

CadrEmploi: French Executive Employment Website Signs on Juniper Networks to Deliver a Better Customer Experience



Key Challenges:

- Offer higher quality of service to job seekers
- Contain bandwidth costs
- Reduce Web server load
- Improve load balancing among Web servers
- Even out peak loads

Key Benefits:

- Reduced bandwidth usage by 40%
- Reduced HTTP sessions simultaneously managed by Web servers by 60-80%
- Delivered smart, dynamic load balancing
- Enabled faster, more fluid browsing for job seekers

Following the initiative of about 50 recruiting firms, the CadrEmploi service was created in 1990 with the goal of collecting all the firms' job offers and displaying them through a single medium that would be accessible to everyone. Today, the CadrEmploi.fr Web site, a leader in its sector, publishes job offers from more than 600 recruiting firms and receives two million hits per month, representing more than 20 million page views per month.

"When I first heard about Juniper Networks application front end solutions, our site was running perfectly and exhibited no totally unacceptable problems," explained Mickaël Chrupek, the site's IT manager. "The only thing was that it caused a few concerns with regard to load management during peak periods: the servers would slow down a bit between 10:00 and 11:00 in the morning, despite the fact that we were using a load balancer. However, this didn't really inconvenience our users."

A Tough Interview

The Juniper Networks DX™ 2200 application acceleration platform was what attracted the attention of CadrEmploi. Still, some questions needed to be asked.

"On paper, everything that the DX platform offered was logical and should theoretically work," Chrupek recalled. "But I have to acknowledge that we had trouble believing that this device was really capable of keeping all its promises, as seductive as it was. Even our partner, Prosodie, which hosts our servers, was skeptical."

"After a few months of testing, and especially after we were able to measure real gains, we decided to acquire the product," said Chrupek. "I feel the need to congratulate Juniper Networks on a very reassuring sales approach that offers the client a lot of freedom and is quite an incentive.

"Juniper Networks DX solution enables us to save on bandwidth and to offer our customers a higher quality of service."

Mickaël Chrupek
IT Manager
CadrEmploi

Putting Juniper Networks to Work

Before CadrEmploi started using the DX 2200 appliance, the site’s Web servers had to manage 100 to 150 simultaneous Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) connections continuously. Today, it has achieved as much as an 80-percent reduction in HTTP sessions simultaneously managed by the Web servers.

“Today, that connection pool is handled by the DX 2200 front end, which eases up the load that our servers have to handle. Now they no longer have to manage more than about 30 connections at any given time,” Chrupek said. “In addition, the DX 2200 appliance evens out load peaks perfectly.”

CadrEmploi’s Web platform, which is built around Linux and open-source solutions, dynamically generates HTML pages. The site thus takes direct advantage of the HTML compression capabilities offered by the DX 2200.

“We’ve cut down on our needs, so we’ve been able to reduce our bandwidth costs by about 40 percent since we installed the DX 2200 appliance. We were able to switch from 8-9 Mbps links to 6 Mbps links,” Chrupek continued.

CadrEmploi opted to take advantage of the native load balancing functions inherent in Juniper Networks Web front end. “In place of the statistical approach offered by the solution that we were previously using, the DX 2200 appliance has provided us with a smart way to manage the load on our servers. This is done in accordance with our users’ profiles, requests, etc., without the need to use cookies.”

A Better User Experience

Ultimately, the job seekers are the ones who benefit from these changes. “Our visitors with low-speed Internet access can now take advantage of extremely fluid browsing capabilities, even if the Web pages that these users are viewing are heavy,” Chrupek added. “Web surfers who use ADSL (asymmetrical digital subscriber line) technology can start their downloads during their visit to CadrEmploi.fr, and this won’t have any negative impact on their browsing capabilities, since we’re mobilizing less bandwidth.”

CadrEmploi’s IT manager concludes on a very positive note: “For the same amount of money that we were spending on the technical solution we used to operate, Juniper Networks DX solution enables us to save on bandwidth and to offer our customers a higher quality of service.”



CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
AND SALES HEADQUARTERS
FOR NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

Juniper Networks, Inc.
1194 North Mathilda Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089 USA
Phone: 888-JUNIPER (888-586-4737)
or 408-745-2000
Fax: 408-745-2100

www.juniper.net

EAST COAST OFFICE

Juniper Networks, Inc.
10 Technology Park Drive
Westford, MA 01886-3146 USA
Phone: 978-589-5800
Fax: 978-589-0800

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL
SALES HEADQUARTERS

Juniper Networks (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Suite 2507-11, Asia Pacific Finance Tower
Citibank Plaza, 3 Garden Road
Central, Hong Kong
Phone: 852-2332-3636
Fax: 852-2574-7803

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA
REGIONAL SALES HEADQUARTERS

Juniper Networks (UK) Limited
Juniper House
Guildford Road
Leatherhead
Surrey, KT22 9JH, U. K.
Phone: 44(0)-1372-385500
Fax: 44(0)-1372-385501

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