Load Balancing Microsoft Print Server

Quick Reference Guide

v1.0.6

ABOUT THIS GUIDE
This document provides a quick reference guide on how to load balance Microsoft Print Servers using Loadbalancer.org appliances.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION
For additional information about the Loadbalancer.org appliance, please also refer to the following documents:

- Quick Start Guide
- Administration Manual

LOAD BALANCED PORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Transport Layer Protocol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>135,137,138,139 *</td>
<td>NetBIOS &amp; RPC</td>
<td>TCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>445</td>
<td>SMB</td>
<td>TCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1024-65535 *</td>
<td>Dynamically assigned RPC ports</td>
<td>TCP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Not required for Windows 2000 and later

LOAD BALANCER CONFIGURATION

DEPLOY THE LOADBALANCER.ORG APPLIANCE
Deploy the Loadbalancer.org appliance as detailed in the Quick Start Guide.

ACCESSING THE APPLIANCE WEBUI
Using a browser, navigate to the appliance’s IP address on HTTP port 9080 or HTTPS port 9443, i.e.

http://<IP-Address>:9080
or
https://<IP-Address>:9443
Note:
For HTTPS connections you’ll receive a warning about the certificate as it’s a self signed cert not related to an Internet based CA.

Use the following default credentials to login:

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

Note:
To change the password for the ‘loadbalancer’ account, use the WebUI option: Maintenance > Passwords.

Once logged in, the WebUI is displayed:

**CONFIGURE THE VIRTUAL SERVICE (VIP)**
Create a new Virtual Service as described below.

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 4 – Virtual Services and click Add a New Virtual Service
2. Configure the VIP - the ports required depend on your environment:
• If your environment is based on Windows 2000 and later, by default it will use DNS name resolution & file & print sharing using direct hosted SMB over TCP/IP

• If your environment is based on versions of Windows prior to Windows 2000, by default it will use NetBIOS name resolution & file & print sharing using SMB and NBT (NetBIOS over TCP/IP)

For Windows 2000 and later, enter the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>PrintServerVIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Address</td>
<td>192.168.100.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>TCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forwarding Method</td>
<td>Direct Routing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Define the required **label** (name) for the VIP, e.g. **PrintServerVIP**
- Set the **Virtual Service IP address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.100.10**
- Set the **Virtual Service Ports** field to **445**
- Click **Update**
- Now click **Modify** next to the newly created Virtual Service
- Ensure the **Check Port** is set to **445**
- Click **Update**

For legacy environments prior to Windows 2000, enter the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>PrintServerVIP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Address</td>
<td>192.168.100.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ports</td>
<td>135,137,138,139,445,1024-65535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>TCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forwarding Method</td>
<td>Direct Routing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Define the required **label** (name) for the VIP, e.g. **PrintServerVIP**
- Set the **Virtual Service IP address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.100.10**
- Set the **Virtual Service Ports** field to **135,137,138,139,445,1024-65535**
- Click **Update**
- Now click **Modify** next to the newly created Virtual Service
ENSURE THE CHECK PORT IS SET TO 135

Click Update

DEFINE THE REAL (PRINT SERVER) SERVERS

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 4 – Real Servers and click Add a new Real Server next to the newly created VIP
2. Enter the following details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>PS1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Server IP Address</td>
<td>192.168.100.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Connections</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Connections</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Enter an appropriate label for the Real Server, e.g. PS1
4. Change the Real Server IP Address field to the required address, e.g. 192.168.100.20
5. Click Update
6. Repeat the above steps to add your other Print Server(s)

PRINT SERVER CONFIGURATION

STEP 1 - INITIAL CONFIGURATION

Complete the following steps on each print server:

1. Join the server to the same domain as the client PC’s
2. Install the Print and Document Service role / Print Server service
3. Install & share the printers (use the same share names and permissions across all servers)
4. Solve the “ARP Problem” - this involves installing and configuring a Loopback Adapter and configuring the Windows networking stack to use the weak host model. For full details of the configuration steps required, please refer to the Administration Manual and search for “Solving the ARP Problem for Windows Servers” and follow the steps for your version of Windows.

   **Note:**
   You can easily check the host model settings before / after configuration using the command:

   `netsh interface ipv4 show interface <interface name>`

   e.g.
   `netsh interface ipv4 show interface loopback`
IMPORTANT NOTE:
When configuring the loopback adapter, make sure that these options are also checked (ticked): ‘Client for Microsoft Networks’ and ‘File & Printer Sharing for Microsoft Networks’

STEP 2 – REGISTRY MODIFICATIONS
To enable the print servers to be accessed via a shared name (printserver-vip in this guide), add the following registry entries to each print server:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Registry Key Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Lsa  
Value: DisableLoopbackCheck  
Type: REG_DWORD  
Data: 1 |
| 2    | Key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\lanmanserver\parameters  
Value: DisableStrictNameChecking  
Type: REG_DWORD  
Data: 1 |
| 3    | Key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\lanmanserver\parameters  
Value: OptionalNames  
Type: REG_MULTI_SZ  
Data: printserver-vip |

Note:
‘PrintServer-vip’ is the name that will be used to access the load balanced print servers via the Virtual Service (VIP) created on the load balancer. This can be set to be any appropriate name. Whatever name is used, it must be the same name that is used for the DNS or NetBIOS entry described in the Configure Name Resolution section below.

| 4    | If your print servers are running Windows 2008 R2 and you want to refer to your printer by the FQDN, e.g. printserver-vip.lbtestdom.com, you’ll also need to add the following registry key to each print server.  
Key: HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Print  
Value: DNSOnWire  
Type: REG_QWORD  
Data: 1 |

STEP 3 – CONFIGURE NAME RESOLUTION
Configure either DNS or NetBIOS name resolution as detailed below:

**DNS Name Resolution (Windows 2000 & later)**
To configure DNS name resolution complete the following steps:

1. Disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP on all interfaces of each print server
2. Create a DNS record for the share name, in this example: printserver-vip ---> 192.168.110.10
NetBIOS Name Resolution (legacy Environments)
To configure NetBIOS name resolution complete the following steps:

1. On each print server, disable NetBIOS over TCP/IP on the main NIC, leave it enabled on the Loopback adapter
2. Either setup a WINS server and configure all clients to use this or setup pre-loaded entries in the LMHosts file of each client

Note:
As shown in the flow chart in this Technet article, for a default H-node client, NetBIOS name resolution occurs on the following order:

1. Local NetBIOS cache
2. WINS server
3. NetBIOS broadcast
4. Local LMHosts file

Therefore, to avoid broadcast, LMHost entries must be declared as pre-loaded to ensure they are available in the local NetBIOS cache.

3. To configure the LMHosts file, create an entry as shown below:

```plaintext
printserver-vip 192.168.100.10 #PRE
```

Entries with the #PRE directive are loaded into the cache on reboot or can be forced using the following command:

```plaintext
nbtstat -R
```

Use the following command to view the cache and verify the entry has been added:

```plaintext
nbtstat -c
```

STEP 4 – SERVER REBOOT
To apply all the changes, reboot each print server.

TESTING & VERIFICATION
You should now be able to access your printers by browsing using either the Virtual Service IP address, or the share name. In this example:

\192.168.100.10
or
\printserver-vip

DEPLOYING PRINTERS VIA GROUP POLICY
- Ensure that the load balanced print server name (e.g. printserver-vip) is resolvable by DNS or
NetBIOS as explained above

- On your print server, open: Administrative Tools > Printer Management
  - Right-click Print Servers and enter the name for your load balanced print server (e.g. `printserver-vip`) and click OK
  - Expand the Printers section
  - Right click the printer you want to deploy, and click Deploy with Group Policy
  - Select the relevant GPO and configure the remaining settings according to your requirements

LOADBALANCER.ORG TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you have any questions regarding the appliance or would like assistance designing your deployment, please don’t hesitate to contact our support team: support@loadbalancer.org.