IXC

Reviewing a CDN and cross-border acceleration

A CDN selection kit that weighs performance baselines, trials, and cutover cost

A practical IXC resource for adoption decisions and delivery

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Using this resource

Separates the causes of slow overseas access and uses real content to verify the effect of adopting a CDN and its fit with operations.

Overseas service leads, infrastructure owners, and CDN purchase reviewers

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How to complete and reuse it

Read the criteria in this PDF, then fill the blank fields with your actual conditions and anything still unconfirmed. The Excel file for the same practice area has a worksheet for each resource. Keep the worked examples separate from real customer cases and confirmed quotes.

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Turn slow tasks into measurable questions

Start from the symptom "it is slow overseas" and narrow it down to which tasks are slow in which regions. Choosing a CDN means checking whether it improves this baseline.

Choose the main user regions and key screens, then record time to first response, time to display the main content, and errors for each. Look at first requests to an empty cache separately from repeat requests. Also separate results before and after login, and by device and network conditions. If the origin is slow to generate responses, investigate the application and the database as well; only then can you separate out what better delivery contributes.

Observation	Further checks	Review direction
Slow from the first response	Origin processing and connection time	Separate the origin from the delivery path
Slow on images and video	Size, repeat requests, and regional differences	Review cache and delivery policy
Slow only when logged in	Authentication, personalisation, and API calls	Exclude sensitive responses and investigate the app
More errors in certain regions	Network, DNS, certificates, and origin	Test each region under the same conditions

> **The minimum unit of a measurement record**
>
> Save the time, region, URL, login state, device and network conditions, cache status, and result together as one set. If many conditions change between the runs you compare, it is hard to explain which action had the effect.

Test representative content, not a feature list

Pick content from the live service that differs in update cycle and sensitivity. Along with speed, check that the correct content is delivered.

What to test	Question to verify	Results required
Versioned static files	Do repeat requests reduce origin traffic?	Cache hits and origin requests
Product images that get replaced	Does the new image show after an update?	Invalidation and re-request records
Personalised pages	Does another user's content get mixed in?	User separation and cache policy
API and error responses	Are the status and headers preserved?	Response codes and error handling
Origin outage	Is the approved fallback response served?	Failover behaviour and recovery records

Akamai Property Manager sets caching behaviour and retention time according to content conditions. The cache key holds the criteria for treating requests as the same response. Even when file names match, if language, permission, or price conditions differ, first analyse which values change the response. To keep one user's information from mixing with another's, write the cache exclusion conditions and the separation criteria into the test plan.

> **Pass criteria for the trial**
>
> Rerun the tasks measured before adoption under the same conditions. Even if speed improves, if wrong content is served or updates fail after a deploy, revise the policy and retest.

CDN adoption decision worksheet

Link measurement results, cost items, and operating permissions on a single sheet. Set the adoption scope by separating tasks where an effect is expected from tasks that need a separate fix.

CDN trial and purchase review sheet

Decision question	Evidence checked	Our result	Follow-up and owner
Do tasks in the main regions improve?	Before/after measurement, same conditions		
Are updates and personalisation correct?	Tests by content and by user		
Did origin requests fall?	Before/after requests and transfer volume		
Does the total cost include operations?	Quote for transfer, requests, options, and work		
Are change and recovery permissions set?	Access, approval, and support paths		

Calculate the CDN usage fees together with the origin costs that remain. Check request count, transfer volume, regional mix, add-on features, the initial cutover, and operations work one by one. Even when origin traffic falls, commitments or base fees may not drop right away. When putting the expected saving into a purchase request, separate out the items the actual billing structure lets you reduce.

> **Worked example**
>
> Repeat requests for product images from overseas improved, but the login API shows no change. Apply the CDN to the image paths first and assign the API as an origin performance task. Splitting the scope lets you judge the effect and the added cost of each separately.

Design cutover and daily operations together

Cutover does not end with a DNS change. Include certificates, configuration versions, origin access, invalidation at deploy time, and incident contacts in the operating procedure.

- Verify the domain, certificate, and origin host settings; set the change approver and change window.
- Test the configuration on Akamai's staging network, then prepare the production activation. Link the applied version to its verification results.
- Right after cutover, check responses, errors, and origin requests in the main regions. Set the rollback criteria and the person responsible before the change.
- Record in the operations sheet who performs emergency invalidation, certificate renewal, origin changes, and false-positive tuning.

Compare purchase routes by who makes configuration changes and where support requests go. Also check the owner of the management account, the supplier's permissions, configuration export, and handover at contract end. For a service that needs quick configuration changes, the operations owner's role and contact path become important selection criteria beyond the usage fee itself.

> **Scope to review with IXC**
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> IXC provides cache and delivery policy per content type on Akamai, reduced origin load and failover, and performance and hit-ratio observability by region. The scope and operating procedure are set from representative URLs and per-region measurements.

Publication and use

Based on your main user regions, slow URLs, and origin requests and transfer volume, we set the scope for applying the CDN and for the trial.

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www.ixc.co.kr/en/services/cdn

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IXC CDN & Global Acceleration

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