ **IPv4 Conservation**
- ✓ **Improved Service Availability**
- ✓ **Powerful Server Load Balancing**



THE SOLUTION

The first element of the solution for SKYCable was the implementation of Carrier-Grade NAT (CGNAT), also known as Large Scale NAT (LSN), using A10 Networks CGN line of Carrier Grade Networking gateways. The CGN functionality is appropriate for extending the availability of existing IPv4 addresses, by mapping private addresses onto public IPv4 addresses with advanced tracking of active sessions.

The A10 CGN includes a range of features that can be used for IPv6 migration. It includes IPv6 Rapid Deployment (6rd), Dual-Stack Lite (DS-Lite) and NAT64/DNS64 functionality to allow for incremental IPv6 deployment.

A single A10 CGN device is more powerful than multiple expensive, chassis-based processing cards used in the NAT solutions of large networking vendors, and instead provides a compact and complete solution for IPv6 migration.

Powerful Server Load Balancing (SLB)

To address the load balancing issue, SKYCable reviewed several SLB solutions and held detailed discussions on their features and capabilities with different local partners before deciding to go with the A10 application delivery controllers (ADC) as the right solution.

The choice of A10 for SLB was the quick implementation of the proof of concept (POC) compared to the solutions from other vendors. The POC showed SKYCable the features and capabilities of the solution and it simply worked very smoothly.

Manageability of the A10 ADC included both CLI and GUI management interfaces. For SKYCable, the CLI was the preferred management tool, but they found the GUI extremely useful for monitoring traffic.

THE BOTTOM LINE

SKYCable has been pleased with A10's CGN functionality and ADC solution. They report that this has improved service availability and significantly simplified their network traffic management configurations. For SKYCable, the implementation of A10 Networks' products has enabled them to keep ahead of the competition in providing the best ISP experience in the Philippines.



About ZCorum

ZCorum is the leading provider of innovative diagnostics and managed broadband solutions to telecommunications companies, helping them reduce costs, increase operational efficiency and improve the subscriber experience. For more information, visit ZCorum.com.

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