



DGA

Profile

- DGA is in charge of equipping the French armed forces.

Users

- DGA runs 80 arms programs.
- It manages about 10 billion euros of orders in the industry.
- DGA employs 14,000 persons.

Challenges

- Centralizing and securing DGA's computer system operations.

Benefits

- 24x7 high availability and load balancing thanks to Evidian SafeKit.
- 14 Windows and Unix clusters deployed.
- Easy deployment and administration of the global solution.

The French department of defense (DGA) ensures 24x7 availability and load balancing for its military applications with SafeKit.

Ensuring 24x7 availability of a computer system that manages DGA's 15 test and expertise centers

For the French department of defense (DGA) the stakes of high availability are high:

- DGA manages 10 billion euros of orders to industry,
- DGA's 14,000 employees depend on 24x7 availability of a new, centralized computer system,
- DGA uses 6 critical applications to manage its day-to-day activity: purchasing, planning, production, stock management, logistics and book-keeping.

To solve its availability and rising load constraints, DGA has chosen Evidian's SafeKit solution. The reasons for this choice: this solution is simple, works in the same manner both in Windows and Unix and delivers load balancing, real-time file replication and automatic failure recovery in the same product.

Easy deployment of clusters

- DGA implemented 14 Windows and Unix clusters with Evidian's SafeKit software solution. No shared disk or appliance was necessary.
- Administrators use a single console to manage all the Windows and Unix clusters in the same manner.
- It took just one day for the administrators in charge of the new computer infrastructure at DGA to master the installation, configuration and administration of the SafeKit clusters.

Evidian SafeKit is a software-based high availability solution

This solution secures easily and quickly the 24x7 operation of critical applications. SafeKit runs on standard servers and works with the standard editions of OS and applications.

While traditional high availability solutions are focused on the failover of physical or virtual servers, SafeKit has chosen to focus on the failover of critical applications.

Unique on the market: 3 products in 1

Traditionally, three different products are necessary to create an application cluster:

- load balancing network boxes,
- disk bays replicated synchronously on a SAN for data availability,
- high-availability toolkits for application failure recovery.

SafeKit offers these three features within the same software product.

To further reduce implementation costs, SafeKit runs on your existing standard servers and with the standard editions of your OS and applications: Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server or other database or file... and even with Windows 7.

Simple and effective application integration

When installed, SafeKit proposes two generic application modules:

- either a mirror (primary/secondary replication and failover),
- or a farm (network load balancing and failover).

The configuration of a module is done with a few simple tasks:

- define the IP addresses of the servers and the load balancing rules,
- select the directories of files to replicate,
- determine which services to restart in case of failure.

Without additional integration effort, DGA has developed several modules for several applications: web front-end, application servers, databases.

Integrated and optimized administration

On the SafeKit web console, an administrator can remotely monitor the status of an application in a cluster (red, green, magenta) and act with simple buttons (start, stop).

The documentation provides tests to validate the proper functioning of the application in high availability mode and includes troubleshooting procedures.

Using a generic command line interface, critical applications protected by SafeKit fit easily into specific monitoring consoles (Patrol, Nagios...).

“Our production team implemented the SafeKit solution without any difficulty on 14 Windows and Unix clusters. Our critical activity is thus secure, with high-availability and load balancing functions.

The advantages of this product are easy deployment and administration of clusters, on the one hand, and uniformity of the solution in the face of heterogeneous operating systems, on the other hand”

Alexandre Barth,
Systems administrator,
DGA.

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