Load Balancing Microsoft Sharepoint 2010
Load Balancing Microsoft Sharepoint 2013

Deployment Guide

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About this Guide

This guide details the configuration of Loadbalancer.org appliances for deployment with Microsoft Sharepoint 2010 & 2013. It includes details of ports/services that must be load balanced, topology considerations for the various Sharepoint 2010 / 2013 components.

For an introduction on setting up the appliance as well as more technical information, please also refer to our quick-start guides and full administration manuals which are available at the following links:

**Version 7 Documentation**


**Version 8 Documentation**


Loadbalancer.org Appliances Supported

All our products can be used with Sharepoint 2010 & 2013. The complete list of models is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discontinued Models</th>
<th>Current Models *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise R16</td>
<td>Enterprise R20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise VA R16</td>
<td>Enterprise MAX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise VA</td>
<td>Enterprise 10G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise R320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise VA R20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise VA MAX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise AWS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enterprise AZURE **</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For full specifications of these models please refer to: [http://www.loadbalancer.org/products](http://www.loadbalancer.org/products)

** Some features may not be supported, please check with Loadbalancer.org support

Loadbalancer.org Software Versions Supported

- v7.3.2 and later

  * *N.B. this guide includes configuration steps for v7.6 & later. For older versions of the appliance please contact Loadbalancer.org sales or support*

Microsoft Sharepoint Software Versions Supported

- Microsoft Sharepoint 2010 – all versions
- Microsoft Sharepoint 2013 – all versions
Sharepoint Server

Microsoft Sharepoint is Microsoft’s enterprise collaboration platform. Sharepoint makes it easier for people to work together. Using Sharepoint, staff can set up web sites to share information with others, manage documents from start to finish, publish reports to help everyone make better decisions and search across a range of internal and external data sources to find answers and information more quickly and effectively.

Server Roles

In Sharepoint 2010 & 2013 what were roles in prior versions of the product can now be viewed simply as components, so as opposed to assigning a specific role to a server, components are placed on an agnostic machine, independent of any specific role definition. For example, in the past the role of indexer or query server was assigned to a machine, now the search topology is extended by assigning one or more search components, such as Query or Crawl to a machine. Roles are a concept that do not necessarily apply in 2010 & 2013, instead a machine is generic and flexible to provide a multitude of services. Components and services are shared between servers in the farm depending on server performance, topology requirements, anticipated user load etc.

Installation Options

The Sharepoint installation supports two options as described in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standalone</td>
<td>Installs all components on a single machine including SQL Express, but servers cannot be added to a server farm, typically only used for trialling the product or for very small deployments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Installs all components (except SQL Express) and allows servers to be added to a farm – this option must always be used in a Farm environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farm Size & Topology

The physical architecture is typically described in two ways: by its size and by its topology. Size, which can be measured in several ways, such as the number of users or the number of documents, is used to categorize a farm as small, medium, or large. Topology uses the idea of tiers or server groups to define a logical arrangement of farm servers. Microsoft uses the following definitions for size and topology:

**Farm Size:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>A small server farm typically consists of at least two Web servers and a database server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>A medium server farm typically consists of two or more Web servers, two application servers, and more than one database server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>A large server farm can be the logical result of scaling out a medium farm to meet capacity and performance requirements or by design before a Sharepoint Server solution is implemented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Farm Topology:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topology</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Tier</td>
<td>In a single-tier deployment, Sharepoint Server and the database server are installed on one computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Tier</td>
<td>In a two-tier deployment, Sharepoint Server components and the database are installed on separate servers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-Tier</td>
<td>In a three-tier deployment, the front-end Web servers are on the first tier, the application servers are on the second tier, which is known as the application tier, and the database server is located on the third tier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Load Balancing Sharepoint**

**The Basics**

Load balancing is required for the Front-end Web Servers to provide performance and resilience for users connecting to the Sharepoint farm.

For the middle (application) tier, multiple application servers running the same service applications are load balanced by default and there is no external load balancing requirement.

Sharepoint is based on IIS and associated technologies at the top / middle tier and Microsoft SQL Server for back-end storage. Therefore, load balancing Sharepoint is relatively straightforward, but to provide a resilient and robust Sharepoint system, it’s important to consider Microsoft’s various architectural recommendations, best practices and guidelines when designing your Sharepoint Infrastructure.

**TCP Ports**

Sharepoint uses a range of ports for internal and external farm communication. The ports that need to be load balanced are those used in communications between external users and the Front-End Web Servers as shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TCP Port</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Web Front-End</td>
<td>Standard HTTP port used for Web Application / Site access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>Web Front-End</td>
<td>Standard HTTPS port used for Web Application / Site access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8080*</td>
<td>Central Admin</td>
<td>Custom port for Central Administration Website (HTTP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8443**</td>
<td>Central Admin</td>
<td>Custom port for Central Administration Website (HTTPS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* During the Sharepoint 2010 / 2013 installation the installer suggests a random HTTP port for the Central Administration website. In the lab environment used for this guide, this was set to port 8080

** In the lab environment, the Central Administration website was extended to the Custom Zone and configured for HTTPS on port 8443. System administrators are then able to access the Central Administration website over HTTP and HTTPS

For a full Sharepoint Server port list, please refer to:

Persistence (aka Server Affinity)

Enabling persistence ensures that clients continue to connect to the same server when connecting into the Sharepoint farm.

Sharepoint 2010

For Sharepoint 2010 we recommend using IP persistence for simplicity and compatibility across protocols.

Sharepoint 2013

Persistence is no longer required for Sharepoint 2013. This is because the Distributed Cache service maintains authentication information across all Sharepoint 2013 Web Servers and therefore a particular client no longer needs to persist to the same Server.

For more details please refer to the following Technet article:

Load Balancer Virtual Service (VIP) Requirements

It is possible to configure a single VIP that includes all required ports as listed in the table above. However, to enable more granular control and improved health-check monitoring, multiple Virtual Services are recommended. The list below shows the general approach used in this guide:

- **VIP-1**: For the Load balanced Sharepoint Central Administration site running on the selected port. In this guide HTTP port 8080 & HTTPS port 8443

- **VIP-2**: For the load balanced Sharepoint User Portal, typically running on the default ports: HTTP (80) & HTTPS (443)

- **VIP-3** etc.: Used for additional Sharepoint Web Applications / IIS sites that require a different IP address to be used

*NB. In the lab setup used for this guide, the Front-End Web Servers have a single IP address. Also all VIPs configured on the load balancer use the same IP address with different ports. The VIPs could also be configured using different IP addresses if needed.*
Lab Deployment Architecture

There are multiple ways to deploy Sharepoint depending on a number of factors including number of end-users, physical server topology options / preferences etc. For the lab environment used in this guide, the following 3-tier redundant topology was used. Once configured, clients then connect to the Virtual Services (VIPs) on the load balancer rather than connecting directly to one of the Sharepoint servers. These connections are then load balanced across the Sharepoint servers to distribute the load according to the load balancing algorithm selected.

NOTE : The load balancer can be deployed as a single unit, although Loadbalancer.org strongly recommend a clustered pair for resilience & high availability.
Lab Environment Notes

Planning for High Availability

The following table shows Microsoft's general guidance to achieve high availability:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Server</th>
<th>Preferred redundancy strategy within a farm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Front-End Web Server</td>
<td>Deploy multiple front-end Web servers within a farm, and use Load Balancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Server</td>
<td>Deploy multiple application servers within a farm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Database Server</td>
<td>Deploy database servers by using clustering or high-availability database mirroring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details please refer to the following Microsoft link:

Front-End Web Servers
Two Front-end Web Servers are used to provide redundancy. These servers are load balanced by the Loadbalancer.org appliances (clustered pair for high availability). The servers also run the query related components so the index is also located on these servers. Therefore the index files should be located on a disk which has the capacity and performance required. Multiple query components can be added for fault tolerance and improved performance. For more details on the Sharepoint search / query architecture the following Microsoft link provides a useful insight:

Application Servers
Two application servers are used to provide redundancy. Both servers run the same service applications which enables built in load balancing. This distributes requests from the Web Servers on a round-robin basis. For more details on the built-in service application load balancer, please refer to the following Microsoft link:

In the lab setup, these servers also run the crawl components. Multiple crawl components can be added for fault tolerance and improved performance. For more details on the Sharepoint Search architecture and configuring crawl please refer to the following Microsoft articles:

Database Server
In a live environment the SQL back-end should be mirrored, clustered or made redundant in any other appropriate way. For more details on SQL database clustering and mirroring for Sharepoint please refer to the following Microsoft links:
Sharepoint Installation & Configuration

Installation Considerations

Central Administration Website
For improved resilience and redundancy the Central Administration website can also be load balanced. This requires that the Central Administration component is installed on multiple servers – this is done during initial installation of the software by selecting the Advanced Settings, Host Central Administration Website & checking “Use this machine to host the website”. In the lab environment used for this guide, Central Administration is installed on both Application Servers.

Alternate Access Mappings / Zones
Alternative Access Mappings must be setup correctly to ensure that users are able to connect consistently without receiving broken links and experiencing other issues. These are configured automatically when new Web Applications are created and extended using Central Administration. If manual changes are made later to Sharepoint or IIS, the mappings may also need to be adjusted manually.

Microsoft recommends extending a Web Application to a new IIS web site for each zone required. This provides a backing IIS Web site. Its not generally recommended to reuse the same IIS web site for multiple zones.

For more information please refer to the following Microsoft links:

http://blogs.msdn.com/b/sharepoint_strategy/archive/2013/05/27/alternate-access-mappings-explained.aspx

Authentication
Sharepoint supports various authentication methods, the method used in this guide is NTLM.

SSL Certificates
For performance scalability, installing SSL certificates on the Sharepoint Servers is recommended rather than terminating SSL on the load balancer. For the lab setup a trial Thawte certificate was used. The Common Name was set to sharepoint.robtest.com.

Service Applications
For a three-tier infrastructure, Service Applications should be distributed between the servers in each tier according to the topology in use. The complete installation option and the Configuration Wizard should be used to provision all service applications on each server. Central Administration can then be used to configure where each service runs.

DNS Configuration
DNS records must be configured that point to the Virtual Services on the load balancer. For the lab setup, Internal DNS entries were created for ‘sharepoint.robtest.com’ on the domains DNS server and external DNS entries were created on the local hosts file of a non domain member test PC.
Lab Environment Installation

Site & Zone Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Ports</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Host Header Value</th>
<th>Certificate CN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>Default</td>
<td>HTTP</td>
<td>8080</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>Custom</td>
<td>HTTPS</td>
<td>8443</td>
<td>Extended site</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>sharepoint.robtest.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharepoint User Portal</td>
<td>Default</td>
<td>HTTP</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>sharepoint.robtest.com</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharepoint User Portal</td>
<td>Custom</td>
<td>HTTPS</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>Extended site</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>sharepoint.robtest.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Installation Steps

**Install Software:**

- Install & prepare Microsoft SQL Server
- Install Sharepoint on both Application Servers. Install Central Administration on both servers setting the port to 8080. Use the ‘Complete’ install option, run the Configuration Wizard and deploy all Service Applications. Later, these services can be enabled or disabled as required

*Use the Advanced Settings option to install Central Admin:*

- Install Sharepoint on the Front End Web Servers. Use the ‘Complete’ install option, run the Configuration Wizard and deploy all Service Applications. Later, these services can be enabled or disabled as required
Configure the Central Administration site for load balancing:

- Edit the Public URL's to ensure that both Application Servers are listed as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Default</td>
<td><a href="http://sp2013-app1:8080">http://sp2013-app1:8080</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intranet</td>
<td><a href="http://sp2013-app2:8080">http://sp2013-app2:8080</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once configured the AAM's are set as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Internal URL</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(see [http://www.harbar.net/articles/spca.aspx](http://www.harbar.net/articles/spca.aspx) for more details)

- Now edit the public URL's again and add http://sharepoint.robtest.com:8080. Also ensure that this URL is set as the Default Zone as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Internal URL</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Once configured the AAM's are set as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Internal URL</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

N.B. these settings ensure that the **CentralAdministrationURL** registry key is set correctly as shown below:

- BlockADAccountCreationMode REG_DWORD 0x00000001 (1)
- CentralAdministrationURL REG_SZ http://sharepoint.robtest.com:8080/
- CreateProductVersionJob REG_SZ 0
• Now Extend the Central Administration Web Application to the Custom Zone on port 8443, using SSL. Once done a corresponding AAM is automatically configured as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal URL</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

• On one of the application servers create a CSR for CN=sharepoint.robtest.com, then complete the request once a signed certificate is obtained
• Export the certificate & private key and import to the other Application Server
• Using IIS Manager on both Application Servers ensure that the HTTPS bindings correctly refer to the sharepoint.robtest.com certificate

**Configure the User Portal Web Application & Top Level Default Site:**

• Create a new Web Application for the Sharepoint User Portal on Port 80
• Create a new top level Site Collection under the User Portal Web Application so navigating to: http://sharepoint.robtest.com/
  opens: https://sharepoint.robtest.com/_layouts/15/start.aspx#

N.B. The lab setup has a HTTP to HTTPS redirect for the User Portal (see pages 22 & 25)
• Now Extend the User Portal Web Application to the Custom Zone on port 443, using SSL. Once done a corresponding AAM is automatically configured as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal URL</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Public URL for Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

• Using IIS Manager on both Front End Web Servers import the sharepoint.robstest.com certificate and ensure that the HTTPS bindings correctly refer to this certificate

Configure DNS:

• Create internal & external DNS entries for sharepoint.robstest.com. This should point to the IP address of the Virtual Service that’s created on the load balancer (see pages 20 & 22).

Accessing Sharepoint

With the configuration described above, the following table shows how Sharepoint is accessed in the lab environment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>HTTP</th>
<th>HTTPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Useful links:

Building a 3 Tier farm:
http://blogs.technet.com/b/meamcs/archive/2012/05/30/prepare-sharepoint-farm-part-4-install-and-configure-sharepoint-farm-3-tier.aspx
Loadbalancer.org Appliance – the Basics

Initial Network Configuration
The IP address, subnet mask, default gateway and DNS settings can be configured in several ways as detailed below:

Method 1 - Using the Network Setup Wizard at the console
After boot up, follow the instructions on the console to configure the IP address, subnet mask, default gateway and DNS settings.

Method 2 - Using the WUI:
Using a browser, connect to the WUI on the default IP address/port: \texttt{http://192.168.2.21:9080}
To set the IP address & subnet mask, use: \textit{Local Configuration > Network Interface Configuration}
To set the default gateway, use: \textit{Local Configuration > Routing}
To configure DNS settings, use: \textit{Local Configuration > Hostname & DNS}

Method 3 - Using Linux commands:
At the console, set the initial IP address using the following command:

\begin{verbatim}
ip addr add <IP address>/<mask> dev eth0
e.g. ip addr add 192.168.2.10/24 dev eth0
\end{verbatim}

At the console, set the initial default gateway using the following command:

\begin{verbatim}
route add default gw <IP address> <interface>
e.g. route add default gw 192.168.2.254 eth0
\end{verbatim}

At the console, set the DNS server using the following command:

\begin{verbatim}
echo nameserver <IP address> >> /etc/resolv.conf
e.g. echo nameserver 192.168.2.250 >> /etc/resolv.conf
\end{verbatim}

\textit{N.B. If method 3 is used, you must also configure these settings using the WUI, otherwise the settings will be lost after a reboot}
Accessing the Web User Interface (WUI)

The WUI can be accessed from a browser at:  http://192.168.2.21:9080/lbadmin

* Note the port number → 9080

(replace 192.168.2.21 with the IP address of your load balancer if its been changed from the default)

**Username:** loadbalancer  
**Password:** loadbalancer

Once you have entered the logon credentials the Loadbalancer.org Web User Interface will be displayed as shown below:

The screen shot below shows the v7.6 WUI once logged in:
Load Balancer Deployment Method

As with other Microsoft applications, for Sharepoint the load balancer is deployed in one-arm SNAT mode (Source Network Address Translation) at layer 7 using HAProxy. This mode is generally recommended by Microsoft and also has the advantage that it requires no changes to the Sharepoint servers.

Clustered Pair Configuration

Loadbalancer.org recommend that load balancer appliances are deployed in pairs for high availability. In this guide a single unit is deployed first, adding a secondary slave unit is covered in the Appendix.
NOTE: It’s highly recommended that you have a working Sharepoint environment first before implementing the load balancer.

N.B. The steps presented in this section cover versions 7.6 & later of the Appliance. For older versions of the appliance please contact loadbalancer.org sales or support.

STEP1 – Configure Layer 7 Global Settings
To ensure that client connections remain open during periods of inactivity, the Client and Real Server Timeout values must be changed from their default values of 43 seconds and 45 seconds respectively to 5 minutes. To do this follow the steps below:

- Go to Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Advanced Configuration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Configuration</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client Timeout</td>
<td>300000 ms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Server Timeout</td>
<td>300000 ms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Change Client Timeout to 300000 as shown above (i.e. 5 minutes)
- Change Real Server Timeout to 300000 as shown above (i.e. 5 minutes)
- Click the Update button to save the settings
STEP2 – Configure the Load Balanced Central Administration Site

Create the Virtual Service (VIP)

This VIP is used to provide access to the Central Administration website on ports 8080 & 8443.

- Go to Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services and click [Add a New Virtual Service]
- Enter the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>SP-Admin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Service IP Address</td>
<td>192.168.2.180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports</td>
<td>8080,8443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 7 Protocol</td>
<td>TCP Mode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Enter an appropriate label for the VIP, e.g. SP-Admin
- Set the Virtual Service IP address field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.180
- Set the Virtual Service Ports field to 8080,8443
- Change Layer 7 Protocol to TCP Mode
- Click Update
- Now click [Modify] next to the newly created VIP
- Set Balance Mode as required – Weighted Least Connections is recommended
- For Sharepoint 2010 - Ensure Persistence Mode is set to Source IP
- For Sharepoint 2013 - Ensure Persistence Mode is set to None
- Click Update
**Define the Real Servers (RIPs)**

- Go to `Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers` and click [Add a New Real Server] next to the newly created Virtual Service.

- Enter the following details:

  - Enter an appropriate label for the RIP, e.g. **App-1**
  - Change the **Real Server IP Address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.2.190**
  - Leave the **Real Server Port** field blank
  - Click **Update**
  - Repeat the above steps to add your other Application Servers

---

**NOTE:** Because SNAT is a full proxy, any server in the cluster can be on any accessible subnet including across the Internet or WAN.
STEP3 – Configure the Load Balanced User Portal Site

Create the Virtual Service (VIP)

This VIP is used to provide access to the User Portal website on ports 80 & 443.

- Go to Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services and click [Add a New Virtual Service]
- Enter the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>SP-UserPortal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Service IP Address</td>
<td>192.168.2.180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports</td>
<td>80,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layer 7 Protocol</td>
<td>TCP Mode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Enter an appropriate label for the VIP, e.g. SP-UserPortal
- Set the Virtual Service IP address field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.180
- Set the Virtual Service Ports field to 80,443
- Change Layer 7 Protocol to TCP Mode
- Click Update
- Now click [Modify] next to the newly created VIP
- Set Balance Mode as required – Weighted Least Connections is recommended
- For Sharepoint 2010 - Ensure Persistence Mode is set to Source IP
- For Sharepoint 2013 - Ensure Persistence Mode is set to None
- Click Update

NOTE: Please refer to the appendix for details on configuring a HTTP to HTTPS redirect for the User Portal.
Define the Real Servers (RIPs)

- Go to Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers and click [Add a New Real Server] next to the newly created Virtual Service

- Enter the following details:

  ![Real Server Configuration Table]

  - Enter an appropriate label for the RIP, e.g. **Web-1**
  - Change the **Real Server IP Address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.2.190**
  - Leave the **Real Server Port** field blank
  - Click **Update**
  - Repeat the above steps to add your other Web Front End Servers

**NOTE**: Because SNAT is a full proxy, any server in the cluster can be on any accessible subnet including across the Internet or WAN

STEP 4 – Finalizing the Configuration

To apply the new settings for the Layer 7 based VIPs, HAProxy must be restarted as follows:

- Go to Maintenance > Restart Services and click **Restart HAProxy**
**Testing & Validation**

It's important to verify that the load balancer is working as expected. Network cables on the Front-End Web Servers can be removed to simulate a sever failure.

The System Overview in the WUI can then be used to check that the server has been marked down (colored red). Also, when the cable is plugged back in, the server should return to normal status (colored green).

Alternatively, IIS can be used to stop a website on one of the web servers. For example, stopping the IIS User Portal site on Web-1 will cause the system overview to mark SP-UserPortal / Web-1 as down (red) as shown below:

SP-UserPortal / Web-2 is still healthy (green), so all requests will now be routed here.

The System Overview also enables the servers to be taken offline using the Drain and Halt options. The enables servers to be removed from the cluster to perform maintenance tasks etc. Once again, requests will then only be sent to the remaining operational server.
Technical Support
For more details or assistance with your deployment please don’t hesitate to contact the support team:
support@loadbalancer.org

Conclusion
Loadbalancer.org appliances provide a very cost effective solution for highly available load balanced Sharepoint environments.
Appendix

1 – Clustered Pair Configuration – Adding a Slave Unit

If you initially configured just the master unit and now need to add a slave - our recommended procedure, please refer to the relevant document referenced below for more details:

Version 7

Please refer to Chapter 8 – Appliance Clustering for HA in the v7 Administration Manual.

Version 8

Please refer to Chapter 9 – Appliance Clustering for HA in the v8 Administration Manual.

Don’t hesitate to contact our support team if you need further assistance: support@loadbalancer.org

2 – Configuring a HTTP to HTTPS Redirect for the User Portal

An additional later 7 VIP is required that listens on HTTP port 80 on the same IP address. The VIP is then configured to redirect connections to HTTPS port 443.

e.g.

http://sharepoint.robtest.com/

should be auto redirected to:

https://sharepoint.robtest.com/

The steps:

1) Create another Layer 7 VIP with the following settings:
   - **Label**: SP-UserPortalRedirect
   - **Virtual Service IP Address**: <set same as the VIP that’s listening on port 443>
   - **Virtual Service Ports**: 80
   - **Layer 7 Protocol**: HTTP Mode
   - **Persistence Mode**: None
   - **Force to HTTPS**: Yes
2) Remove port 80 from the user portal VIP
   (otherwise a configuration error message will be displayed since there would be a conflict)

_N.B. This redirect VIP will show in red in the System overview since no real servers are defined. The same RIPs that are configured for the SP-Admin VIP can be added if preferred. The VIP will then be displayed green if both Web Servers are up._

Don’t hesitate to contact our support team if you need any further assistance: support@loadbalancer.org
# 3 – Company Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website</th>
<th>URL : <a href="http://www.loadbalancer.org">www.loadbalancer.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **North America (US)** | Loadbalancer.org, Inc.  
270 Presidential Drive  
Wilmington,  
DE 19807  
USA  
Tel : +1 888.867.9504 (24x7)  
Fax : +1 302.213.0122  
Email (sales) : sales@loadbalancer.org  
Email (support) : support@loadbalancer.org |
| **North America (Canada)** | Loadbalancer.org Ltd.  
300-422 Richards Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 2Z4  
Canada  
Tel : +1 855.681.6017 (24x7)  
Fax : +1 302.213.0122  
Email (sales) : sales@loadbalancer.org  
Email (support) : support@loadbalancer.org |
| **Europe (UK)** | Loadbalancer.org Ltd.  
Portsmouth Technopole  
Kingston Crescent  
Portsmouth  
PO2 8FA  
England, UK  
Tel : +44 (0)330 3801064 (24x7)  
Fax : +44 (0)870 4327672  
Email (sales) : sales@loadbalancer.org  
Email (support) : support@loadbalancer.org |
| **Europe (Germany)** | Loadbalancer.org GmbH  
Alt Pempelfort 2  
40211 Düsseldorf  
Germany  
Tel : +49 (0)30 920 383 6494  
Fax : +49 (0)30 920 383 6495  
Email (sales) : vertrieb@loadbalancer.org  
Email (support) : support@loadbalancer.org |