



WebSrix Helps Ethiopia Close the Digital Divide with netElastic vBNG and CGNAT

WebSrix launched the first privately-owned broadband internet service in Ethiopia. Its mission is to help Ethiopia close the digital divide and build a stronger information infrastructure. To accomplish this, it has been building a last-mile fiber infrastructure and resilient high-speed IP backbone across the country.

THE CHALLENGE

According to Dawit Birhanu, WebSrix's Founder and CEO, "When we started broadband service over four years ago, the routers we originally used didn't scale well and didn't integrate with other products. These two issues were a show-stopper for us. We started looking at other architectures, including BNG architectures and that's how we found netElastic."

Before choosing netElastic, WebSrix tried another virtual router solution. However, it wasn't very stable. Not carrier-grade stable. "netElastic was really stable," said Dawit. "That was our first impression of netElastic and it was a pretty good impression."

Cost was also a big factor, since WebSrix wants to deliver innovative solutions affordable for the income level of people in their region. WebSrix looked at other BNG solutions that were stable, but they were also very expensive.

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THE SOLUTION

WebSrix purchased a netElastic virtual Broadband Network Gateway (vBNG) and netElastic Carrier Grade NAT (CGNAT). vBNG provided the scalability and flexibility WebSrix was looking for at a very affordable price.

Initially WebSprix deployed a single vBNG for one market and has recently added additional vBNGs for new cities. Each vBNG has the capacity to support thousands of customers. As WebSprix continues to grow and scale, the vBNGs will scale with them to easily support tens of thousands of customers.

"netElastic vBNG performance has been very good," continued Dawit. "It's really flexible."

netElastic's CGNAT capabilities were also important to WebSprix. According to Dawit, "If someone asks us who used a specific connection, netElastic's advanced logging capabilities that map IP addresses to usernames make it easy to identify the user."

API access was another key factor since WebSprix does their own provisioning and designs full automation into their network. WebSprix's needs were met with netElastic vBNG with NETCONF APIs.

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THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

Ethiopia has over 124 million people. However, only 614,000 have fixed broadband internet access and only a fraction of that is fiber-based. This presents WebSprix with a tremendous growth opportunity. And netElastic will be a major contributor to that growth.

"netElastic has definitely contributed significantly to our success and is one of the main ingredients in our solution," stated Dawit. "I would definitely recommend netElastic. You can tell from our additional vBNG purchases and our positive experiences. vBNG is stable and performs very well. And netElastic support is fantastic."

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