



## CASE STUDY | Restaurant.com

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### **Restaurant.com serves up a highly available and secure site with SSL offload and redundant Coyote Point Equalizers**

Restaurant.com, the nation's leading gift certificate provider and online directory of restaurants, has been connecting restaurants and diners since 1999. The company offers savings at more than 13,000 restaurants nationwide with more than 20,000 gift certificate options. When faced with a growing number of site visitors, page views and secure transactions, Restaurant.com turned to Coyote Point's Equalizers to provide application traffic management, high availability and high speed processing of secure web traffic. This solution enabled them to boost application performance and reliability, reduce costs and improve service to its customers.

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**EAT. DRINK. SAVE MONEY.**

#### OVERVIEW

##### Industry

- E-Commerce
- Web Services

##### Challenges

- Ensure 100% uptime
- Handle traffic spikes
- Scalability

##### Solution

- 2 Coyote Point E550si Load Balancers
- Xcel™ SSL Offload

##### Benefits

- Increased Performance & Reduced IT Costs
- 100% Availability
- Premier U.S. based support

## CHALLENGE

Restaurant.com connects restaurant seekers and food lovers to savings at more than 13,000 restaurants and various online retailers across the U.S. As the nation's leading online gift certificate provider and directory of restaurants, the company brings people together to relax, converse and enjoy well prepared meals at affordable prices.

After a recent revision to their business model, Restaurant.com now welcomes over 37 million unique visitors and serves up more than 85 million page views each day. The site handles a constant heavy volume of traffic and experiences sudden surges when they run major promotions.

Since every second of downtime means dollars lost, they needed an infrastructure that guaranteed 100% availability and on-demand scalability.

## SOLUTION

During their datacenter migration, Restaurant.com chose a pair of Coyote Point Equalizer E550si's in a redundant configuration to secure, accelerate and load balance the traffic across 20 Dell PowerEdge servers, each averaging 1300 active connections.

By including Xcel™ a purpose-built hardware based co-processor (now standard with the E450 & E650GX) for SSL offload, Restaurant.com was able to improve the secure application performance, reduce certificate

management costs and minimize end-user response times.

"We looked at a number of options before deciding to go with Equalizer," states Willie Lin, Director of IT for Restaurant.com. "Coyote Point offered just as many features as F5's Big-IP or Citrix's Netscaler, but at a fraction of the cost."

The fact that the Equalizer's Virtual Clusters provide a single IP address to the client was imperative to Restaurant.com's ability to scale. Prior to switching to Coyote Point, they had been using 2 Alteon Load Balancers and an SSL certificate had to be installed on every server. Each certificate required its own IP address, and with 20 servers running 5-7 different web sites, managing the certificates was becoming an expensive and cumbersome task.

"I wasn't able to source another subnet and put it in seamlessly," says Lin. "When we moved to the Coyote Point Equalizer for SSL offload I was able to use just 1 IP address. The transition was flawless and the performance has been impeccable."

## BENEFITS

### ***Increased Performance, Reduced IT Costs***

The ability to offload the high speed processing of secure web traffic to the Equalizer allowed Restaurant.com to reduce the number of servers required to support web transactions while increasing the overall transaction speed.

Delivering an unrivaled user experience, especially during periods of extreme traffic, is paramount to Restaurant.com's success.

"We ran our 90% off promotion on 9/9/09 and the traffic reached a record 400mb/s," says Lin. "That's the most traffic we've ever received at Restaurant.com and the Equalizers managed the spike perfectly."

### ***100% Reliability***

The high availability configuration they put in place ensures that the site will never be compromised due to a single point of failure.

"Since deploying the Equalizers we have experienced absolutely zero downtime," Lin states. "And when we do server maintenance that requires a reboot of the primary, the failover is ultra-fast."

### ***Premier U.S. Based Support***

One of the only Application Delivery Controller providers with a U.S. based technical team, Coyote Point offers unsurpassed 8x5 or 24x7 phone and email support.

"The website is our primary source of revenue, we cannot afford any downtime," adds Lin. "When I have a problem, it's imperative that I get it fixed immediately. Coyote Point has always gone above and beyond to ensure that I get the support I need, when I need it."