

Re: Network load balancing problem

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.advanced_server/2004-05/0490.html

From: Karthic [MSFT] (karthicn_at_online.microsoft.com)

Date: 05/24/04

Date: Mon, 24 May 2004 12:16:14 -0700

Roger,

When affinity is set to Single, NLB uses the client IP address only to determine which server will accept the connection. So, it is expected that connections from a given client IP address will always go to the same server. When you set the affinity to None, NLB will also use the client TCP/UDP port (in addition to the client IP address) to decide on which server should take the connection. As multiple ongoing connections from a given client IP address would NOT have the same TCP/UDP port, the chances of them taken by different servers are maximized. But, as I said, you are only increasing the chances....NLB does not follow a deterministic algorithm like least used or round-robin. However, given a large client population, you should see even load balance. Please be aware that if the application hosted on the NLB cluster relies on client session affinity where it assumes all TCP connections from a given client IP address belonging to an ongoing "application session" will go to the same server, setting Affinity to None will break that. Let me know if this explanation is not clear and I will try to present it differently. Feel free to ask questions.

--

Thanks,

Karthic

Software Design Engineer

Windows Server Group

Microsoft Corporation.

This posting is provided "AS IS" with no warranties, and confers no rights.

"Roger" <anonymous@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message

news:462C9FDA-76E2-41FB-99F9-EC497E94DA17@microsoft.com...

> Karthic

> I am experiencing pretty much the same symptoms as Naresh. I have 3 W2K servers with approx 110 people connecting to them using ICA clients on Wintervals. I have the NLB set to Multicast Enabled. I have even reset their IP addresses to be released after 1 minute (where it was set for a 7 day lease). The affinity is set to Single. I find that the IP address reconnects to the last server it was connected to so it doesn't go to the 'least used' server - which is what I would prefer. Should I set the affinity to None and what implications will that have?

> regards

> Roger