BlueCat and Citrix NetScaler

A Complete Solution for Elastic Cloud Access and BYOD
Citrix and BlueCat deliver simple, secure and scalable cloud and mobile application access with resilient global server load balancing and integrated DNS, DHCP and IP Address Management.

Solution Highlights

- Build a DNS infrastructure that is secure, scalable and easy to manage
- Ensure high performance and resiliency for critical DNS services with integrated GSLB
- Protect business-critical external and internal DNS servers from exploits and attacks
- Significantly reduce operational costs with workflow and orchestration
- View and control all DNS, DHCP and IP Address Management data from a central location
- Enable BYOD with elastic and scalable self-service device registration

Customer Challenges

Threats to network security are on the rise. The Domain Name System (DNS) is on the front line when it comes to protecting your critical data, applications and cloud services against attacks. Your DNS servers are in direct contact with all users across all geographies. To ensure reliable application access and availability, these servers must be well protected and geographically-dispersed. DNS is a critical and often overlooked component of successful cloud and BYOD initiatives.

Cloud

DNS links cloud-hosted, load-balanced application servers with their users, whether employees, partners or customers. An effective, cloud-capable DNS infrastructure must be fault tolerant, reliable and secure to avoid DNS outages, failures and attacks. Intelligent Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB) is necessary to prevent catastrophic failures and ensure optimum application performance. Your DNS infrastructure also needs to be elastic, scalable and easy to manage to reduce the everyday administration burden on IT and free up your valuable resources to innovate.

BYOD

The consumerization of IT and the growing adoption of bring your own device (BYOD) policies continues to place additional strain on the network and on already overloaded IT staff. Core network services including DNS and DHCP are impacted by BYOD and the influx of personal devices. Simply starting up an Apple iPhone or iPad not only requires an IP address, but may also require over 30 different DNS queries. To prepare your network infrastructure for BYOD and the explosion of both personal and corporate devices, BYOD registration must be tightly integrated with DNS, DHCP and IP Address Management. With an IPAM solution, basic network configuration tasks critical to supporting BYOD can either be automated or completed with a few clicks of the mouse from a single pane of glass. Combined with Citrix NetScaler, BlueCat’s BYOD solution offers an adaptive, cost-effective solution for enabling BYOD access without overwhelming your IT staff.
The Citrix NetScaler and BlueCat Solution

Citrix, the leader in application and service delivery, and BlueCat have teamed up to provide the smartest, simplest and most reliable solutions available for managing and securing enterprise networks and clouds. The solution combines the global server load balancing of Citrix NetScaler with the simplicity of BlueCat’s orchestrated DNS, DHCP and IP Address Management (IPAM) solutions.

Deployed at some of the most demanding and secure organizations in the world, BlueCat replaces time-consuming manual processes with a fully orchestrated DNS, DHCP and IPAM solution. With BlueCat, you can quickly perform routine actions such as adding DNS data and delegate DNS workflow and changes to less experienced administrators or helpdesk staff with full approval controls and auditing.

IPAM integration allows you to view all IP, DNS and DHCP data no matter where it resides on your network. Assigning a new IP address will also automatically create the DNS host and DHCP reservation, allowing a single action to update multiple services. As you add or change data in the system, the solution automatically validates it for syntactical or logical errors. You can also use BlueCat’s DNS firewall to block unwanted or inappropriate sites at the DNS level before they even make it to your content filtering server. BlueCat solutions are DNSSEC-capable to future-proof your investment.

Citrix NetScaler delivers best-in-class global server load balancing to ensure that your DNS infrastructure has the performance and scalability needed to meet current and future demands. Citrix’s NetScaler solutions are deployed in thousands of networks around the globe to optimize, secure and control the delivery of all enterprise and cloud services. They deliver 100% application availability, application and database server offload, acceleration and advanced attack protection. When deployed directly in front of DNS servers, NetScaler solutions deliver high-speed load balancing for DNS.
How the Integration Works

Available as either a physical or virtual appliance, BlueCat software solutions allow you to manage your IP address space and core network services from a single pane of glass. Citrix NetScaler is used to load balance several BlueCat physical or virtual appliances to ensure that your DNS infrastructure can scale as your capacity requirements evolve, providing the right balance of high performance and high availability.

This resilient, globally load balanced configuration safeguards your business against Denial of Service (DoS) and Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks that can cripple your network and make your business-critical cloud applications inaccessible. When Citrix NetScaler is used in conjunction with BlueCat solutions, organizations gain the benefit of market-leading DDI together with a highly scalable and resilient DNS infrastructure with GSLB. The combined solution delivers centralized management, rapid deployment and the ability to continuously scale your DNS infrastructure to match growing demand without any reconfiguration. The result is a rock-solid infrastructure that mitigates the risk of highly visible outages and ensures reliable application and content delivery.

Citrix NetScaler can also be used to load balance BlueCat device registration servers to provide an elastic infrastructure for BYOD that dynamically adapts to customer demand. BYOD registration is often subject to peaks in demand that can only be handled with an adequate load balancing strategy. Together, Citrix and BlueCat make it easier than ever to securely access your applications and data from any device across the enterprise and in the cloud.