



Barracuda Networks Insures CSMA Club Web Sites Against Overload

About the Civil Service Motoring Association

Since its foundation in 1923, CSMA Club (Civil Service Motoring Association) has become the UK's largest private home, motoring and leisure association. Providing benefits to those working in the Civil Service, CSMA Club is a Brighton-based organisation that is owned and run on behalf of its members. CSMA Club offers special benefits on a wide range of services from home, travel and motor insurance to discounts on travel and leisure activities, as well as its own hotels and self-catering complexes.

CSMA Club promotes its member services and hotels through five main Web sites: www.csmaclub.co.uk, www.whitemead.co.uk, www.ghyllmanor.co.uk, www.wheelfarmcottages.co.uk and www.cotswold-motor-museum.co.uk. The traffic for all five sites, totalling between 4,000 and 10,000 static page requests per day, is balanced across two servers, both containing a copy of all five sites. The traffic also consists of a certain amount of interaction from members including updating personal details online as well as looking up information about CSMA Club partners, suppliers and services.

Anytime one of the CSMA Club Web sites went down the servers would have to be manually swapped, which led to inefficient use of already-limited hardware resources. CSMA Club determined that a load balancing solution was crucial, to ensure that the daily Web traffic was appropriately distributed, ensuring that no single server was overloaded, thus decreasing the chances of Web site downtime.

Shopping around

While researching load balancing solutions, CSMA Club discovered that some appliances on the market can be difficult to use, costly and complex.

"The products that we first looked at were just too expensive – they were packed with all sorts of unnecessary features," said Rob Manktelow, CSMA Club technical services manager.

Manktelow contacted a Surrey-based Barracuda Networks partner who informed him that the Barracuda Load Balancer was easy to use and well within his budget.

"Our contact listened to our needs and requirements," said Manktelow. "They gave us login details to the Web GUI of a Barracuda Load Balancer demo unit and talked us through the key features. Within minutes we were able to see how easy it was going to be to set up."

Trial without tribulation

CSMA Club arranged for a free trial of the Barracuda Load Balancer 340.

"The appliance arrived the next day and the initial deployment was an absolute breeze," said Manktelow. "We were balancing traffic across our Web servers within a couple of hours."

"The Barracuda Load Balancer has been very cost effective and provided us with clear, easy to read statistics enabling us to get a clear view of traffic patterns and alerting us to failed servers."

-Rob Manktelow
 CSMA Club technical services manager



Barracuda Load Balancer 340 Fast Facts:

- Achieves high availability & scalability objectives
- Integrated load balancing & intrusion prevention
- No per port, per server or per feature license fees
- Advanced load balancing features including direct server return and Layer 7 cookie persistence
- Includes SSL offloading

Manktelow was particularly impressed with the Barracuda Load Balancer's ability to easily take servers offline to perform routine maintenance without disrupting access to Web sites. He liked the ability to drop a server from a cluster to allow for updates without taking down sites.

"We can test software releases before the server is reintroduced into the cluster," said Manktelow. "Another really useful feature is the unit's flexibility. You can run the Barracuda Load Balancer in three different operating modes making it one of the most flexible load balancers on the market."

The three modes are Route-path, which offers the most flexibility, while Bridge-path allows the unit to be deployed without changes to existing IP infrastructure. Finally there is Direct Server Return which allows up to 10GB throughput and is ideal for content delivery networks.

The Barracuda Load Balancer's built-in Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) adds another layer of protection against attacks. Before CSMA Club installed the Barracuda Load Balancer they used two layers of firewalls in front of their Web servers.

"The Barracuda Load Balancer is complementary to our firewalls," said Manktelow. "The IPS has helped us to block HTTP attacks such as oversized request-url directory, double decoding and bare byte Unicode encoding that were destined for the Web sites."

The right fit

The Barracuda Load Balancer is priced to suit smaller businesses that have heavy traffic across multiple Web servers. With no per port or per server license fees, the Barracuda Load Balancer is less expensive than many competing solutions, making the Barracuda Load Balancer the right fit for nearly any IT budget.

The Barracuda Load Balancer automatically receives the latest intrusion prevention and security updates from Barracuda Central, an advanced technology operations centre where engineers continuously monitor and mitigate the latest Internet threats. The Barracuda Load Balancer is easy to deploy, featuring an auto-discovery module and complete configuration via an intuitive Web interface.

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About Barracuda Networks Inc.

Barracuda Networks Inc. is the worldwide leader in email and Web security appliances. Barracuda Networks also provides world-class IM protection, application server load balancing, Web application security, and message archiving appliances. Coca-Cola, FedEx, Harvard University, IBM, L'Oreal, and Europcar, are amongst the 70,000 organizations protecting their networks with Barracuda Networks' solutions. Barracuda Networks' success is due to its ability to deliver easy to use, comprehensive solutions that solve the most serious issues facing customer networks without unnecessary add-ons, maintenance, lengthy installations or per user license fees. Barracuda Networks is privately held with its headquarters in Campbell, Calif. Barracuda Networks has offices in eight international locations and distributors in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, please visit www.barracuda.com.



About the Barracuda Load Balancer

Available in four models, the Barracuda Load Balancer is an affordable, scalable and comprehensive solution for intelligently distributing network traffic across multiple servers. Barracuda Load Balancers support up to 250 servers with no per port or per server licensing fees for ultimate network efficiency.

The Barracuda Load Balancer offers network administrators reliability, speed and security with cookie-based session persistence, SSL acceleration and network intrusion prevention. Designed to achieve network flexibility and operational reliability, the Barracuda Load Balancer integrates powerful layer 4 or layer 7 load balancing. To minimize ongoing administration, Barracuda Load Balancers receive hourly Energize Updates delivered automatically by Barracuda Central to provide the most current intrusion prevention definition and security updates.



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