DELIVERING FAST, SECURE ENTERPRISE APPLICATIONS
As enterprise applications and users become increasingly distributed (e.g., on-prem vs. in the cloud and in-office vs. working remotely), existing application performance and delivery architectures no longer make financial or operational sense. Many companies depend on hardware and software appliances to provide access to the entire enterprise network – and route traffic through centralized security capabilities that are part of that infrastructure – only to reroute traffic through direct connects or virtual private networks (VPNs) back to infrastructure as a service (IaaS) and the Internet. This model degrades application performance and user experience, and increases enterprise security risk.

CURRENT STATE OF ENTERPRISE APPLICATION DELIVERY

Ensuring quality corporate application experiences for workers inside and outside the office, whether apps are in your own data center or IaaS, remains a key initiative for most IT departments. IT departments monitor app performance closely to ensure employees aren't wasting time and money waiting for apps to load as they try to do their job. Poor performance causes problems with productivity, revenue, and application adoption. And it results in a lot of unwanted helpdesk tickets with complaints about application performance. IT departments used to only have to worry about optimizing corporate application traffic across the enterprise WAN, but as app and employee locations become more distributed, these techniques and transport choices no longer make sense. Why backhaul cloud traffic over the WAN to a centralized enterprise security stack?

In fact, as WAN networks continue to be overwhelmed by a deluge of cloud traffic, perhaps it is time to face the inevitable: The Internet will become the WAN. Most enterprises are well on their way with hybrid WAN topologies today, so the concept shouldn’t be too far-fetched.

DELIVERING FAST, SECURE APPLICATIONS OVER THE INTERNET

These hybrid topologies and distributed apps and users demand a new way to deliver enterprise applications. Akamai’s Enterprise Application Access (EAA), combined with Akamai’s web performance solutions, enables you to deliver applications and data only to authenticated and authorized users and devices, with no need to allow unfettered access to the corporate network or backhaul app traffic, all while providing seamless cross-device performance across the globe both for in-country and international use cases, and with the benefit of cellular optimizations.

Using a unique dial-out only connector, EAA enables secure access to internal applications behind the firewall from any HTML5-compliant browser, without exposing your IaaS or data center infrastructure on the public Internet.

Businesses that leverage the Akamai cloud-delivery platform ensure fast and secure internal enterprise apps by using the following capabilities:

• Internet route and protocol optimization combined with content caching
• Identity integration, single sign-on, and multi-factor authentication
Case Study: No client, no public IP, and always verified

A recent customer implemented Enterprise Application Access for close to 50 enterprise apps. Based on business priority and end-user distribution, they chose 25 where they wanted to ensure blazing-fast end-user experiences globally.

Their legacy internal application delivery approach was mired in complexity and left something to be desired in terms of security. Because of traditional network architectures, latency, congestion, and security requirements, they also suffered from application performance issues.

The simple solution was to add Akamai’s Ion web performance solution to Akamai’s Enterprise Application Access (EAA) to ensure fast, reliable enterprise apps globally. Corporate applications can now be securely accessed over the Internet by a global and mobile workforce, without any endpoint clients or publicly exposed IP addresses. Only Akamai’s global cloud delivery platform is visible on the Internet.

Enterprise Application Access helped with performance because the enabled apps could now be accessed securely from any device over the Internet, versus backhauling traffic to the corporate network. Adding Akamai’s web performance capabilities with Internet route and protocol optimization and content caching improved app performance even more. For this particular customer, the performance improvement across a transaction (measured using last-mile synthetic testing agents) was significant.

Better performance of their enterprise applications meant that employees were now more productive and IT didn’t have to deal with incessant app performance-related helpdesk tickets. It also meant that app traffic shifted to the Internet, offloading the congested enterprise network.

As the world’s largest and most trusted cloud delivery platform, Akamai makes it easier for its customers to provide the best and most secure digital experiences on any device, anytime, anywhere. Akamai’s massively distributed platform is unparalleled in scale with more than 200,000 servers across 130 countries, giving customers superior performance and threat protection. Akamai’s portfolio of web and mobile performance, cloud security, enterprise access, and video delivery solutions are supported by exceptional customer service and 24/7 monitoring. To learn why the top financial institutions, e-commerce leaders, media and entertainment providers, and government organizations trust Akamai, please visit www.akamai.com, blogs.akamai.com, or @Akamai on Twitter. You can find our global contact information at www.akamai.com/locations. Published 12/17.