

Coyote Point's Equalizer Keeps Netscape's Web Site Garage Engine Humming

Coyote Point Systems announced that its adaptive load balancer, Equalizer, is being used by Netscape to help maintain fast connection times for Netscape's Web Site Garage Services on its Netcenter Portal Site.

Web Site Garage, one of Netscape's popular Netcenter services, has made a name for itself helping individual and small business Web site owners improve site performance, promote their sites, and communicate with customers. Netscape's Web Site Garage has performed over seven million Web site tune-ups to date and faces a daily technological challenge -- maintaining 24X7 high availability for its subscribers.

“Because Web Site Garage services on Netcenter handle such a high volume of traffic daily, maintaining high availability and performance is a core credibility requirement for us,” explains Gautam Godhwani, co-founder of AtWeb, a company acquired by Netscape, which developed the Web Site Garage product line. “Early on we realized that our site would have to be run on multiple servers. We were able to manage our ad-hoc cluster for a while, but eventually we needed an industrial-strength solution. Coyote Point's Equalizer was that solution.”

As the growing popularity and demand for Netscape's Web Site Garage suite of services accelerated, the company sought a load balancing solution. Coyote Point's Equalizer was chosen after a competitive evaluation. Equalizer is an intelligent load balancing system that distributes requests across server clusters and selects the server best equipped for the next hit. Equalizer knows when a server has failed and automatically directs hits to other machines, preventing failed connections as well as slowdowns.

The challenge was particularly great to keep connection times fast on Web Site Garage's Hitometer, a service which tallies site traffic for subscribers. Every visit to a Hitometer subscriber's Web site passes through a server, which generates a “hit counter” image. Currently, 1.5 million such images register on the Hitometer every day. If Hitometer were to respond slowly, visitors to customers' sites would experience the delay -- or worse, the failed connection. Equalizer makes it easy to prevent such failures.

Equalizer also takes the guesswork and complexity out of cluster management. Its real-time graphical display of server performance maximizes trend analysis and scalability. Server configurations can be adjusted dynamically, with the Web interface, and site administrators can tell at a glance exactly how each server is performing. And if a server must be taken offline for maintenance, it can be done without disrupting user sessions.

The result for Web Site Garage: Connection times improved as traffic hit new heights on all six of its services -- Hitometer, Tune Up, GIF Lube, !Register-It!, Web Site Post Office and Browser Snapshot



CoyotePoint

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About Coyote Point Systems

Coyote Point Systems, Inc. is a leading provider of server management devices for enabling scalable, highly-available server clusters. Recognized for intuitive configuration and low maintenance, price/performance and superior trending analysis, Coyote Point's Equalizer ensures fast connections and fail-safe 24x7 access to web sites and other critical Internet and intranet applications. Envoy, a software add-on, enables Equalizer to direct online traffic across multiple server clusters located anywhere in the world. Coyote Point solutions support all Internet protocols and accommodate all operating systems. The company is headquartered in San Jose, CA and can be contacted directly at 650-969-6000 or on the web at www.coyotepoint.com