

IN BRIEF

Industry

» Professional Services

Challenges

- » Existing web traffic management solution couldn't meet company's goal of 99.9 percent uptime and availability
- » Needed a scalable solution that could match anticipated growth

Solution

» Riverbed Stingray Traffic Manager

Benefits

- » 99.9 percent uptime
- » Solution integrated easily with existing virtualized environment
- » Company is well positioned to transition to a private cloud



THE DREAM BEGINS WITH THE RIGHT JOB.



SnagAJob.com

Riverbed Helps SnagAJob.com Achieve 99.9 Percent Uptime in the Cloud

As a fast-growing online job search site, SnagAJob.com needs a continuously fast and reliable online presence. After carefully assessing its web optimization strategy, SnagAJob.com decided to make some drastic changes. It moved to a fully virtualized environment and traded its hardware traffic management solution for the Riverbed® Stingray™ Traffic Manager. With Stingray Traffic Manager virtual appliance supporting SnagAJob.com's new virtual environment, the company was well on its way to meeting its goal of 99.9 percent uptime.

Richmond, Virginia-based SnagAJob.com was growing at double digits, year-on-year. By 2006, the company boasted more than 20 million members, with big-brand customers like Bed Bath & Beyond, McDonald's, and 7-Eleven. The company drives nearly all its revenues online through job posts and ads, so even an hour of downtime could cost it thousands of dollars.

SnagAJob.com outgrows its load balancer

With such rapid growth, uptime was more important than ever. SnagAJob.com re-evaluated its web infrastructure, realizing that the hardware traffic manager it had in place to manage its web traffic and server farm couldn't meet its goal of 99.9 percent uptime and availability. At the same time, the company decided to move to a virtualized environment, creating its own private cloud. SnagAJob.com had to find a new solution quickly and one that could match its growth.

"As soon as we found out about Riverbed, we quickly fell in love with its technology. The user interface and feature set was so intuitive and easy to navigate, we had the software up and running by ourselves within a couple of hours."

Matt Reidy, director of IT operations, SnagAJob.com

SnagAJob.com chooses Riverbed

"As soon as we deployed Stingray Traffic Manager, we quickly realized its value to our company," said Matt Reidy, SnagAJob.com director of IT operations. "The user interface and feature set was so intuitive and easy to navigate, we had the software up and running by ourselves within a couple of hours."

"The real selling point for us, however, was that Riverbed offers its product as a VMware virtual appliance, so it could easily be integrated into our virtualized environment. That really drove us to Riverbed."

Delivering 99.9 percent uptime

Today, SnagAJob.com is running five instances of Stingray Traffic Manager with two clusters of Stingray Traffic Manager and a single license for quality assurance and development.

Reidy continues, "The greatest benefit Riverbed gives us is the amount of availability it enables for our members and customers. If a server or service is unavailable, Riverbed knows about it and will divert traffic seamlessly."

“With all the built-in health checks, both on the web and application sides, we have the ability to self-heal. We can gauge the number of connections to the websites at anytime and see how they are performing. If we need to make changes to one server, we can use the automated programming interface (API) to drain the node and then bring it back into the pool. We couldn’t do that with our previous hardware solution.”

Benefits of a virtual appliance in a virtualized environment

Stingray Traffic Manager plays a critical role in SnagAJob.com’s virtualized infrastructure. When the website experiences an influx of traffic, SnagAJob.com can easily burst into its private cloud at a moment’s notice, at no additional cost. Stingray Traffic Manager enables SnagAJob.com to absorb and evenly distribute those spikes in traffic, and gives the flexibility to scale on-demand, utilizing more web servers as needed.

“If we have 20 servers and need 100, we can easily spin them up,” said Reidy. “If we still had a physical environment, we couldn’t do that as easily; it would take days rather than minutes. Speed to change was a big motivation to moving to a virtualized platform and Riverbed is an essential part of that.”

Looking to the future with Riverbed

SnagAJob.com has been so pleased that it plans to integrate Stingray Traffic Manager in additional datacenters network-wide, thereby gaining a tremendous business advantage.

About SnagAJob.com

SnagAJob.com, America’s largest hourly job website, has helped connect hourly workers with quality full-time and part-time jobs in a wide range of industries since 2000. Headquartered in Richmond, Va., current clients include DISH Network, Verizon Wireless, FedEx, Boston Market, Chick-fil-A, Bed Bath & Beyond, Michaels and Jiffy Lube. Learn more about the No. 1 source for hourly employment at SnagAJob.com.

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About Riverbed

Riverbed delivers performance for the globally connected enterprise. With Riverbed, enterprises can successfully and intelligently implement strategic initiatives such as virtualization, consolidation, cloud computing, and disaster recovery without fear of compromising performance. By giving enterprises the platform they need to understand, optimize and consolidate their IT, Riverbed helps enterprises to build a fast, fluid and dynamic IT architecture that aligns with the business needs of the organization. Additional information about Riverbed (NASDAQ: RVBD) is available at www.riverbed.com.



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