

Exinda helps Toledo-Lucas County Public Library make Web 2.0 Collaboration Manageable for Community Use

Taking into consideration the delicate balance between providing community access to the latest internet-based collaborative websites while maintaining the usability and speed of critical applications across the library network, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library (T-LCPL) turned to Exinda for help.

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library dates back to 1838, making it the first public library funded by tax dollars in the state of Ohio. Main Library has stood as a downtown landmark since it opened on September 5, 1940. Welcoming more than a half-a-million visitors a year, who checkout nearly one million items, Main Library is home to 1.2 million books, CDs, videos, DVDs and reference materials. In August of 2001, a 271,000 square foot, \$45.1 million renovation and expansion to Main Library was unveiled, opening one of the most technologically advanced public libraries in America.

The Challenge

Like all publicly funded libraries across the country, T-LCPL faces the challenge of providing free access to bandwidth-heavy collaborative websites while not compromising performance of necessary applications on the network. Peer-to-Peer (P2P) traffic like video-streaming is widely accessed on the internet and is known to be very bandwidth intense. Jeff Wale, IT Director for the Libraries recognized that P2P traffic was saturating the libraries' network and inhibiting the performance of applications and traffic that were necessary for the libraries to function. The challenge was to allow streaming media and P2P but to keep it under control so that critical applications and traffic could function and maintain acceptable performance.

Network Overview

T-LCPL is comprised of the Main Library, 18 branches and an Outreach facility throughout the county, making it one of the largest library systems in the state. The data center that serves all locations is located in the Main Library and houses the data electronics, servers and numerous applications. The branches are connected to the Main Library via 5-10 Mbps fiber circuits using a hub-to-spoke topology. All internet access runs through the data center's 100 Mbps link.

The Solution

Looking for significant improvements in control of bandwidth utilization, Jeff Wale looked to Exinda. "We needed a solution that made it simple for us to allocate bandwidth for critical application traffic. We didn't want to shut down access to P2P web sites. We just needed to ensure that P2P traffic wouldn't interfere with the performance of our critical applications."

"We looked at a couple different products but found that Exinda solved our problem, was favorably priced, and was very easy to use. The value was there and we went with it". Working with DMC Technology Group, an Exinda reseller, T-LCPL completed the install and configuration at the site.

"Once we plugged the Exinda box into the network, it validated our suspicions. The P2P traffic was consuming enormous amounts of bandwidth and was squeezing out more critical traffic," comments Eric Lacy, Senior Client Manager, DMC Technology Group. Using the Exinda interface, traffic policies were easily set which limited the bandwidth allocation to P2P traffic while giving priority to applications that were critical to the overall function of the library.

"The Exinda solution solved the problem very quickly. We're able to continue to offer the community access to Peer-to-Peer

sites without compromising the quality of the applications running on the network," comments Wale.

With the challenge under control, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library continues to serve its community by offering an open environment to access information through both onsite resources and those over the Internet.

About Exinda

Exinda is a global provider of WAN optimization and application acceleration products. Exinda has helped over 2,000 organizations worldwide reduce network operating costs and ensure consistent application performance over the WAN. The Exinda Unified Performance Management (UPM) solution encompasses application visibility, control, optimization and intelligent acceleration – all within a single network appliance that is affordable and easy to manage.

To learn more about Exinda's award-winning solutions for enterprise, education and service provider clients, contact your local reseller or visit www.exinda.com.