

Advanced security for our national public-service broadcaster



Executive Summary

The Vlaamse Radio- en Televisieomroeporganisatie (VRT) implemented AWS Shield Advanced to protect their 24x7 platform. Key considerations included SRT support, L7 protection and cost-effective security measures. AWS WAF was also implemented. The implementation happened after a successful PoC.

Customer Challenge

Given the VRT's operational sectors, maintaining 24x7 availability for their platforms is crucial. Any downtime is simply unacceptable. In the last few years there has been a surge in geopolitical DDoS attacks, prompting VRT to seek an advanced solution to bolster the security of its Cloud infrastructure. The following features of AWS Shield Advanced were key considerations for the customer:

- SRT Support: Ensuring robust protection against threats.
- Layer 7 (Application Layer) Protections: Safeguarding against targeted attacks.
- Coverage of Standard AWS WAF Fees: Cost-effective security measures.

With AWS Shield Advanced, VRT can effectively shield all their AWS endpoints, preventing malicious access without triggering false positives. After completing an initial successful PoC together, the solution was fully implemented across multiple accounts.

Partner Solution

Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Mitigation: Implemented using AWS Shield Advanced.

Web Application and API Protection (WAAP) Management: Implemented using AWS WAF. Having a WAF (WebAcl) is required when enabling Layer 7 protection, as Shield needs to have the capability to automatically implement mitigations.

VRT has a playbook which describes best practices for configuring WAF rules.

About the customer



VRT is the public broadcaster of the Flemish Community in Belgium. It is a media organisation oriented towards all Flemish citizens, with a special focus on the diversity and uniqueness of the Flemish audience. VRT mainly presents high-quality and distinctive content in the areas of information, culture, education, entertainment, and sports. With its three television channels, five radio stations and various digital channels, VRT reaches 90% of all Flemish people, every single week. Consequently, VRT can be seen as a relevant player that has a major societal impact and can contribute to a pluralistic debate, thus strengthening democracy.

In addition, VRT stimulates people to experience culture and language, while propagating the Flemish identity throughout its functioning. VRT is also a very future-oriented organisation and focuses heavily on innovation and digitisation. The broadcaster plays an important role in the Flemish media ecosystem and cooperates with numerous national and international partners from various fields.

Results and Benefits

Since the implementation of AWS Shield Advanced, 47 events have been blocked, with a request rate up to almost 1Mrps.

Technology used

- AWS Shield Advanced
- AWS WAF
- Amazon CloudFront
- Amazon Route53

About ClouDar

We are a team of highly skilled AWS Cloud Architects, offering rock solid solutions for any type of business. We design, build and operate high available and scalable cloud infrastructures based on [Amazon Web Services](#).

Not only are we an AWS Premier Consulting Partner with multiple AWS certifications, competencies & specialties, but we are also an AWS Solution Provider, AWS Managed Service Partner, AWS Well-Architected Partner, AWS Public Sector Partner and ISO/IEC 27001 certified for information security.

