



Praction Networks Replaces Cisco and MikroTik Routers with netElastic vBNG

Slashes Costs by 200%

Praction Networks is a broadband service provider bringing the power of fiber optics directly to customers with Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) services, providing some of the fastest internet speeds in India. Delivering fast internet access at competitive prices has resulted in significant growth for Praction.

THE CHALLENGES OF SUBSCRIBER GROWTH BEFORE NETELASTIC CGNAT

As a rapidly growing broadband provider, Praction wanted to use Carrier Grade NAT (or CGNAT) to conserve IPv4 addresses. They were using a Cisco ASR 1002 router as a Broadband Network Gateway (BNG), and were looking to add CGNAT capabilities. Unfortunately, Cisco didn't have any good options for CGNAT and what they did offer was too expensive.

Praction ended up purchasing MikroTik software for CGNAT. However, MikroTik's performance degraded significantly as the number of subscribers increased, which had a very negative impact on customer experience.

“The big router vendors were two to three times more expensive compared to netElastic CGNAT.”

— Rohit Kumar, Praction

WHY PRACTION CHOSE NETELASTIC CGNAT

According to Rohit Kumar, Co-Founder and CTO at Praction, “Scalability was really an issue with our previous routers. Given the problems we were having, we knew we had to try something else.”

Praction then started looking at netElastic. netElastic CGNAT is built on high-performance virtual router technology, including a scalable software architecture that delivers a high-level of translation performance. And unlike traditional CGNAT systems that run on expensive proprietary hardware, netElastic's software-based CGNAT runs on commodity x86 servers.

“Before choosing netElastic, we had multiple discussions with a few big router vendors. However, they were two to three times more expensive compared to netElastic CGNAT,” said Rohit.

SELECTING THE RIGHT BROADBAND NETWORK GATEWAY

As mentioned earlier, Praction was using a Cisco ASR 1002 router as a BNG. Similar to MikroTik, a major drawback of individual Cisco routers are scalability. Physical network infrastructure, especially hardware routers that require manual configurations, simply haven't been able to keep pace with the increasing demand for more bandwidth.

Of course, Praction could have upgraded to a larger Cisco router. The drawbacks of this approach were not only increased costs, but they would eventually face the same challenge with their new router when they outgrew that. And purchasing a hardware router large enough for five years of growth (over-provisioning) didn't make financial sense.

"We constantly had to reconfigure our previous router, which was becoming very tedious," commented Rohit. "netElastic's software-based BNG eliminated this problem, since it's very easy to configure with only a few software commands."

"Scalability, performance, and cost effectiveness were the key criteria for us in evaluating BNGs. With netElastic vBNG, we got everything we were looking for."

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HOW PRACTION IS USING NETELASTIC VBNG

According to Rohit, "netElastic vBNG is a one-stop solution. It has everything, including optional CGNAT, hierarchical QoS, and high availability."

Praction is also using netElastic BNG Manager, which provides detailed monitoring and visibility to all aspects of the BNG router. System health, subscriber load, and network performance are all visible with short and long-term trending.

"BNG Manager is really helpful when doing operational tasks, especially when adding new configurations," shared Rohit.

“netElastic vBNG is a one-stop solution.”

— Rohit Kumar, Praction

The Results

netElastic vBNG has enabled Praction to move subscribers off of their previous multi-vendor, multi-device solution to a single software-based solution that delivers performance and scalability.

“netElastic vBNG has been completely stable and its high-performance enables us to guarantee performance to our subscribers. And more happy customers equals more business.”

Rohit continued, “Before choosing netElastic vBNG, we had multiple rounds of discussions with traditional hardware-based vendors, and the difference between netElastic and the hardware-based vendors was huge.”

“With netElastic, we saved lots of money. And netElastic also helped us to obsolete multiple MikroTik routers used for CGNAT, which has been another cost savings for us.”

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— Rohit Kumar, Praction