

SecurityFocus BASICS: RE: Load is balanced web app is on Windows 2000 or 2003 servers?.....

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From: Shawn Jackson (sjackson_at_horizonusa.com)

Date: 12/02/03

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To: <zyberGeek@comcast.net>, <security-basics@securityfocus.com>

The Advanced Server and DataCenter editions have a NLB (Network Load Balancing) as an option. I've used NLB as a load balancing solution for a Terminal Server farm and its works well for the overall cost. I've heard that using NLB with SQL Clustering works well, but have never tried it. On a larger NLB we used Dell's BigIP as a balancing solution with link state detection it worked fairly well at balancing a 'network' load but didn't take into account system resources.

NLB Technical Overview:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/TechNet/prodtechnol/windows2000serv/deploy/confeat/nlbovw.asp>

NLB Terminal Services How To (Good for almost anything)

<http://www.microsoft.com/seminar/shared/asp/view.asp?url=/Seminar/en/20030424vcon91/manifest.xml>

Win2K Resource (admin) Kit NLB Info

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/prodtechnol/windows2000serv/reskit/distsys/part3/dsgch19.asp>

Example Setup for a Web Application

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/itsolutions/e-commerce/deploy/rollout/duwwsr.asp>

Network load balancing can work in many different ways. You can have a 'round robin' configuration where connections alternate from server to server. For web servers, especially geographically diverse web servers, most people use a form of DNS load balancing, which is just a round robin approach. From the experience I've had a stateful NLB solution uses information on the other hosts in the 'cluster' to make decisions on how to deal with the request. This information is usually a heartbeat, link load detection, network traffic, request information, processor/memory load, etc.

A stateless solution is more like round-robin, where very little information is required and tends to have much less overhead.

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Hope I could be of help!

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-----Original Message-----

From: zyberGeek@comcast.net [mailto:zyberGeek@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2003 3:15 PM
To: security-basics@securityfocus.com
Subject: Load is balanced web app is on Windows 2000 or 2003 servers?.....

Without acquiring a third party appliance or software, what would be the best way to determine what the best setup for load is balanced web app is on Windows 2000 or 2003 servers?

I am interested in learning configuration details about load balancing, such as stateless vs. stateful, server affinity, etc.

Help, anyone?

Thanks,

Z.G

