

DH Net.be

la libre .be

## Fast Facts

## SITES

- www.dhnet.be
- www.lalibre.be

BUSINESS  
PROBLEMS

- Performance issues on the country's two leading newspaper websites, which were developed using PHP
- Unable to support increasing site traffic and visitor numbers

## KEY BENEFITS

- Redline Networks' T|X product allows new peak in unique site visitors, increasing revenue opportunities
- Reduces load on web servers, solving PHP application performance problems without additional servers
- Improves website speed and performance, reducing download times from over 1 minute to under 10 seconds
- Avoided rewriting entire site

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S.A. IPM, Belgium's Leading Newspaper  
Publishing Company, Chooses Redline

**S.A. IPM** (IPM) is one of Belgium's leading media publishing companies and news organisations publishing two of the country's leading newspapers; La Dernière Heure and La Libre Belgique. It also has a range of smaller newspapers and news websites.

Given its media interests and focus it is not surprising that IPM relies upon its website infrastructure to deliver news and content to the many readers of its publications. With each publication having its own website, the maintenance and reliability of these sites is a mission-critical objective for the company.

## The Challenge

The two websites for La Dernière Heure and La Libre Belgique (www.dhnet.be & www.lalibre.be) rank in the top 5 most used French language websites, with each site receiving approximately 20,000 unique visitors per day. These websites were originally developed in PHP (Hypertext Pre-processor, an open source, server-side, HTML embedded scripting language used to create dynamic Web pages) but were unable to support the increasing volume of site traffic and page hits that the sites were attracting.

This was especially noticeable between 10.00 and 14.00 each day, which was the time of peak traffic to the sites. The problem appeared to be a bottleneck created around the database server where too many processes from the Apache web servers would hit the database server simultaneously, slowing response times and limiting availability of the site.

These performance issues were beginning to cause serious issues for the supply of information to site visitors and so needed to be addressed quickly and in a way that would provide a long term and reliable solution.

## The Solution

One of the solutions available to resolve this problem was for the websites to be completely rewritten, but the resources and time needed simply made this solution impractical, so VALain SA, a web development and consulting company retained by IPM to deal with the website performance issue, recommended the use of the T|X 2200 Web I/O processor product from Redline Networks.

## The Benefits

Alain Fontaine, Director of VALain, takes up the story: "Redline offered us a cost effective and multifunctional solution to address the website performance issues being faced by IPM. On the first Monday that the T|X box was installed a new peak of unique visitors to both websites was reached because they were now able to cope with the heavy demand. Previously, at peak times, it would have taken a user around one minute to download a homepage from one of the sites, now it took between five to seven seconds!"

The Redline Networks T|X product was able to deliver this performance because it reduced the number of processes coming from the Apache web servers to between 10 and 30 from over 130. The database servers responded faster because they were receiving five to 10 times fewer database connections from the Apache servers than before. On the Apache servers themselves 'slow clients,' dropped packets, and other network realities no longer had an impact on performance because all connections, communication with clients, and serving of HTTP traffic was now handled by the T|X box.

Patrick de Lannoy, Multimedia Manager at IPM, said: "We are delighted with the result and that VALain recommended the use of the T|X product from Redline Networks. We can now deliver business continuity and performance for our online services at a fraction of the cost and effort that would have been required by conventional solutions."