Load Balancing Microsoft AD FS
Version 1.5.1
Table of Contents

1. About this Guide ................................................................. 4
2. Loadbalancer.org Appliances Supported ........................................ 4
3. Loadbalancer.org Software Versions Supported ................................. 4
4. Microsoft Windows Versions Supported ......................................... 4
5. Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS) .................................... 4
   Introduction ........................................................................... 4
   AD FS SSO Scenarios ............................................................... 4
      Web SSO ........................................................................... 4
      Federated Web SSO ............................................................ 5
   AD FS Versions ....................................................................... 5
   Role Services .......................................................................... 5
   How AD FS Works ................................................................. 6
      Internal Clients .................................................................... 6
      External Clients .................................................................... 7
   Other Useful References ......................................................... 7
6. Load Balancing AD FS .................................................................. 7
   Basic Concepts ......................................................................... 8
   Load Balanced Ports & Services .................................................. 8
   Persistence (Server Affinity) Requirements & Options ......................... 8
   Server Health checking ............................................................. 8
   SSL Termination ....................................................................... 8
   Load Balancer Deployment ...................................................... 9
   Load Balancer Deployment Mode ............................................. 9
7. Loadbalancer.org Appliance – the Basics .......................................... 9
   Virtual Appliance .................................................................... 9
   Initial Network Configuration .................................................... 10
   Accessing the WebUI ............................................................... 10
      Main Menu Options ............................................................ 11
   HA Clustered Pair Configuration ............................................ 12
8. Server & Appliance Configuration - AD FS 2.0 ................................... 12
   Federation Servers .................................................................... 12
      Federation Server Installation & Configuration .......................... 12
      Load Balancer Configuration .............................................. 12
      DNS Configuration ............................................................ 13
      Testing & Verification ......................................................... 13
   Federation Proxy Servers .......................................................... 14
      Proxy Server Installation & Configuration ............................... 14
      Load Balancer Configuration .............................................. 14
      DNS Configuration ............................................................ 15
      Testing & Verification ......................................................... 15
9. Server & Appliance Configuration - AD FS 3.0 / 4.0 / 5.0 .................... 16
   Federation Servers .................................................................... 16
      Federation Server Installation & Configuration .......................... 16
      Load Balancer Configuration .............................................. 18
      DNS Configuration ............................................................ 20
      Testing & Verification ......................................................... 20
Web Application Proxy (WAP) Servers .................................................. 21
   WAP Server Installation & Configuration ................................... 21
   Load Balancer Configuration .................................................. 22
1. About this Guide

This guide details the steps required to configure a load balanced Microsoft AD FS environment utilizing Loadbalancer.org appliances. It covers the configuration of the load balancers and also any Microsoft AD FS configuration changes that are required to enable load balancing.

For more information about initial appliance deployment, network configuration and using the Web User Interface (WebUI), please also refer to the Administration Manual.

2. Loadbalancer.org Appliances Supported

All our products can be used with AD FS. For full specifications of available models please refer to https://www.loadbalancer.org/products.

Some features may not be supported in all cloud platforms due to platform specific limitations, please check with Loadbalancer.org support for further details.

3. Loadbalancer.org Software Versions Supported

- V8.3.8 and later

Note: The screenshots used throughout this document aim to track the latest Loadbalancer.org software version. If using an older software version, note that the screenshots presented here may not match the WebUI exactly.

4. Microsoft Windows Versions Supported

- Windows 2008 R2 and later (AD FS v2.0+)

5. Active Directory Federation Services (AD FS)

Introduction

AD FS provides simplified, secured identity federation and Web single sign-on (SSO) capabilities for end users who need access to applications within an AD FS secured enterprise, in federation partner organizations, or in the cloud.

AD FS is a Web Service that authenticates users against Active Directory and provides them access to claims-aware applications. These applications are typically used through the client's web browser. The applications can be on-premises, off-premises, or even hosted by other companies.

AD FS SSO Scenarios

Web SSO

This is the most common scenario. Here users login to web applications, either off-premises or on-premises, from their browsers using their Active Directory credentials. Examples of such applications include:

- salesforce.com
- servicenow.com
- SharePoint Online (SPO)
Federated Web SSO
The following scenarios are examples of Federated SSO. These scenarios aren’t as common but they illustrate how AD FS can be used to collaborate with a partner, another company, or another AD forest:

1. You want users from another organization to login to your web applications using their own identity credentials.
2. You want to login to another organization’s web applications using your own Active Directory credentials.
3. You want users from another internal Active Directory forest to login to your web applications in your Active Directory using their own AD credentials without a domain and/or forest trust.
4. You want to use your production Active Directory credentials to login to test web applications located in your test Active Directory environment without a domain and/or forest trust.
5. You want users to be able to login to your web applications using their Google, Facebook, Live ID, Yahoo, etc. credentials.

AD FS Versions
The following table lists the various versions of AD FS and in which Windows version they were initially released:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AD FS Version</th>
<th>Released in Windows Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v1.0</td>
<td>2003 R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v1.1</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v2.0</td>
<td>2008 R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v2.1</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v3.0</td>
<td>2012 R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v4.0</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5.0</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Role Services
The following role services can be deployed as part of the AD FS role:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role Service</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federation Server</td>
<td>Acts as an identity provider - Authenticate users to provide security tokens to applications that trust AD FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acts as a federation provider - Consume tokens from other identity providers and then provide security tokens to applications that trust AD FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role Service</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federation Server Proxy / Web Application Proxy</td>
<td>The Federation Service Proxy functions as an intermediary proxy service between an Internet client and a Federation Server that is located behind a firewall on a corporate network.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> In Windows 2012 R2 and later, the dedicated Proxy role service has been removed. Instead, the proxy is based on WAP (Web Application Proxy).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How AD FS Works

The following sections explain how AD FS authenticates internal LAN based users and external Internet based users.

A Microsoft Dynamics CRM example is used with AD FS v2.0, although the general flow is the same for other applications and different AD FS versions.

**Note**  For a reference of key AD FS concepts, please refer to this URL.

### Internal Clients

The authentication process for internal clients is shown below:

1. The client sends a request to access the Microsoft Dynamics CRM website.
2. IIS refuses the connection with an HTTP 302 error message and redirects the user to the trusted claims provider (also known as the STS) for Microsoft Dynamics CRM (AD FS v2.0).
3. The client sends a request for a security token to AD FS v2.0.
4. AD FS 2.0 returns an HTTP 401.1 error, indicating that the client must supply a Kerberos ticket.
5. The client sends a Kerberos authentication request to Active Directory.
6. Active Directory validates the client and sends a Kerberos ticket.
7. The client sends a request for a security token to AD FS v2.0 and includes the Kerberos ticket.

**Note**  If the client already has a valid Kerberos ticket on the network, this ticket is sent to AD FS.
8. AD FS v2.0 provides a security token containing claims for access to Microsoft Dynamics CRM data.

9. The client sends the security token containing claims obtained from AD FS v2.0 to the Microsoft Dynamics CRM server.

10. The Microsoft Dynamics CRM server decrypts and validates the security token and presents the user with the requested information.

Note: For more information, please refer to this URL.

External Clients

The flow for external access is largely unchanged from the flow described above for internal access. The major difference is that user authentication does not include a Kerberos ticket.

The authentication process for external clients is shown below:

When an AD FS proxy is used, the client is redirected to the proxy which then connects to the internal AD FS server where authentication occurs. For more details of AD FS proxy, please refer to this URL.

Other Useful References

How To Install AD FS 2016 For Office 365:


Setting up AD FS and Enabling Single Sign-On to Office 365:


6. Load Balancing AD FS
It's highly recommended that you have a working AD FS environment first before implementing the load balancer. The initial environment would normally include a single Federation Server and a single Proxy Server. If the Federation Service Name was set to `adfs.lbtestdom.com` at initial deployment, additional Federation Servers can be added to the same farm, then DNS entries must be changed so that `adfs.lbtestdom.com` points to the VIP on the load balancer rather than the primary Federation Server.

**Basic Concepts**

To provide resilience and high availability for your AD FS infrastructure, multiple Federation Servers and multiple Federation Proxy Servers (WAPs in Windows 2012 & later) must be deployed with a load balancer. This helps ensure that users can be authenticated and obtain access to the required systems and applications by constantly checking the health of the AD FS servers and only forwarding client authentication requests to those that are functional.

**Load Balanced Ports & Services**

The following table shows the ports that are load balanced:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Protocols</th>
<th>Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>TCP/HTTPS</td>
<td>AD FS communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49443</td>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>Used for certificate authentication in AD FS v3.0 and later</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Persistence (Server Affinity) Requirements & Options**

As mentioned here, Microsoft do not recommend using source IP persistence (affinity) for AD FS. However, under certain complex scenarios persistence may be required for the Federation Server VIP.

**Server Health checking**

By default the load balancer uses a TCP port connect to verify the health of back-end servers. For AD FS we recommend that more comprehensive checks are used.

For AD FS v2.0, the load balancer is configured to look for specific content on the AD FS login page:

`https://<server IP address>/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx`

For AD FS v3.0 prior to update rollup KB2975719, the load balancer is configured to use a script to carry out an SNI based health check that looks for specific content on the AD FS login page: `https://<server IP address>/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.htm`

For AD FS v3.0 with update rollup KB2975719 and later, the load balancer is configured to look for a HTTP 200 OK response when the built-in probe URL is read: `http://<server IP address>/adfs/probe`

**SSL Termination**

Microsoft state that SSL termination between the Proxy Servers and the Federation Servers is not supported and that SSL Termination between Client and Proxy is only supported under certain situations. For the configurations presented in this guide, SSL is terminated on the Federation & WAP servers and not the load balancer.
Load Balancer Deployment

The following diagram shows a typical load balanced AD FS deployment.

Load balancers can be deployed as single units or as a clustered pair. Loadbalancer.org always recommend deploying clustered pairs for HA and resilience.

The Federation Proxy servers / WAP servers must be able to access the internal AD FS VIP on port 443 via the "Federation Service Name" specified during installation / configuration. Make sure that firewalls, routing and DNS are configured to allow this. In this guide, the Federation Service Name used is `adfs.lbtestdom.com`, so an entry for this is added to the local hosts file on each Federation Proxy Server / WAP server which resolves to the AD FS VIP on the internal LAN.

Load Balancer Deployment Mode

Layer 7 SNAT mode (HAProxy) is recommended for AD FS and is used for the configurations presented in this guide. This mode offers high performance and is simple to configure since it requires no additional configuration changes to the load balanced AD FS Servers.

Layer 4 DR mode, NAT mode and SNAT mode can also be used if preferred. For DR mode you’ll need to solve the ARP problem on each AD FS server - for more information please refer to DR Mode Considerations. For NAT mode the default gateway of the AD FS servers must be the load balancer.

7. Loadbalancer.org Appliance – the Basics

Virtual Appliance

A fully featured, fully supported 30 day trial is available if you are conducting a PoC (Proof of Concept) deployment. The VA is currently available for VMware, Virtual Box, Hyper-V, KVM, XEN and Nutanix AHV and has been optimized for each Hypervisor. By default, the VA is allocated 2 vCPUs, 4GB of RAM and has a 20GB virtual disk. The Virtual Appliance can be downloaded here.

The same download is used for the licensed product, the only difference is that a license key file (supplied by our sales team when the product is purchased) must be applied using the appliance’s WebUI.
Please refer to Virtual Appliance Installation and the ReadMe.txt text file included in the VA download for additional information on deploying the VA using the various Hypervisors.

The VA has 4 network adapters. For VMware only the first adapter (eth0) is connected by default. For HyperV, KVM, XEN and Nutanix AHV all adapters are disconnected by default. Use the network configuration screen within the Hypervisor to connect the required adapters.

Initial Network Configuration

After boot up, follow the instructions on the appliance console to configure the management IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, DNS Server and other network settings.

Be sure to set a secure password for the load balancer, when prompted during the setup routine.

Accessing the WebUI

The WebUI is accessed using a web browser. By default, user authentication is based on local Apache .htaccess files. User administration tasks such as adding users and changing passwords can be performed using the WebUI menu option: Maintenance > Passwords.

A number of compatibility issues have been found with various versions of Internet Explorer and Edge. The WebUI has been tested and verified using both Chrome & Firefox.

If required, users can also be authenticated against LDAP, LDAPS, Active Directory or Radius. For more information please refer to External Authentication.

1. Using a browser, access the WebUI using the following URL:


2. Log in to the WebUI:

   **Username**: loadbalancer  
   **Password**: <configured-during-network-setup-wizard>

   To change the password, use the WebUI menu option: Maintenance > Passwords.

   Once logged in, the WebUI will be displayed as shown below:
Note | The WebUI for the VA is shown, the hardware and cloud appliances are very similar. The yellow licensing related message is platform & model dependent.

3. You’ll be asked if you want to run the Setup Wizard. If you click **Accept** the Layer 7 Virtual Service configuration wizard will start. If you want to configure the appliance manually, simple click **Dismiss**.

**Main Menu Options**

- **System Overview** - Displays a graphical summary of all VIPs, RIPS and key appliance statistics
- **Local Configuration** - Configure local host settings such as IP address, DNS, system time etc.
- **Cluster Configuration** - Configure load balanced services such as VIPs & RIPS
- **Maintenance** - Perform maintenance tasks such as service restarts and taking backups
- **View Configuration** - Display the saved appliance configuration settings
- **Reports** - View various appliance reports & graphs
- **Logs** - View various appliance logs
Support - Create a support download, contact the support team & access useful links
Live Chat - Start a live chat session with one of our Support Engineers

HA 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 unit is covered in Configuring HA - Adding a Secondary Appliance.

8. Server & Appliance Configuration - AD FS 2.0

Federation Servers
Federation Server Installation & Configuration
- AD FS v2.0 for Windows 2008 R2 must be downloaded and installed manually on each AD FS server. If installed using Server Manager/Add Roles, v1.0 will be installed, NOT v2.0.
- AD FS update rollup 3 is available here
- For information on configuring the Federation Servers please refer to this URL

Load Balancer Configuration
Setting up the Virtual Service (VIP)
1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services and click Add a New Virtual Service.
2. Enter the following details:

   ![Virtual Service Configuration](image)

   - Label: ADFS-Cluster
   - IP Address: 192.168.2.100
   - Ports: 443
   - Layer 7 Protocol: TCP Mode

3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the Virtual Service, e.g. ADFS-Cluster.
4. Set the Virtual Service IP address field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.100.
5. Set the Virtual Service Ports field to 443.
7. Click Update.
8. Now click Modify next to the newly created Virtual Service.
9. Change Persistence Mode to None.
10. In the Health Checks section, click Advanced to show more options.
12. Set Check Port to 443.
13. Set Request to Send to adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx.
14. Set Response Expected to Sign-In.
15. In the Other section, click Advanced to show more options.
16. Enable (check) the Timeout checkbox, set both Client Timeout and Real Server Timeout to 5m.
17. Click Update.

Setting up the Real Servers (RIPs)

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers and click Add a new Real Server next to the newly created Virtual Service.
2. Enter the following details:

   ![Real Server Configuration](image)

   3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the first AD FS server, e.g. ADFS1.
   4. Change the Real Server IP Address field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.110.
   5. Set the Real Server Port field to 443.
   6. Click Update.
   7. Now repeat for your remaining Federation server(s).

Applying the new Layer 7 Settings

1. Once the configuration is complete, use the Restart/Reload HAProxy button at the top of the screen to commit the changes, or use the WebUI option: Maintenance > Restart Services.

DNS Configuration

Create a suitable DNS entry for the load balanced Federation Servers, i.e. for the VIP on the load balancer.

e.g. adfs.lbtestdom.com

Testing & Verification

Note For additional guidance on diagnosing and resolving any issues you may have, please also refer to Diagnostics & Troubleshooting.

The load balanced AD FS servers should now be accessible using the DNS entry for the VIP. Connect to the login page from a browser.
e.g. https://adfs.lbtestdom.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx

**Federation Proxy Servers**

**Proxy Server Installation & Configuration**

- AD FS v2.0 for Windows 2008 R2 must be downloaded and installed manually on each AD FS Proxy Server. If installed using Server Manager/Add Roles, v1.0 will be installed, NOT v2.0.

- AD FS update rollup 3 is available [here](https://adfs.lbtestdom.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx).

- When running the wizard, the Federation Service Name should be the load balanced VIP of the Federation Servers.

- For information on configuring the Proxy Servers please refer to [this URL](https://adfs.lbtestdom.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx).

- The Federation Proxy servers must be able to access the internal AD FS VIP on port 443 via the "Federation Service Name" specified during installation / configuration. Make sure that firewalls, routing and DNS are configured to allow this. In this guide, the Federation Service Name used is `adfs.lbtestdom.com`, so an entry for this is added to the local hosts file on each Federation Proxy Server which resolves to the AD FS VIP on the internal LAN.

**Load Balancer Configuration**

**Setting up the Virtual Service (VIP)**

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: *Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services* and click **Add a New Virtual Service**.

2. Enter the following details:

   - **Label**: ADFS-Proxy-Cluster
   - **Virtual Service IP Address**: 192.168.2.100
   - **Ports**: 443
   - **Layer 7 Protocol**: TCP Mode

3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the Virtual Service, e.g. **ADFS-Proxy-Cluster**.

4. Set the **Virtual Service IP address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.2.100**.

5. Set the **Virtual Service Ports** field to **443**.

6. Set the **Layer 7 Protocol** to **TCP Mode**.

7. Click **Update**.

8. Now click **Modify** next to the newly created Virtual Service.

9. Change **Persistence Mode** to **None**.

10. In the **Health Checks** section, click **Advanced** to show more options.

11. Change **Health Checks** to **Negotiate HTTPS (GET)**.
12. Set Check Port to 443.
13. Set Request to Send to adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.aspx.
14. Set Response Expected to Sign-In.
15. In the Other section, click Advanced to show more options.
16. Enable (check) the Timeout checkbox, set both Client Timeout and Real Server Timeout to 5m.
17. Click Update.

Setting up the Real Servers (RIPs)
1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers and click Add a new Real Server next to the newly created Virtual Service.
2. Enter the following details:

   ![Real Server Configuration](image)

   3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the first AD FS server, e.g. ADFS1.
   4. Change the Real Server IP Address field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.110.
   5. Set the Real Server Port field to 443.
   6. Click Update.
   7. Now repeat for your remaining Federation Proxy server(s).

Applying the new Layer 7 Settings
1. Once the configuration is complete, use the Restart/Reload HAProxy button at the top of the screen to commit the changes, or use the WebUI option: Maintenance > Restart Services.

DNS Configuration
Create a suitable DNS entry for the load balanced Proxy Servers, i.e. for the VIP on the load balancer.

e.g. adfs.robtest.com

Testing & Verification
Note: For additional guidance on diagnosing and resolving any issues you may have, please also refer to Diagnostics & Troubleshooting.

The load balanced AD FS servers should now be accessible using the DNS entry for the VIP. Connect to the login page from a browser.
9. Server & Appliance Configuration - AD FS 3.0 / 4.0 / 5.0

Federation Servers

Federation Server Installation & Configuration

The key points of the installation process are covered below. For more details, please also refer to the following Microsoft URL:

- [How To Install AD FS 2016 For Office 365](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/federation-services/active-directory-federation-services-installation-guide)

STEP 1 – Prepare AD FS Certificates

In this guide an Internal CA was used to issue the certificate. As mentioned [here](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/federation-services/active-directory-federation-services-installation-guide) the Private Key must be exportable so that the certificate and private key can be exported from the first Federation Server, and used on other Federation Servers and on the WAPs.

**Note**

In this guide, the Common Name is set to `adfs.lbtestdom.com`. As mentioned on page 9, for AD FS v4.0 and later, an additional SAN can be added (`certuth.adfs.lbtestdom.com`) to allow certificate authentication over port 443. If this is not done, certificate authentication occurs over TCP 49443. In this scenario, port 49443 must be included in the VIP.

The following warning is displayed for AD FS v4.0+ if the additional SAN is not included:

```
⚠️ The SSL certificate subject alternative names do not support host name 'certuth.adfs.lbtestdom.com'. Configuring certificate authentication binding on port '49443' and hostname 'adfs.lbtestdom.com'.
```

STEP 2 – Install AD FS on the first (Primary) Federation Server

Use [Server Manager > Add Roles and Features](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/federation-services/active-directory-federation-services-installation-guide) to install AD FS, then run the Configuration Wizard:

```
Welcome to the Active Directory Federation Services Configuration Wizard.

Before you begin configuration, you must have the following:

- An Active Directory domain administrator account.
- A publicly trusted certificate for SSL server authentication.

AD FS prerequisites

Select an option below:

- [Create the first federation server in federation server farm](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/federation-services/active-directory-federation-services-installation-guide)
- [Add a federation server to a federation server farm](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/active-directory/federation-services/active-directory-federation-services-installation-guide)

Select Create the first federation server in federation server farm and click Next.
```
Specify an account with Active Directory domain administrator permissions to perform the federation service configuration.

LBTESTDOM\Administrator (Current user)  

Specify a suitable account and click Next.

SSL Certificate:  

Federation Service Name:  
Example: fs.contoso.com

Federation Service Display Name: Loadbalancer.org Test Domain FS

Users will see the display name at sign in.
Example: Contoso Corporation

Choose the certificate created in Step 1, enter a display name and click Next.

Specify a domain user account or group Managed Service Account.

- Create a Group Managed Service Account
  Account Name: LBTESTDOM\  

- Use an existing domain user account or group Managed Service Account
  Account Name: LBTESTDOM\acfssvc
  Account Password: ********

Choose a suitable service account and click Next.

Specify a database to store the Active Directory Federation Service configuration data.

- Create a database on this server using Windows Internal Database.
  Database Host Name:  
  Database Instance:  
  To use the default instance, leave this field blank.

- Specify the location of a SQL Server database.
  Database Host Name:  
  Database Instance:  

Choose where configuration data will be stored and click Next.
As mentioned, click **Configure** to begin the installation.

**STEP 3 – Install AD FS on the remaining Federation Server(s)**

Use **Server Manager > Add Roles and Features** to install AD FS, then run the Configuration Wizard:

In this case, select **Add a federation server to the federation server farm** and click **Next**, then continue through the remaining screens until the installation & configuration is complete.

**Load Balancer Configuration**

**Setting up the Virtual Service (VIP)**

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: **Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services** and click **Add a New Virtual Service**.

2. Enter the following details:

   - **Label**: ADFS-Cluster
   - **IP Address**: 192.168.2.100
   - **Ports**: 443
   - **Layer 7 Protocol**: TCP Mode
   - **Manual Configuration**: Unchecked

3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the Virtual Service, e.g. **ADFS-Cluster**.

4. Set the **Virtual Service IP address** field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.2.100**.

5. Set the **Virtual Service Ports** field to **443**.

**Note**

If you don’t have the SAN `certauth.your_adfs_service_name` added to your SSL certificate, make sure port 49443 is also included in the VIP, i.e. set the **Virtual Service Ports** field to:
6. Set the *Layer 7 Protocol to TCP Mode.*

7. Click *Update.*

8. Now click *Modify* next to the newly created Virtual Service.

9. In the *Other* section, click *Advanced* to show more options.

10. Enable (check) the *Timeout* checkbox, set both *Client Timeout* and *Real Server Timeout* to 5m.

11. In the *Health Checks* section, click *Advanced* to show more options.

12. Configure the health check settings as shown below, this will configure the load balancer to look for an *HTTP 200 OK* response from each server:

   ![Health Checks Configuration](image)

   a. Change *Health Checks* to *Negotiate HTTP (GET).*
   b. Set *Request to send* to *adfs/probe.*
   c. Leave *Response Expected* blank.
   d. Set *Check Port* to *80.*

13. Click *Update.*

**Setting up the Real Servers (RIPs)**

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: *Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers* and click *Add a new Real Server* next to the newly created Virtual Service.

2. Enter the following details:

   ![Real Server Configuration](image)
3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the first AD FS server, e.g. ADFS1.

4. Change the *Real Server IP Address* field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.110.

5. Set the *Real Server Port* field to 443.

   **Note**  
   If you included port 49443 in the VIP, leave the *Real Server Port* field blank.

6. Click *Update*.

7. Now repeat for your remaining Federation server(s).

### Applying the new Layer 7 Settings

1. Once the configuration is complete, use the *Restart/Reload HAProxy* button at the top of the screen to commit the changes, or use the WebUI option: *Maintenance > Restart Services*.

### DNS Configuration

Create a suitable DNS entry for the load balanced AD FS servers, i.e. for the VIP on the load balancer.

*e.g.* adfs.lbtestdom.com

If your SSL certificate includes the additional SAN for certificate authentication, you’ll also need a suitable DNS entry for this.

*e.g.* certauth.adfs.lbtestdom.com

### Testing & Verification

**Note**  
For additional guidance on diagnosing and resolving any issues you may have, please also refer to *Diagnostics & Troubleshooting*.

The load balanced AD FS servers should now be accessible using the DNS entry for the VIP. Connect to the login page from a browser.

*e.g.* https://adfs.robtest.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.htm

**Note**  
As mentioned here, the Sign In page is disabled by default in AD FS 2016 (AD FS v4.0) and later. To manually enable it, use the following PowerShell command on the Primary Federation Server:

```
Set-AdfsProperties -EnableIdPInitiatedSignonPage $true
```

Log in when prompted. Once logged in, your browser should display something similar to the following:
Web Application Proxy (WAP) Servers

WAP Server Installation & Configuration

The key points of the installation process are covered below. For more details, please also refer to the following Microsoft URLs:

- How To Install AD FS 2016 For Office 365

Note: The WAP servers must be able to access the internal AD FS VIP on port 443 via the "Federation Service Name" specified during installation / configuration. Make sure that firewalls, routing and DNS are configured to allow this. In this guide, the Federation Service Name used is adfs.lbtestdom.com, so an entry for this is added to the local hosts file on each WAP server which resolves to the AD FS VIP on the internal LAN.

STEP 1 – Prepare the SSL Certificate

Export the certificate & private key from one of the Federation Servers, then import the certificate into the local computer account certificate store on each WAP server. This will ensure the certificate is ready to use when the configuration wizard is run.

STEP 2 – Install & Configure Web Application Proxy (WAP) on the each WAP Server

1. Use Server Manager > Add Roles and Features to install Web Application Proxy, then run the Configuration Wizard:
2. Enter the *Federation service name* and the user credentials and click *Next*.

3. Select the certificate to be used by the Proxy and click *Next*, then click *Configure* to start the configuration.

**Load Balancer Configuration**

**Setting up the Virtual Service (VIP)**

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: *Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Virtual Services* and click *Add a New Virtual Service*.

2. Enter the following details:

   - **Label**: ADFS-Proxy-Cluster
   - **IP Address**: 192.168.2.100
   - **Ports**: 443
   - **Layer 7 Protocol**: TCP Mode

3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the Virtual Service, e.g. ADFS-Proxy-Cluster.

4. Set the *Virtual Service IP address* field to the required IP address, e.g. 192.168.2.100.

5. Set the *Virtual Service Ports* field to 443.

   **Note** If you don’t have the SAN `certauth.your_adfs_service_name` added to your SSL certificate, make sure port 49443 is also included in the VIP, i.e. set the *Virtual Service Ports* field to:
6. Set the Layer 7 Protocol to TCP Mode.

7. Click Update.

8. Now click Modify next to the newly created Virtual Service.

9. In the Other section, click Advanced to show more options.

10. Enable (check) the Timeout checkbox, set both Client Timeout and Real Server Timeout to 5m.

11. In the Health Checks section, click Advanced to show more options.

12. Configure the health check settings as shown below, this will configure the load balancer to look for an HTTP 200 OK response from each server:

   ![Health Checks](image)

   a. Change Health Checks to Negotiate HTTP (GET).
   b. Set Request to send to adfs/probe.
   c. Leave Response Expected blank.
   d. Set Check Port to 80.

   Note: As mentioned here, you’ll need to create an inbound rule to open port 80 on the firewall of each WAP server for this health-check to work. For the Federation servers this is configured automatically, but not for the WAPs.

13. Click Update.

Setting up the Real Servers (RIPs)

1. Using the WebUI, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > Layer 7 – Real Servers and click Add a new Real Server next to the newly created Virtual Service.

2. Enter the following details:
3. Enter an appropriate name (Label) for the first AD FS server, e.g. **ADFS1**.

4. Change the *Real Server IP Address* field to the required IP address, e.g. **192.168.2.110**.

5. Set the *Real Server Port* field to **443**.

   **Note** If you included port 49443 in the VIP, leave the *Real Server Port* field blank.

6. Click **Update**.

7. Now repeat for your remaining WAP server(s).

**Applying the new Layer 7 Settings**

1. Once the configuration is complete, use the **Restart/Reload HAProxy** button at the top of the screen to commit the changes, or use the WebUI option: **Maintenance > Restart Services**.

**DNS Configuration**

Create a suitable DNS entry for the load balanced AD FS servers, i.e. for the VIP on the load balancer.

**e.g. adfs.lbtestdom.com**

If your SSL certificate includes the additional SAN for certificate authentication, you'll also need a suitable DNS entry for this.

**e.g. certauth.adfs.lbtestdom.com**

**Note** The WAP servers must be able to access the internal AD FS VIP on port 443 via the "Federation Service Name" specified during installation / configuration. Make sure that firewalls, routing and DNS are configured to allow this. In this guide, the Federation Service Name used is **adfs.lbtestdom.com**, so an entry for this is added to the local hosts file on each WAP server which resolves to the AD FS VIP on the internal LAN.

**Testing & Verification**

**Note** For additional guidance on diagnosing and resolving any issues you may have, please also refer to **Diagnostics & Troubleshooting**.

The load balanced AD FS servers should now be accessible using the DNS entry for the VIP. Connect to the login page from a browser.

**e.g.** [https://adfs.robtest.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.htm](https://adfs.robtest.com/adfs/ls/idpinitiatedsignon.htm)
Login as prompted. Once logged in, your browser should display something similar to the following:

10. 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.

11. Further Documentation


12. Conclusion

Loadbalancer.org appliances provide a very cost effective and flexible solution for highly available load balanced Active Directory Federation Services environments.
13. Appendix

Configuring HA - Adding a Secondary Appliance

Our recommended configuration is to use a clustered HA pair of load balancers to provide a highly available and resilient load balancing solution.

We recommend that the Primary appliance should be configured first, then the Secondary should be added. Once the Primary and Secondary are paired, all load balanced services configured on the Primary are automatically replicated to the Secondary over the network using SSH/SCP.

Note

For Enterprise Azure, the HA pair should be configured first. In Azure, when creating a VIP using an HA pair, 2 private IPs must be specified – one for the VIP when it’s active on the Primary and one for the VIP when it’s active on the Secondary. Configuring the HA pair first, enables both IPs to be specified when the VIP is created.

The clustered HA pair uses Heartbeat to determine the state of the other appliance. Should the active device (normally the Primary) suffer a failure, the passive device (normally the Secondary) will take over.

Non-Replicated Settings

A number of settings are not replicated as part of the Primary/Secondary pairing process and therefore must be manually configured on the Secondary appliance. These are listed by WebUI menu option in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WebUI Main Menu Option</th>
<th>Sub Menu Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Hostname &amp; DNS</td>
<td>Hostname and DNS settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Network Interface Configuration</td>
<td>All network settings including IP address(es), bonding configuration and VLANS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Routing</td>
<td>Routing configuration including default gateways and static routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>System Date &amp; time</td>
<td>All time and date related settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Physical – Advanced Configuration</td>
<td>Various settings including Internet Proxy, Management Gateway, Firewall connection tracking table size, NIC offloading, SMTP relay, logging and Syslog Server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Appliance security settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>SNMP Configuration</td>
<td>Appliance SNMP settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>Graphing</td>
<td>Appliance graphing settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Configuration</td>
<td>License Key</td>
<td>Appliance licensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Software Updates</td>
<td>Appliance software update management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Firewall Script</td>
<td>Appliance firewall (iptables) configuration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>Firewall Lockdown Wizard</td>
<td>Appliance management lockdown settings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important

Make sure that if these settings/updates have been configured on the Primary appliance, they’re also configured on the Secondary appliance.

To add a Secondary node - i.e. create a highly available clustered pair:
Note: If you have already run the firewall lockdown wizard on either appliance, you’ll need to ensure that it is temporarily disabled on both appliances whilst performing the pairing process.

1. Deploy a second appliance that will be the Secondary and configure initial network settings.

2. Using the WebUI on the Primary appliance, navigate to: Cluster Configuration > High-Availability Configuration.

3. Specify the IP address and the loadbalancer user’s password for the Secondary (peer) appliance as shown above.

4. Click Add new node.

5. The pairing process now commences as shown below:

6. Once complete, the following will be displayed on the Primary appliance:
7. To finalize the configuration, restart heartbeat and any other services as prompted in the blue message box at the top of the screen.

**Note**
Clicking the **Restart Heartbeat** button on the Primary appliance will also automatically restart heartbeat on the Secondary appliance.

**Note**
For more details on configuring HA with 2 appliances, please refer to [Appliance Clustering for HA](#).

**Note**
For details on testing and verifying HA, please refer to [Clustered Pair Diagnostics](#).
### 14. Document Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Reason for Change</th>
<th>Changed By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4.0</td>
<td>7 August 2019</td>
<td>Styling and layout&lt;br&gt;Added AD FS v5.0 (Win2019)</td>
<td>General styling updates&lt;br&gt;Support for latest version</td>
<td>RJC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>7 January 2020</td>
<td>Removed links to certain Microsoft reference material</td>
<td>The related links are no longer available at microsoft.com</td>
<td>RJC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4.2</td>
<td>16 July 2020</td>
<td>New title page&lt;br&gt;Updated Canadian contact details&lt;br&gt;Revised instructions and screenshots for configuring health checks and VIP timeouts</td>
<td>Branding update&lt;br&gt;Change to Canadian contact details&lt;br&gt;Changes to the appliance WebUI</td>
<td>AH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5.0</td>
<td>1 January 2022</td>
<td>Converted the document to AsciiDoc</td>
<td>Move to new documentation system</td>
<td>AH, RJC, ZAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5.1</td>
<td>12 May 2022</td>
<td>Removed outdated health check configuration sections</td>
<td>Now obsolete</td>
<td>RJC</td>
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</table>
About Loadbalancer.org

Loadbalancer.org’s mission is to ensure that its clients’ businesses are never interrupted. The load balancer experts ask the right questions to get to the heart of what matters, bringing a depth of understanding to each deployment. Experience enables Loadbalancer.org engineers to design less complex, unbreakable solutions - and to provide exceptional personalized support.

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