



Edgenexus Load Balancer Case Study



Education System

TCS Education System replace Microsoft NLB with the Edgenexus ALB-X VA to improve website performance and support continuing growth with seamless scalability and superb end user experience.

EDGE NEXUS

CASE STUDY

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Company

TCS Education System

Industry

Education/Training

Challenges

Business Growth

Web Farm Management

Solution

Edgenexus ALB-X VA

Why Edgenexus?

High application availability

Advanced features

Traffic management

Custom health checks

Price: performance

The result

Seamless scalability

Website resilience

Easy to Deploy & Maintain

Increased application
performance

Improved communication

Superb user experience

The Customer

TCS Education System is an entrepreneurial, non-profit educational system that includes four separately-branded higher education institutions with multiple campuses nationwide, as well as robust online programming. Each System institution is focused on a distinct discipline such as law, psychology, education, or health sciences - preparing graduates to use their knowledge and skills to serve the greater good.

The main institutional websites are critical to the financial sustainability of the schools; they serve as a primary vehicle for attracting and informing prospective students, while providing a platform for a range of shared technology (such as online learning technology) for current students and other key stakeholders.

"Having these sites accessible with low response time on their [the users] browser speaks favourably about our institutions" Les Waite, Associate Director of System Operations, TCS Education System.



TCS Education System recently initiated a project to consolidate its websites into one web farm, which introduced a major change in the organization's network architecture. Previously all the websites were on scattered standalone servers which meant there was no clustering.



"Fantastic, I am very pleased with the ALBX VA's and their performance and abilities. I would recommend their use to anyone who asks!"

**Leslie Waite, Association Director of System Operations,
TCS Education System**

The Challenge

With the new web farm architecture in place, the IT team at TCS Education System identified a need for a load balancer to deal with the added infrastructure demands. Initially they implemented Microsoft NLB, but found that this had limitations that restricted the performance of the network.

“Microsoft’s Network Load Balancer (NLB) didn't come close in performance or configuration flexibility to what we needed” Les Waite, Associate Director of System Operations, TCS Education System. Alongside basic server load balancing TCS Education System required additional functionality; real-time protocol manipulation, data compression, network address translation, traffic shaping, QOS, DOS protection, and SSL offload.

The Solution | TCS Education System Install Edgenexus ALB-X VA for Improved Site Performance and Resilience of Web Applications

Having evaluated the Edgenexus ALB-X and various competitive solutions, TCS Education System fell in favour of the Edgenexus appliance. They replaced their Microsoft NLB solution with a pair of Edgenexus Accelerating Load Balancers, deployed in active-active mode to enable a layer of fault tolerance. They installed the ALB-X VA's on a Dell storage area network running VMware ESX.



“The ALB-X’s granularity in configuration, monitoring capabilities and multi-protocol load balancing capabilities were all influencing factors, in addition to its stellar performance!”

**Leslie Waite, Association Director of System Operations,
TCS Education System**



"The Edgenexus ALB-X VA was clearly the best choice for our environment after careful comparison with similar products. And now after implementing the Edgenexus ALB-X's, I couldn't be happier; my network environment is 'five nines' available and Edgenexus is a big part of why." Les Waite, Associate Director of System Operations, TCS Education System.

Edgenexus ALB-X VA currently manages the primary web farm for TCS Education System. There are plans to potentially expand this service to incorporate the student service portals. Les Waite, Associate Director of System Operations comments on the deployment, "Since we migrated from the Microsoft NLB solution, ease of administration has increased tenfold. The Edgenexus ALB-X VA's are highly configurable and the GUI is very intuitive to use".

"Reliability has increased exponentially since the ALB-X VA's are in hot standby formation, Load balancing traffic to multiple web servers. Our availability of network resources is now 'five nines'." Since deployment, end-users have benefited from a much-improved web browsing experience when accessing the TCS sites for information. Pages load faster, resulting in a more responsive service delivery.

TCS Education System continue to experience strong business growth and with the implementation of their Edgenexus ALB-X Virtual Appliances, their web infrastructure is ready to meet such an increase in demand. "We are certainly much better positioned to scale out our web farm" Les Waite, Assoc. Director of System Operations, TCS Education System.



"Since deployment, service reliability has increased exponentially - in fact response times are great!"

**Leslie Waite, Association Director of System Operations,
TCS Education System**

About Edgenexus

The Edgenexus ALB-X offers powerful, feature-rich application delivery control and load balancing that enables users to deliver resilient and responsive services with granular control over application traffic. Featuring layer4-7 load balancing, advanced traffic management capabilities and optimisation features including SSL Offload, Content Caching and Compression, Edgenexus improves the performance, scalability and reliability of applications for a superb end user experience. With unprecedented ease of use, the Edgenexus ALB-X load balancer can be installed in a matter of minutes, with users only requiring a basic level of technical expertise to configure the product to meet their load balancing needs.

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