

Re: Planning Exchange 2003 front-end cluster

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Exchange/microsoft.public.exchange.setup/2004-10/1439.html>

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answers inline below...

Cheers,

Rod

MVP – Windows Server – Clustering

<http://www.nw-america.com> – Clustering

<http://msmvps.com/clustering> – Blog

"Boris Lokhvitsky" <msexpert@community.nospam> wrote in message
news:eTtv815uEHA.272@TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl...

> *Hello All,*

>

> *I would like to get some feedback from folks having had a real world*

> *experience with the clustered front-end / back-end Exchange*

> *implementation.*

> *I am planning to build a front-end Exchange 2003 SP1 NLB cluster talking*

> *to*

> *a back-end MSCS cluster. Hardware for the front-ends is Dell 2650 with 2*

> *GigE NICs on each server.*

We are doing this at my day job. Though we use hardware load balancers.

Works great.

> *Which NLB scenario is better for Exchange*

> *front-end? Should I use NLB with two adapters scenario?*

I always try to use 2 NICs if I can.

The real questions are:

is the current network,

can you add a network,

do you need to reconfigure a router,

will the routers guys like how NLB works?

> *Unicast or multicast*

> *mode is better in this case?*

Again I like multicast. Keep the traffic segregated.

- >Should the NICs on the same server belong to
- > different IP subnets? (I couldn't figure which NIC will host the heartbeat
- > communications)

Yes, the NICs are public for the Internet and NLB, and private for the lan access and admin.

- >Should I configure default gateway for both of them
- > (typically you don't do that, but this case might be specific)?

No, just on the public.

- > Furthermore, how will the Exchange communications take place?

Exchange will take on the private side.

- >As I
- > understand, both servers will appear in Exchange organization as separate
- > servers. Should I configure something (virtual servers?) to make back-ends
- > think that there is just one front-end, or the back-end communications do
- > not use clustering feature and talk to each front-end node separately?
- >

Yes, they are virtual servers in a group.

- > The existing MS documentation describes pretty well NLB feature itself and
- > Exchange front-end / back-end topology itself, but is very blurry in the
- > area of getting them together.
- >
- > Thanks a lot in advance for advices and links,
- > Boris
- >
- >