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SOLUXIONS MAGAZINE

THE BAROMETER OF HOSTS IN VERY HIGH AVAILABILITY ENVIRONMENTS

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The barometer of hosts in very high availability environments brings more players aboard

In partnership with Soluxions Magazine, a leading publication in the IT press in Luxembourg and Belgium, ip-label presented in February 2013 the first barometer of hosting solutions in a very high availability environment. Success was immediate because the study took an approach that was unconventional – and yet the most essential -- for this type of analysis: **quality of experience**.

Hosting solutions in very high availability environments, generally certified Tier III or Tier IV, aim to offer their important customers reliable, fast access for users of their web services, wherever they are, whether nearby or on the other side of the world.


We have therefore set up a measurement method based on unit tests, and lots of them. The objective is to connect to the web services hosted by the providers in question from a vast number of locations spread out over a group of representative countries.

Soluxions Magazine and ip-label presented a new expanded study last November that was enriched with a number of reputed hosting companies: Amazon Dublin, Host Europe Cologne, Orange France, Telefonica Germany and T-Systems Germany.

No fewer than 105 million unit tests – amounting to around 1.3 billion data collected and compiled – were carried out between the months of March and September 2013 from 22 robots located in Europe, North and South America, Asia-Pacific.

This new study confirms the excellent performance of Luxembourgish players, which benefit from the extensive investments made by the Grand Duchy over the years, and from a very favorable geographical location in the center of western Europe.

Rackspace, whose infrastructures are located in British territory, has the advantage of proximity with transatlantic links which carry exchanges between the old and new worlds.

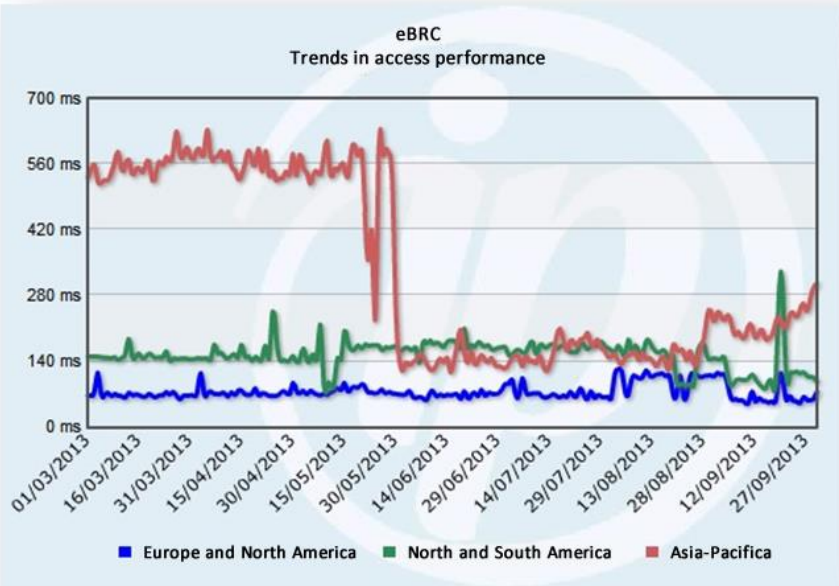


Performances measured from Europe and North America

Hosting provider	Availability	Access performance	Index
Rackspace UK	99,98 %	49 ms	97,60 pts
eBRC	99,98 %	76 ms	96,35 pts
Telecity London	99,97 %	74 ms	96,33 pts
Orange France	99,99 %	99 ms	95,44 pts
Data Center Luxembourg	99,97 %	106 ms	94,95 pts
IP-Exchange Munich-Nuremberg	99,98 %	108 ms	94,95 pts
Host Europe Cologne	99,98 %	110 ms	94,81 pts
Telefonica Allemagne	99,96 %	109 ms	94,68 pts
Telindus Telecom	99,97 %	116 ms	94,49 pts
Amazon Dublin	99,96 %	114 ms	94,43 pts
T-Systems Allemagne	99,98 %	168 ms	92,28 pts
IBM - Softlayer US	99,99 %	179 ms	91,85 pts

This hosting company can therefore offer exchanges between the web sites it hosts and their visitors, who hardly experience any deterioration at all whether they are connecting from Europe or North America.

Yet geographical location and network transmission capacity are not always enough. In fact it is essential to make interconnection rules – those famous peering agreements – as favorable as possible. We have thus been able to observe, during the course of the analysis, a very positive development in the performance of Asian web users' access to services hosted by the Luxembourgish eBRC. This company apparently has understood that the world of the internet is not confined to the geographical borders of the European continent, and that networks must be able to open up to Asian and American visitors under the same conditions.



This example may increase awareness by the heads of major Asian or American groups who wish to offer their services without being constrained by boundaries, and could be tempted to delocalize hosting of their services to a country like Luxembourg rather than stay with web hosts in their own country where performance is probably very good for local visitors, but much less so for remote users.

And the exercise is to be continued. We will keep on measuring the performance of all hosting solutions in very high availability environments. This way we will soon be able to observe how indicators evolve, and note the progress that has been made for the benefit of all.