

# VISNETIC MAILSERVER AND DNS2Go

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In October of 2000, Deerfield.com introduced DNS2Go, a dynamic naming system, to the world. The program was designed to give anyone with a dynamic IP address (like a dial-up, cable modem, or DSL account) the ability to host web services using an easy to remember name.

Beyond simple web hosting and file sharing, customers wanted the ability to host an email server without the high cost of an “always on” connection, while still being able to use their own domain name, not an ISP address (like bill@aol.com or bill@msn.com, etc.).

To meet these needs, Deerfield.com introduced, among several value-added services, SMTP routing. This service was designed as a flexible email forwarding/storage method for anyone with a DNS2Go account. If a customer is online, they receive any email bound for their domain directly, routed by the DNS2Go service. If, however, they are offline, Deerfield.com’s servers will route all messages into a storage drive, and immediately forward them to the server as soon as it comes back online.

This proved to be a valuable service, providing email capabilities to several thousand DNS2Go domains.

As the number of users taking advantage of DNS2Go SMTP Routing grew, so too did the demand on Deerfield.com’s email servers. With so many customers accessing the servers at random intervals, and with so much email to move, the server performance was

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beginning to suffer.

In January 2003, to provide better service to the DNS2Go user base, Deerfield.com transitioned their own email servers from MDAemon® to VisNetic MailServer. Almost immediately the service to customers was dramatically improved. Under identical server loads, delivery time to customers went from as high as 30 minutes to nearly instantaneous.

This dramatic difference was attributable to the delivery methods used by the two email servers.

When an account connected and requested its mail, MDAemon® first moved the stored messages into its “Remote Queue”. From here, the email sat in the queue until the next scheduled processing interval. Further contributing to delays was the fact that by default, MDAemon is set to handle only 30 unique connections/threads at a given time.

VisNetic MailServer uses an entirely different method for message handling. Upon receiving a “dequeue” request, VisNetic MailServer moves messages into a “Forward Directory” that is always monitored for instant processing. In addition, VisNetic MailServer is set by default to handle up to 256 unique connections/threads.

These improved handling mechanisms also significantly reduced the load on the CPU

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of the email server, taking it from as high as 98% of capacity to an average of only 8% usage. Since email messages don't stack up in the memory and demand increased handling, resources on the server computer are free for other tasks.

These performance improvements to the SMTP Routing service not only provided customers with a greatly improved service, but it was also able to lower Deerfield.com's operating costs.

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