

Case Study: Odeo



Odeos

Challenge

Find GigE capable router for high traffic collocated server farm that was reliable and easy for non-Cisco personnel to manage

Solution

Vyatta Open Networking Software

Benefits

High level of reliability
Easy to manage
Compact form factor

"We implemented Vyatta for Odeo's GigE connection to the Internet. Due to the nature of our traffic with tens of thousands of simultaneous connections the software required a little tweaking. Vyatta's engineers were on it immediately and had the problem diagnosed and fixed in under an hour. It's been running flawlessly ever since."



Open Hardware and Simplified Management Make Vyatta the Right Choice for High-Traffic Colocation Environment

Home to millions of audio and video episodes from thousands of podcasts and media sites across the Web, Odeo.com is part search engine, part media directory, and part social network. Users can search and explore media channels covering just about any topic or area of interest—from automotive to technology, comedy to cooking, education to entertainment.

Challenge

When Odeo's current owner, SonicMountain, purchased the portal in May 2007, they inherited a physical presence at the 365 Main collocation facility in San Francisco. Because the portal shared an Internet connection with another site, Odeo needed to deploy its own GigE connection, as well as a router to handle traffic to and from Odeo's servers.

With extensive experience in managing Cisco environments, Odeo COO Eric Rupert initially leaned toward a Cisco ISR Router or Catalyst switch with a routing module. Other than Rupert, however, no one on the Odeo staff had experience with Cisco. "Our entire infrastructure is open-systems based," says Rupert. "We run Linux, Apache, Ruby on Rails, and MySQL. Our people are systems experts, not networking experts."

Solution

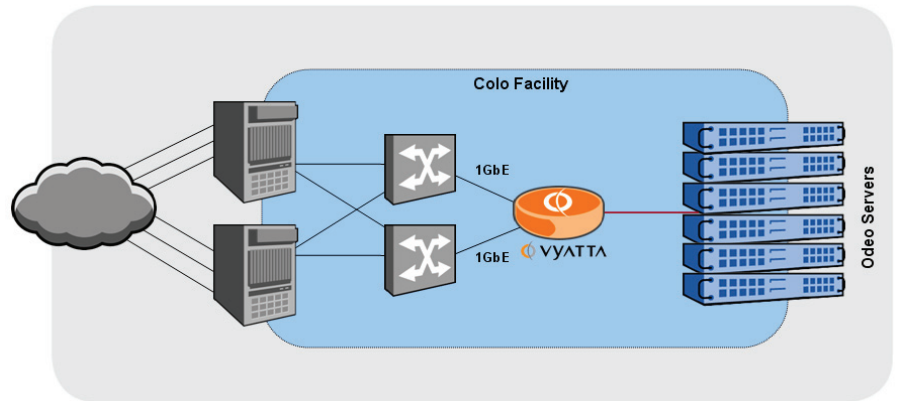
Odeo's requirement of a high-performance, open-systems friendly networking solution lead them to Vyatta open networking appliances. Vyatta solutions combine enterprise-class routing and security with the performance and economics of open systems, giving network administrators the ability to innovate, scale, and grow in ways that were previously unavailable. Vyatta open software addressed Odeo's needs by including a command line structure that is familiar to Cisco users as well as the ability for Linux administrators to make changes in the Linux shell.

Odeo set up a trial of the Vyatta router software in July 2007. "Due to the nature of our traffic with tens of thousands of simultaneous connections the software required a little tweaking," says Rupert. "In the typical corporate environment you don't have thousands of users trying to connect simultaneously. Vyatta's engineers were on it immediately and had the problem diagnosed and fixed in under an hour."

Once the router was up and running, it didn't take long for Rupert to decide this was the best solution for Odeo. "The ability to manage the router with existing staff made the choice of Vyatta an easy one. Vyatta fits right into our open systems environment."

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Rupert also liked the ability to run the Vyatta software on any CPU. "If the box physically fails, I can move that Vyatta image to any other open systems box very quickly."

In the near future, Rupert plans to implement Vyatta's firewall functionality. Plans also include deployment of a second box with failover for high availability.

Benefits

The Vyatta router has been running flawlessly ever since the trial box was installed. Traffic on the site averages 50 Mbps during the day, which the Vyatta router handles easily. "It's been so dependable that it's forgettable," says Rupert. "We rarely check it. It's as quiet as a church mouse. And it's using less than four percent of the CPU."

Management has been straightforward and uncomplicated. All of the features are configurable via a single command-line interface (CLI) or web-based graphical user interface (GUI). "One of the key benefits of the Vyatta solution is the ease of administration for someone who is an open systems person," says Rupert. "The typical sysadmin can easily manage and maintain the box."

In addition, the compact Vyatta software solution makes for a small footprint. "With space and power being a premium at collocation facilities these days, a single U for our router and firewall services is very efficient," says Rupert.

About Vyatta

Vyatta has reintroduced innovation to the networking industry by leveraging open source technologies and the performance increases of x86-based processors. This innovation has allowed Vyatta to create routing and security appliances that scale from the branch office to the service provider edge, use standard x86-based Intel/AMD hardware and components, run in VMWare, Xen and Hyper-V virtual environments and allow users to customize networks. Oh, and all of that can be done for a fraction of the cost of proprietary systems. For more info, visit <http://www.vyatta.com>