

**DESIGNING A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR INTERNET DATA
CENTER**

SHARMILA DEVI MARIMUTHU

**UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2003**

DESIGNING A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR INTERNET DATA CENTER

A thesis submitted to the Information Technology School in partial
fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Science (Information Technology),
Universiti Utara Malaysia

By
Sharmila Devi Marimuthu

Copyright © Sharmila Devi Marimuthu, 2003. All rights reserved



Sekolah Siswazah
(Graduate School)
Universiti Utara Malaysia

PERAKUAN KERJA KERTAS PROJEK
(*Certification of Project Paper*)

Saya, yang bertandatangan, memperakukan bahawa
(I, the undersigned, certify that)

SHARMILA DEVI MARIMUTHU

calon untuk Ijazah Master of Science (Information Technology)
(candidate for the degree of)

telah mengemukakan kertas projek yang bertajuk
(has presented his/her project paper of the following title)

DESIGNING A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR INTERNET DATA CENTER

seperti yang tercatat di muka surat tajuk dan kulit kertas projek
(as it appears on the title page and front cover of project paper)

bahawa kertas projek tersebut boleh diterima dari segi bentuk serta kandungan dan meliputi
bidang ilmu dengan memuaskan.

(that the project paper acceptable in form and content and that a satisfactory knowledge of
the field is covered by the project paper).

Nama Penyelia : Dr. Suhaidi Hassan
(Name of Supervisor)

Tandatangan : [Signature]
(Signature)

Tarikh : 5/10/03.
(Date)

PERMISSION TO USE

In presenting this thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirement for a postgraduate degree from Universiti Utara Malaysia, I agree that the University Library may make it freely available for inspection. I further agree that permission for copying of this thesis in any manner, in whole or in part, for scholarly purposes maybe granted by my supervisor, in their absence, by the Dean of the Graduate School. It is understood that any copying or publication or use of this thesis or parts thereof for financial gain shall not be allowed without my written permission. It is also understood that due recognition shall be given to me and to Universiti Utara Malaysia for any scholarly use which may be made of any material from my thesis.

Requests for permission to copy or to make other use of material in this thesis, in whole or in part, should be addressed to:

Dean of Information Technology School

Universiti Utara Malaysia

06010 UUM Sintok

Kedah Darul Aman.

ABSTRAK

Thesis ini bertujuan membangunkan model konseptual bagi *Internet Data Center(IDC)*. IDC menyediakan kemudahan terhadap kebanyakkan organisasi supaya dapat megukuhkan kemudahan tunggal dan berkonsi kepada *host* pelayan Internet and perkhidmatan pada kadar yang berpatutan. Unsur pembinaan rangkaian IDC adalah berdasarkan beberapa kunci utama seperti pelanggan, *perimeter routers*, *load balancers*, *cloned front-end Web servers*, *multilayer switches*, *firewalls*, *infrastructure servers* and *back-end database* dan pengurusan sistem. Thesis ini juga berfokuskan komponan logikal yang menyediakan kemudahan yang mudah di ukur, memperolehi, selamat dan dapat diuruskan. Kelebihan utama IDC adalah, ia mengurangkan modal dan perbelanjaan pengendalian dalam organisasi. Pembiagaan besar merupakan model kepada perubahan dinamik yang kebiasaannya akan dimulakan dengan permintaan yang kecil and terus membangun. Pembangunan ini dilaksanankan dalam sokongan unik pengguna yang boleh membangun dengan pantas dan juga dalam kerumitan dan integrasi perkhidmatan pelangan yang diberi. Pembangunan ini mesti dibina dalam rekabentuk asas yang kukuh yang dapat menyokong perolahan yang tinggi, infastuktur yang selamat dan dalam pengurusan infiastruktur.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to describe the development of a conceptual model for Internet data center (IDC). IDC is a facility where many organizations can leverage a single, shared infrastructure to economically host Internet servers and services. The key architectural elements of the IDC network include clients, perimeter routers, load balancers, cloned front-end Web servers, multilayer switches, firewalls, infrastructure servers and back-end database and management systems. This paper focuses on the logical components that provide an infrastructure that is scalable, available, secure, and manageable. The major benefits of IDC are, it will reduce capital and operating expenses in an organization. Large businesses are models of dynamic change. They usually start small and grow exponentially with demand. They grow both in the number of unique users supported, which can grow extremely quickly, and in the complexity and integration of user services offered. This growth must be built on a solid architectural foundation that supports high availability, a secure infrastructure, and a management infrastructure.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PERMISSION TO USE	I
ABSTRAK	II
ABSTRACT	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
LIST OF FIGURES	XI
LIST OF TABLES	XII
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Problem Statement	2
1.2 Research Scope	3
1.3 Objectives	3
1.4 Research Methodology	3
1.5 Significance of Study	4
1.5 Conclusion	4
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1 Data Center Characteristics	5
2.1.1 Other Names for a “Data Center”	5
2.2 Data Center Design Philosophy	5
2.3 Benefits of using Data Center	6
2.3.1 Scalability	7
2.3.2 Availability	8

2.3.3	Security	9
2.3.4	Manageability	10
2.3.5	Reliability	11
2.3.6	Supportability	11
2.4	Evolution of Data Centers	12
2.4.1	Diversification of Data Center	12
2.4.2	Storage Centers	13
2.5	Architecture of Data Center	14
2.5.1	Template Architecture	14
2.6	Operating Environments of Data Center	17
2.6.1	Platform Operating Environment	17
2.6.2	Virtual Operating Environment	18
2.6.3	Operating Environment Structure	19
CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY		22
3.1	State-of-art review and state-of industry review	22
3.1.1	Internet Clients	23
3.1.2	Perimeter Routers	23
3.1.3	Load Balancing	24
3.1.4	Internet Facing Servers	24
3.1.5	Multilayer (Routing) Switches	24
3.1.6	Firewalls	25
3.1.7	Infrastructure Servers	25
3.1.8	Data and Management Servers	25
3.2	Evaluation and Benchmarking Criteria	26

3.2.1	Security Manageability	26
3.2.2	Network Availability	27
3.2.3	Network Scalability	27
CHAPTER 4: PLANNING AND BUILDING INTERNET DATA CENTER		29
4.0	Introduction	29
4.1	Managed Services	29
4.2	Co-location Services	30
4.3	Advanced Services	31
4.4	Infrastructure Layout	32
4.4.1	Building Layout	32
4.4.2	Operation	33
4.4.3	Internal Layout	33
4.5	The Technical Suite Concept	34
4.6	Secure Vaults	35
4.7	Racking Neighborhoods	36
4.8	Private Cages	36
4.9	Center Capacity	37
4.9.1	Facility	37
4.9.2	Power Specification	37
4.9.3	Resilience	38
4.10	Building Security and Access Control	39
4.10.1	Fire Control	40
4.10.2	Air Conditioning	40
4.10.3	Staff Facilities	40

4.11	Systems Infrastructure	41
4.12	Rack Configurations	41
4.13	Data Center Management and Operation	42
	4.13.1 Service Management Center (SMC)	42
	4.13.2 Service Monitoring and Maintenance	43
	4.13.3 Customer System Backups	44
	4.13.3.1 Storage Area Network (SAN)	44
	4.13.3.2 SAN and Network Attached Storage	45
4.14	Data Center Organization	46
	4.14.1 Structure	46
	4.14.2 The Production Environment	48
	4.14.3 The Development Environment	51
4.15	Conclusion	52
 CHAPTER 5: FUTURE DIRECTION AND FINDINGS		53
5.1	Architectural Elements	53
	5.1.1 Internet Clients	53
	5.1.2 Perimeter Routers	54
	5.1.3 Load Balancing	54
	5.1.4 Internet Facing Servers	54
	5.1.5 Multilayer (Routing) Switches	55
	5.1.6 Firewalls	55
	5.1.7 Infrastructure Servers	55
	5.1.8 Data and Management Servers	56
	5.1.9 Corporate Connection	56

5.2	Network Design and Goals	57
5.2.1	Traffic Flow Manageability	59
5.2.2	Security Manageability	59
5.2.3	Network Availability	60
5.2.4	Network Scalability	60
5.2.5	Simple Architecture	61
5.3	Router Design	61
5.3.1	Internet Perimeter Router	62
5.3.2	VPN Perimeter Router	64
5.4	DNS Design	64
5.4.1	External DNS Services	65
5.4.2	Internal DNS Services	65
5.4.3	Split-split DNS Design	66
5.5	Load Balancing Design	67
5.5.1	Load Balancing Mechanisms	67
5.5.2	State Management	69
5.5.3	Content Switching	70
5.5.4	Network Load Balancing	71
5.5.5	NIC Teaming	71
5.6	Distributed Load Balancing Behavior	73
5.6.1	Setting Network Speed and Duplex Operation	75
5.6.2	Network Load Balancing in Unicast Mode	75
5.6.3	Using Network Load Balancing on Web Servers	76
5.6.4	Network Load Balancing and Ports	77
5.6.4.1	TCP/IP Settings	79

5.6.4.2 Using Network Load Balancing on VPN Servers	79
5.6.4.3 Port Rules	80
5.7 Conclusion	82
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS	83
REFERENCES	86

LIST OF FIGURES

Number	Title	Page
Figure 1	Template data center architecture	15
Figure 2	Three data center layers	16
Figure 3	Data centers combined of different layers	16
Figure 4	Management Loop	21
Figure 5	Typical Technical Suite “Secure Vault”	35
Figure 6	Internet Data Center Organization	51
Figure 7	Internet Data Center Conceptual Model	58
Figure 8	Split DNS configuration	64

LIST OF TABLES

Number	Title	Page
Table 1	Server and Rack Capacity per Floor	37
Table 2	Load Balancing Mechanisms	69
Table 3	Web Server Network Load Balancing Port Rules	77
Table 4	ISA Server VPN Network Load Balancing configurations	80

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A data centre is a large data housing infrastructure that provides secure, high bandwidth access to clients for a range of Internet related services. Essentially it comprises servers, firewalls, high bandwidth Internet links and stringent physical security facilities (Dodds, 2000). A data center physically houses various equipment, such as computers, servers (e.g., web servers, application servers, database servers), switches routers, data storage devices, load balancers, wire cages or closets, vaults, racks, and related equipment. Some data centers may have critical requirements for security and reliability anytime.

An Internet data center (IDC) is a subset of data center, which is for all intents and purposes, a warehouse filled with computer servers in a carefully controlled environment. IDCs usually have multiple high-speed Internet connections, just in case one connection goes down, on-site technical support staff, very tight security, and gas-based fire suppression systems (McReynolds, 2001). Dodds (2000) adds that, many large Web hosts have their own data centers, and most of the smaller hosts rent space in them. The data center is (in theory) a safe and secure place for the computer equipment to operate, equipped with security guards, camera, cooling units, generators, guaranteed fuel availability, and support offices.

Large businesses are models of dynamic change. They usually start small and grow exponentially with demand. They grow both in the number of unique users supported, which can grow extremely quick, and in the complexity and integration of user services offered. The business plans for many startups are vetted by their investors for a believable 10-100x scalability projection. Successful

The contents of
the thesis is for
internal user
only

REFERENCES

- Goodyear, M. Editor (1999). *Enterprise System Architectures*: CRC Press.
- Rajput, W. (2000). *E-Commerce Systems Architecture and Applications*. Artech House.
- Chen, Q., Hsu, M., Dayal, U (2001). *Peer-to-Peer Collaborative Internet Business Servers*. HP Laboratories Technical Report HPL-2001-14.
- Kan, G. (Editor) (2001). *Peer-to-Peer: Harnessing the Power of Disruptive Technologies*. O'Reilly & Associates
- Peraire, C., Coleman, D. (2000) *Modeling for E-Service Creation*. Technical Report. System Design Laboratory, SRI International
- Kotov, V. (2000) *Towards Service-Based System Organization*. . HP Laboratories Technical Report to be published.
- Snevely, R (2002). *Enterprise Data Center Design and Methodology*: Sun Microsystem Press.
- Dodds, T (2000). *Network Security Fundamentals and Overview* : Prentice Hall Inc.
- McReynolds, M (2001). *Planning and Building a Data Center*, Sun Microsystem Press.
- Cassidy, J.C (1998). *Data Center Architectural*: CRC Press.
- Louis, G (2002). *Strategies for Success in the Network Economy*: Sun Microsystem, Inc.

Gergg, M (2001). *Data Center Evolution Strategies*: Prentice Hall.

Cowley, R (2002), *Solving the Problems of Data Center Web Serving*: Zeus Technology

Gerard, B (2002), *Global Infrastructure Risk Management: Planning & Recovering in uncertain times*: Aperture Inc.

Microsoft, (2002), Architectural Elements: Available at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/idc>

ISA Server firewalls (2002). Available at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/isaservers>

Integrated Value-added Services for Internet Data Centers. Available at:

<http://www.cosine.com/idc>

Choose the Best Data Center Co-location Outsourcing Solution for your e-Business. Available at:

<http://www.certsolutions.com>

Emigratus Data Center Featured in Entrepreneur Magazine. Available at:

<http://www.emigratus.com/idcent>

Facilities Security Key for Data Center Selection. Available at:

http://www.webhostingindustry.com/data_center_selection.html

Instant Data Center. Available at:

http://www.instantdc.com/web_hosting.asp

Internet Data Center Web Hosting. Available at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/business/services/mcsmfs.html>

Internet Data Center Management and Operation System. Available at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/business/mos/srfqty.html>

High Performance Data Center. Available at:

<http://www.upsite.com/exchange/datacenter.asp>

Planning and Building a Data Center. Available at:

<http://www.intel.com/idc>

International American Engineering Association (IAEA),1993.Available at:

<http://www.deakin.edu/conpmodel/iae>

The Forrester Report: "How to buy web infrastructure"(June, 2001): Available at:

<http://www.idc.com>