aws marketplace

A10 Networks Thunder ADC

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users






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Product Recap

A10 Networks Thunder ADC

A10 Networks Thunder ADC Recap

A10 Networks Thunder ADC is a dynamic application delivery controller and advanced load balancer. Thunder ADC is a value-added solution provided by A10 Networks specializing in robust, trusted, scalable application services for cloud, hybrid, edge cloud, and on-premise environments focused on improving business processes and keeping infrastructures safe. The solution consistently provides server availability, improves content delivery, and protects at-risk applications. A10 Networks Thunder ADC easily controls hybrid and multi-cloud deployments using a Polynimbus strategy to minimize difficulties and costs for IT processes, facilitating overall improved business results.

A10 Networks Thunder ADC is effective for small to medium businesses (SMBs) to large enterprises. Service providers and cloud operators are all using A10 Network ADC to manage their large and fast-growing group of business-critical applications.

A10 Networks Thunder ADC supplies L4-7 load balancing with numerous layers of security using DNS and web app firewalls, comprehensive support for advanced encryption, single sign-on (SSO) authentication, and high-performance Perfect Forward Secrecy and Error Correction Code (PFS/ECC). Thunder ADC is designed upon A10 Networks Advanced Core Operating System (ACOS®) platform to provide consistent, efficient application performance and trusted security for any environment.

A10 Networks Thunder ADC Benefits

- **Consistently accessible:** A10 Networks Thunder ADC employs numerous load balancing protocols to evenly distribute workloads to all servers and works to ensure constant application functionality. User requests are monitored to ensure loads are directed to the appropriate server so that there is always a proper response delivery to content. This process ensures the applications are consistently available.
- **Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB):** To ensure business processes are fully optimized at all times, A10 Networks Thunder ADC employs a dynamic Global Server Load Balancing (GSLB) process to augment server load balancing capabilities throughout global data centers for high availability and improved user experience and application tolerance.
- **Fast content delivery:** A10 Networks Thunder ADC conquers the general WAN latencies, chatty policies, and redundant software programs to ensure quick and responsive service. Employees receive a fast, excellent end-user experience while the organization's business leaders get exceeded SLA mandates and increased productivity with teams working remotely and a step up on the competition.

A10 Networks Thunder ADC Features

- **Detailed Analytics:** When deployed with A10 Networks Harmony Controller, Thunder

ADC delivers a large selection of detailed aggregate and per-request reports in real time. The reports include popular URLs, error and health indicators, latencies, and end-to-end response times. The data is further dissected to deliver per-app reporting, availability alerts, and performance.

- **API Coverage:** Thunder ADC utilizes A10 Networks REST-based aXAPIs to structure all features with 100 percent API coverage. The resulting interface is then used to seamlessly integrate custom or third-party management solutions, such as VMware or other SDN platforms, OpenStack, Microsoft SCVMM, or other cloud orchestration systems. There are also software plug-ins available for private clouds utilizing VMware's vRealize Orchestrator.
- **Comprehensive Management Controls:** Thunder ADC is fully supported by A10 Networks Harmony Controller and can be deployed in software or as a software-as-a-service (SaaS). This controller functions as a native management platform that organizes and distributes application-centric service protocols and configuration data to numerous Thunder appliances and device cluster infrastructures throughout numerous multi-cloud environments. Users can instantly identify, audit and track every appliance using critical operational metrics, such as CPU, disk usage, device partitions, and end users. The A10 Networks Harmony Controller will also complete configuration backups and restore operations, and will schedule regular software upgrades.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "A10 Networks Thunder ADC is an easy-to-use and flexible solution."

Sebastien Deboulet

Talent Acquisition Partner at Worldline Global

- "We can control access based on the specific application. If other devices are attempting to directly access the servers, you can block them. Additionally, you can balance the load among servers to optimize performance. For example, utilizing caching can make the application run faster."

RonaldoDE Melo

Sales Account Executive at L8 Group

- "Feature-wise, A10 Networks Thunder ADC is better for troubleshooting...Stability-wise, I rate the solution a nine out of ten."

SatishBabu

Vice President at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

"Compared to F5, which I used about six years ago, the A10 is much easier when routing. You don't have to use the wildcard bits to route it between the different segments. It's much less troublesome to configure."

Verified user

Network Architect at a retailer with 201-500 employees

"The DNS application firewall and load balancing are very valuable."

Rodrigo Américo

Security Engineer at Dock

"The solution is stable."

PrateekDeem

Business Partner at Sparrow Networks

"Being a public entity and having a public website which is highly visible with a lot of traffic, we are a target for DDoS. Within the last year, we have had a couple of DDoS attacks which could have affected our web traffic and taken down certain parts of our website. This did not happen because the A10 was able to mitigate the attacks using rate limiting that can be configured for DDoS mitigation on the box."

Shiven Singh

Network Manager at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

"Feature-wise, A10 Networks Thunder ADC is better for troubleshooting. I like the solution's command line to troubleshoot the issues, especially compared to other vendors. So in comparison with the others, it's much easier to troubleshoot.."

SatishBabu
Vice President at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

"The SLB and GSLB load balancing are the most valuable features. They meet our need to do server-side load balancing and global site load balancing so we can distribute traffic, not only intra-data center, but inter-data center.

We are using them in the cloud and they are flexible, supporting the cloud services that we use. We use Azure.."

Verified user
VP, Web Services and Cyber Security at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

“The customers are using all the features. It's got a good set of features.

It is a stable solution.

The product is easy to set up.

It's scalable.

Technical support has been helpful. .”

PrateekDeem
Business Partner at Sparrow Networks

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“One of the features that we really like is the services map, which is a way that we map traffic from the front-end virtual server to the back-end servers.

Another feature we like is application switching. I'm using this as a template.

A lot of our SSL management is done on the front-end side, so there is one pane of glass for a lot of our security certificates. It gives us visibility. It also falls under when certificates are going to expire. Even for servers that are coming down, we can see how that affects the traffic flow by using the services map.

Each release of the code is becoming more polished, not that I find it difficult today. I'm glad to see the features and enhancements we request are making it into every release. It is very simple to use..”

Verified user
User at a government with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review

“Compared to F5, which I used about six years ago, the A10 is much easier when routing. You don't have to use the wildcard bits to route it between the different segments. It's much less troublesome to configure.

A10 Networks also doesn't have separate licenses for some features. All licenses are already onboard, which is not the case with F5. It's called the GTM on F5 and on A10 it's GSLB. The DNS load balancing is globally based and that isn't a separate license. That's already on the box in the ADC license itself.

The solution's traffic flow management capabilities are quite easy to use and quite good, and our ability to troubleshoot traffic flow issues is good if you know how to read the packet captures. If you know your way around the command prompt, it's fine.

We've got the solution's support for expanding infrastructure to public, private, and hybrid cloud containers for our internal data center, and we're also balancing some things we've got in AWS. That's only available internally. That scales well, especially the virtualization with the A10s. You can split it up into 32 separate units.

The solution's support for our on-premise applications is good. It's very flexible. You can split it up into different Layer 3 partitions: internal- or external-facing. Or you can use it as a separate partition for testing..”

Verified user

Network Architect at a retailer with 201-500 employees

Read full review

“We use the monitoring features and security features. The solution will tell us if someone tries to use the wrong password or to hack into the system. We do have firewalls in place so no incoming traffic from the outside can get in. Our firewall blocks everything coming in from the outside, but we can go out to our network.

We use the diagnostics to debug files and, when there is a problem, we can generate a file that we can send to our NOC engineers so they can take a look at it.

We also use the login resource usage which gives us a summary and graphs of services — when things are going down and are up.

The ADCs are pretty straightforward and easy to use. There is a GUI base where you can go in and see everything, but they also have a CLI base where you can use a command and get the information that you want, very fast. You log into the website with the A10 GUI and you can see all of your functions and your health monitor, which is very important. With the health monitor you can see the health of the switch and, if something is going on, how it's progressing. Also upgrading the GUI is very easy. It's user-friendly.

The traffic management is very good. I can monitor the traffic that comes into the A10 very easily. We balance traffic between the active blade and the standby blade. The traffic management is holding its load properly and its balancing properly. It's very good.

In terms of the traffic flow management capabilities, there are graphs that you can look at as you enable them. You can look back at live data for the last 30 minutes and it's very good. I like it. You can manage your traffic easily and you can troubleshoot because, if you look back at your data for the past two weeks, you can see if something was flipping. It's a good feature..”

Verified user

Network Engineer IV at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

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Other Solutions Considered

“We evaluated F5 again, because it was time for a renewal. We evaluated Juniper — at the time they had a load balancing solution. We also evaluated Cisco..”

Verified user

VP, Web Services and Cyber Security at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

“We evaluated five equipment options for our client and prices were very different. Technically, the options were comparable so we chose the solution because it was the least expensive. .”

Rodrigo Américo

Security Engineer at Dock

Read full review

“We also evaluated F5.

Because we were new in the market, our decision was purely based on cost. A10 can deliver the throughput we need, so there wasn't a technical challenge. It ended up being a cost-based decision..”

Verified user

User at a government with 501-1,000 employees

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"We used F5 BIG-IPs. The switch to ADC was an upper-level decision. They wanted to change because things were outdated and it had to do with contracts and the like.

The things we consider most important when funding new technology are revenue generation, customer satisfaction, operational improvement, accelerating development speed, and business advantages from new technology.."

Verified user

Network Engineer IV at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

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"Previously, we were using F5 Networks' load balancers and we moved away from them because they were not flexible and they did not provide a good value. Since we switched to A10 Networks, we have had all the features that we need in a more value-oriented package. In particular, they provide SLB and GSLB, whereas F5 wanted to charge us for every single thing. We like the all-in-one-bundling from A10 Networks. It turns out to be a good value.."

Verified user

VP, Web Services and Cyber Security at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“The primary reasons that we switched to A10 were that F5 wasn't 46-bit hardware-capable yet, at the time, and because of the licensing. For what we wanted to do with our replacement parts, we would have had to migrate to a much more expensive and higher-end hardware model at that size. And support-wise, F5 is about five times more expensive than A10 is.

Overall, at the time, we were quite happy with F5. But we were looking around and came across A10 and did a proof of concept with them. Price-wise, it was very interesting and hardware-wise as well..”

Verified user

Network Architect at a retailer with 201-500 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"We ran the numbers and our return on investment is projected to be five years out with A10, compared to if we had replaced our infrastructure, back then, with F5.."

Verified user
VP, Web Services and Cyber Security at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

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"We have seen ROI from a being able to delegate certain rights to certain other groups of people to administrate their own configurations on the A10. Also, from an operational overhead, as well as cost, there has definitely been a huge return on investment.."

Shiven Singh
Network Manager at a university with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“We have seen ROI from going with A10. Part of that was the ease of configuration, but that's because most of the other network engineers also have a Cisco background, and they had never done anything with the F5 solution before. So it was quite easy for them to get used to configuring it. And in the support contract, we saved a lot of money, on the order of $15,000 to $20,000 a year..”

Verified user

Network Architect at a retailer with 201-500 employees

Read full review

Use Case

“We use the solution for ProTechVIP, the software, the client, the servers, and the firewalls. We mix them, protecting the connection and the servers from direct access..”

RonaldoDE Melo
Sales Account Executive at L8 Group

Read full review

“Our company uses the solution to enhance our client's connection to their data centers. One data center is in Brasilia and the other is in Sao Paulo. The solution bolsters the connection between the data centers. .”

Rodrigo Américo
Security Engineer at Dock

Read full review

“Our clients are using it for their entire network. They have multiple networks across India. They are using it for application load balancing.

They have multiple servers. .”

PrateekDeem
Business Partner at Sparrow Networks

Read full review

"The A10s that we have in Florida are being used for load balancing. We have a pair of A10s there, an active and a standby, and we are balancing the traffic between. We also use our A10s, in general, for provisioning wireless products. Eventually, we will use our new A10s for more stuff.

Our applications are hosted in a private on-premises data center, on public cloud in AWS, and in a hybrid cloud which is primarily public infrastructure.

Among our biggest security concerns are malicious code and DDoS attacks.."

Verified user

Network Engineer IV at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"Our primary use case is the application delivery controller part where we mainly use the server load balancing features to front-end our back-end servers to give us additional high availability, some resiliency, and some failures.

All our applications are hosted on a private on-premises data center. We run our own data center with VMware being the main virtualization platform. Then, running on top of VMware, we have Windows and Linux clusters, so x86 Windows and x86 Linux.

Our biggest security concerns are malicious code, user data theft, DDoS attacks, insider attacks, brand damage/loss of confidence, and phishing/fake sites. Hacking/cyber defacement is one of our concerns, but not the biggest. A lot of these security concerns are around data loss and data loss prevention. We are a pension institution, so we do not want to lose any of our member data. We have security things in place using the application firewalls, as an example, to help with our front-end sites.

We are running virtual machines and currently doing a proof of concept with containers. However, we're not working with containers on-prem yet.."

Verified user

User at a government with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review

"Our primary use case is for servicing a remote workforce. Especially these days when a lot of people are working remotely, a solution like this is important. We have to deploy applications and we do not necessarily want to upload the applications into the cloud or locally on desktops or laptops. ADC is really good for desktop virtualization and application delivery. Instead of having a full client, you look at a projection hosted in the data center. All the processing is being done back in the data center in the corporate domain. Because of the fact that the processing is not being taken care of locally, ADC is a very lightweight client that handles the feed on your laptop. It also enhances security. Everything is kept in the server room, not exported locally to someone's house or whatever location they are working in. You do not have to worry about securing the data. There are certain programs that you have to patch a lot, like Adobe Flash — which seems to always need a patch. Instead of doing that on all 100 laptops that are in the field, you just do it once in the data center and everybody uses that same version. That type of simplification for your deployments is another benefit of ADC.

Because the maintenance is all happening at the data center, it is a lot more controlled and it is way easier. Another thing that this helps with is that only certain people get access to certain applications. The accountants are really the only ones who need access to the accounting software. It is really easy to set up groups based upon Active Directory and then define who gets access to those applications. That ability to limit access is really kind of cool and can potentially save money and licensing costs. ."

Verified user

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

Read full review

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

"I would put the initial setup at an intermediate level. It is nothing that someone will be able to unbox and do without having some networking or application knowledge. However, if you have a firm IT understanding, then it is pretty simple.

Adding new things takes under 30 minutes.."

Verified user

User at a government with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review

"The setup was straightforward. We worked with a support engineer from A10 Networks to plan the setup and they provided a migration tool. It was a straightforward migration when we switched from the AX to the Thunder series. Also, when we switched from F5 to A10 they provided resources to us.

We have it installed globally, so it took about three months to replace them all. The replacement strategy was to do it in pairs in each location, one at a time, to have the least impact with production.."

Verified user

VP, Web Services and Cyber Security at a financial services firm with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

“The initial setup is not complex. It's rather straightforward.

I'd rate the product five out of five in terms of ease of setup.

The product has been very good, and, until now, the customer is not facing any problems. They have been happy with the product.

How long the deployment takes depends on the customer and the scenario. In my case, I had it up and running in three or four months with no downtime whatsoever. Typically, it can be a one-day job. .”

PrateekDeem

Business Partner at Sparrow Networks

Read full review

“The initial setup is very simple. The issue is that it achieves high output across all its features, specifically the output ports. This affects the customer's solution because sometimes, the customer is even aware of the user's activity on certain servers. If you have all the necessary information, we can quickly deploy the solution within two to three days.

The size of the Thunder ADC depends on its configuration. For example, the cache converter typically includes more than two rack units, often requiring at least three rack units for adequate space.

I rate it a ten out of ten, where one is difficult, and ten is easy..”

RonaldoDE Melo

Sales Account Executive at L8 Group

Read full review

“The solution's initial setup process was easy. For the installation, it takes around five minutes.

One person can do the maintenance since it is not required much. So, it's a one-time solution, and its maintenance is fine. The number of people required for maintenance depends on the clients as well. One or two engineers are fine to serve around a hundred clients. If you have a number of devices, more people are needed for their maintenance because of the patching it requires during regular operations. Only for the maintenance, one engineer's fine. However, for regular operations, we need multiple people.

.”

SatishBabu

Vice President at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

“The setup was very straightforward but it depends on the solutions you are using in your environment. In our network we don't configure all the features because we are not using them as yet, but it's very straightforward to configure them.

In our department, setup takes six to seven months, including getting the ADCs, racking and stacking them, and configuring them. Our organization has a standardized, tailored deployment strategy, where we have our own config, but it has to be coordinated with our other switches.

We have four to five people involved in the deployment of the solution. Our local engineers will install it, power it up, and give us a remote connection and then I, as a network engineer, will get in remotely and configure it..”

Verified user

Read full review

Network Engineer IV at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

Customer Service and Support

“If you need more specific guys, it takes time, or you can get support from them. After sending many emails, Thunder calls directly to talk, and then we can talk..”

RonaldoDE Melo
Sales Account Executive at L8 Group

Read full review

“The solution's technical support is helpful. I rate the technical support an eight out of ten. Whenever there is something urgent or critical, even though the technical team may take some time to respond, like, around 30 mins, they will respond..”

SatishBabu
Vice President at a computer software company with 1,001-5,000 employees

Read full review

"A10 Networks Thunder ADC has a very good support structure. In each region, they have a very well-experienced team to support when it comes to pre-sales. They have a very capable team.."

Nuwan Chathuranga
Team Lead - Network and Security at Connex Information Technologies

Read full review

"We have used their tech support a few times. They're quick to answer the call and they respond to you in a timely manner. Their engineers are pretty good. They will join a WebEx session and look into the switch for you and try to resolve your problems. They resolve issues in a timely manner.."

Verified user
Network Engineer IV at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"For just Network Thunder, I have not had to deal with the A10 technical support team. Our clients never said anything about how they like it one way or another. I assume that means they have not had to contact them either. There has just been one load balancing issue a client had and it was isolated to that location. A10 took care of it. They are one for one as far as tackling problems I know about. ."

Verified user
Senior Systems Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

Read full review

“The on-premise support is really good. From a support standpoint, if we have problems or anything like that, usually the case is solved within 24 hours. There have not been too many that went over that time frame. Obviously, that is key to keeping things up and running. We have fast resolution.

The device is really solid and we don't need a lot of support. We may have one case a year, if that. This also speaks to how we're using the device. We just haven't hit a lot of bugs in the code or a lot of problems that we can't solve onsite..”

Verified user

User at a government with 501-1,000 employees

Read full review

Other Advice

“A10 Networks Thunder ADC is a very natural solution in the industry. When compared to the other vendors, it's easier to use, more user-friendly, and more mature.

I rate A10 Networks Thunder ADC a nine out of ten..”

Nuwan Chathuranga
Team Lead - Network and Security at Connex Information Technologies

Read full review

“If someone has experience in Cisco Networks, the CLA hierarchy and configuration are 90% the same making this solution easier to use.

I rate A10 Networks Thunder ADC a seven out of ten..”

Muhammad_Qureshi
Network Consultant at a aerospace/defense firm with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

"It is a pretty good product. On a scale from one to ten (where one is the worst and ten is the best), I would rate A10 Networks Thunder ADC as a nine-out-of-ten. I do not get too many complaints from customers. Giving it a nine seems fair. It works as advertised. ."

Verified user
Senior Systems Engineer at a tech services company with 11-50 employees

Read full review

"Our organization did an infrastructure refresh some years ago from Cisco to A10 Networks Thunder ADC. The migration was quite easy from Cisco to A10 Networks Thunder ADC.

Overall, I rate the solution a nine out of ten.."

Sebastien Deboulet
Talent Acquisition Partner at Worldline Global

Read full review

“I'm a reseller for A10.

This is one of the best products. It is capable. I'll always suggest it for my customers as it is better than the other products. If you compare to other products, it's a one box solution, as we say. Everything comes in the one box, and that's the beauty of this product.

I'd rate the product ten out of ten. .”

PrateekDeem
Business Partner at Sparrow Networks

Read full review

“A10 Networks' Thunder ADC is being sold by adding hardware (HxD) and configuring certain aspects like the Exponent. These modified versions are sold directly to customers. They are using HPANETX Thunder models, some of which originate from JTerrin. I believe these models come from Microsoft, which has a significant data analytics contract. Here in Brazil, UsersBox is being utilized, and there is an issue when I try to sell a new box from ATEM. My box is five times more expensive than the other one. I sent the box's serial number to GuidePhone A10 for verification, and it turns out that the box is from Microsoft Japan. Despite the conference being for Microsoft Japan, these boxes somehow ended up here in Brazil.

The solution requires less maintenance.

The A10 Networks Thunder ADC can be more expensive than alternatives offering similar performance. Another issue is its architecture: when using our software architecture, there are limitations when creating new instances, such as a new VS. Typically, with solutions like F5, you need to define and allocate resources upfront when creating a new instance. If you need more resources allocated to a Virtual Service, you must often delete and recreate it. In contrast, A10 Networks allows for more flexible resource allocation adjustments without needing to recreate the instance.

Overall, I rate the solution a nine out of ten..”

RonaldoDE Melo
Sales Account Executive at L8 Group

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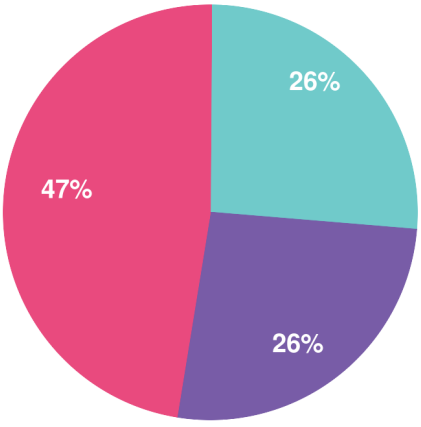

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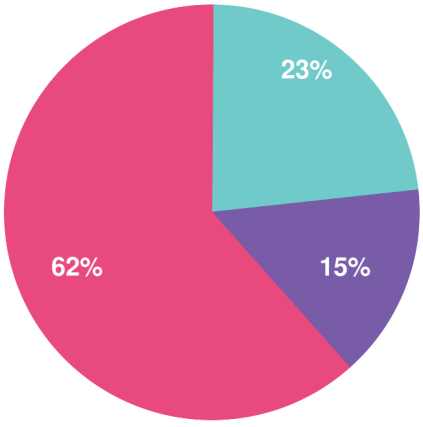

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