

Danish mobile phone provider Sonofon gains over 400% improvement in performance using ZXTM

With over 1.4 million customers and 1,700 employees, Sonofon is one of the largest mobile phone providers in Denmark. Meeting the needs of such a large, tech savvy customer base requires some serious back-end technology with built-in redundancies to ensure consistent services.

The Challenge

“Our old load balancer setup was based on two clusters of Alteon load balancers and we had some stability and defect issues,” explained Philip Jensen, IT Section Manager at Sonofon. “The support we received from Alteon was inadequate and because the load balancers were handling mission-critical applications, we needed a new solution. Netic A/S, a trusted partner of ours, recommended trying ZXTM, and due to the 30-day trial license, our tests were done with very low risk and we were impressed with the solution.”

The Solution

“With Netic’s expertise and ZXTM’s ease of installation, in just one day we acquired new servers, installed them, got the ZXTM cluster up and running and migrated the first couple of services. In this business, doing all this in just one day is unbelievable,” explained Jensen.

“The hardware involved is just ordinary hardware – we have two clusters – one on an HP server and

the other on a Sun server. No other specialist technologies were required to implement the solution. It just works.

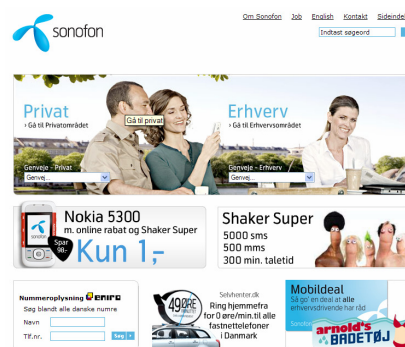
“ZXTM manages a mixture of many things from DNS resolving, DNS servers, web servers, mail servers, API servers (both SOAP and many other kinds of API), proprietary systems and much more.

“We have around 25 virtual servers on each cluster. We primarily load balance for redundancy and not so much for capacity – and where we do load balance for capacity, it’s not traffic that is the problem, but rather the processing times of each request in the backend servers. ZXTM delivers far more capacity than we will ever need, which means we can expand our infrastructure without worrying about ZXTM coping with future changes.”

The Benefits

“Ease of deployment was the initial factor in our decision. Because ZXTM is pure software running on ordinary PCs, it was easy to deploy. We did so in a test setup (using the 30-day trial license), but were immediately impressed by the quality and feature-richness of ZXTM and decided to buy the first cluster. We later decided to replace the other Alteon cluster with ZXTM.”

“Performance has improved quite a lot – especially on the SSL enabled web applications,” continued Jensen.



“Ease of monitoring is also a big step – now we can get graphs and see current connections, which is a big step forward compared to our old solution. Reliability of our infrastructure has improved and in fact, ZXTM is now used for monitoring and planning.

“When migrating an existing DNS service, we received excellent technical support, with quick replies, spot-on fixes, and with a good sense of humour. Even though the problem was not directly related to ZXTM, Zeus had the knowledge that enabled us to solve the problem.”

“The flexibility of TrafficScript™ has helped us to further secure our applications with stuff like URL filtering, access control etc.

“The performance improvements were immediately obvious for both our users and to our monitoring systems – on some systems, we can measure a 400% improvement in performance.”

-Philip Jensen
IT Section
Manager





Using ZX™, Sonofon now has better performance and better security for its applications

“ZX™ handles many of the most critical components in our organization and is therefore a very important part of our entire infrastructure. The performance improvements were immediately obvious to our users and to our monitoring systems – on some systems, we can measure 400% improvement in performance of our applications.

“Another feature of ZX™ we really like is the performance graphs. This feature is very helpful in our understanding the nature of our applications and to help planning for the future. ZX™ is a superb mix of high performance and flexibility with an easy to use interface. This was a very good decision.

“Because ZX™ is purely software based, we have no problems with hardware maintenance and scalability by using the latest commodity hardware. We plan to add more services and plan to take further advantage of all the ZX™ features – all the services we migrated from Alteon only utilizes ZX™’s basic load balancing, so we are looking into extending how we use the software,” concluded Jensen.

Sonofon at a glance

Sonofon was established in 1991 and is now one of the largest mobile telcos in Denmark with more than 1.4 million mobile customers and approximately 1,700 employees.

Sonofon is owned by Telenor, one of the largest telcos in the Nordic countries with mobile operations in 12 countries worldwide and a strong Nordic-based business in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

Sonofon and Cybercity together constitute Telenor Group telecoms activities in Denmark. Cybercity is nowadays one of Denmark’s largest broadband providers with more than 190,000 DSL customers.

Together they set the agenda for the telecoms market of the future with strong positions in mobility and broadband.

For more info, visit: www.sonofon.dk

For more information on Netic, Sonofon’s trusted partner, visit: www.netic.dk



Zeus at a glance

Zeus Technology has a well-earned reputation for providing robust, secure and scalable traffic management solutions to organizations in a wide range of sectors including, media and content providers, telecoms and hosting providers, finance, education, government and online retailers.

Using the experience gained from our relationships with organizations as diverse as the Flybe, STA Travel, Hotel.de, Bourne Leisure and Virgin Holidays. Zeus is in a unique position to assist any business looking to enhance their mission-critical Internet service infrastructure.

For further information, please email: info@zeus.com or visit www.zeus.com to contact the Zeus office nearest to you.

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Because ZX™ is pure software you can download it free of charge and evaluate it before you buy.

Simply visit our website: www.zeus.com/downloads

Technical support is also available during your evaluation.

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