

Re: Long failover time...

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.clustering/2007-08/msg00114.html>

- *From:* "Kenny Speer" <kenny.speer@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 13 Aug 2007 15:55:02 -0400
-

Ah, first it's not 90% of clusters, it's 90% of clusters with long takeover times. Your context is wrong.

Second, in your hosts file, you put a hostname and IP address. Each NIC only has one IP address (in this config, yes it's possible to add more), therefore, the hosts file is used for that network only. For example:

Public Network: 10.x.x.x

Private Cluster Network: 192.168.x.x

In your hosts file, you add: Node1 192.168.x.1 and Node2 192.168.x.2

Pretty simple. If Node1 wants to communicate with Node2 for any reason, it goes over the private cluster network. No DNS required. This will ensure that your cluster is running regardless of your DNS status. For any other network comm, normal DNS lookups are used.

You distinguish between Highly Available and Fault Tolerant (yadda yadda) here is a Microsoft page which uses Fault Tolerant quite often:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa997507.aspx>

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa997234.aspx>

As for where I read it, /etc/hosts and drivers/etc/hosts have been used forever to bypass DNS in mission critical scenarios.

"Rodney R. Fournier [MVP]" <rod@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:e9oQs%23d3HHA.4400@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Kenny, I am not about to argue that DNS can be an issue. I am firmly stating that I have never needed a host file on a clustered node. Does not matter who runs DNS, they just need to ensure it works. DNS is really easy stuff to get right or wrong. If you really have had a need on 90% of clusters for DNS, then they had DNS issues, plain and simple. It is not a best practice to create a hosts file for a clustered node. Does not matter if DNS is Microsoft or not, it needs to be configured correctly.

Next, you mentioned a hosts file for the private only? Where did you read about this? How do you tell a hosts file to only work for one NIC and not the other(s)?

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MSCS is not and never will be fault tolerant, it is considered highly available. And Windows 2003 with or without clustering is dependant on DNS, Active Directory has for a long time now.

Cheers,

Rodney R. Fournier

MVP – Windows Server – Clustering
<http://www.nw-america.com> – Clustering Website
<http://msmvps.com/clustering> – Blog
<http://www.clusterhelp.com> – Cluster Training
ClusterHelp.com is a Microsoft Certified Gold Partner

"Kenny Speer" <kenny.speer@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:eJwgbid3HHA.5852@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Not true. If the DNS server is running properly you won't have an issue. A perfectly configured Cluster can have any number of issues due to a misconfigured/non functioning DNS server. To say that 90% of clusters were misconfigured is complete crap. Often, an admin who owns the clusters does not own the DNS servers and often those DNS servers are not Microsoft servers. It is absolutely an option to put the cluster host names ONLY in the hosts file. Scalability is not an issue, how many nodes are in your cluster? The majority of clusters are 2–4 nodes, 4 lines isn't very many to add to a host file which should not change.

Also, remember, the hosts file has the private interface addresses ONLY, not the public. This insures that all cluster comm from one node to the other will use the cluster comm interface (i'm not just talking about heartbeat here) without requiring or *depending* on an outside service (DNS).

Anyway, I think your argument doesn't hold any water, since we're talking about making MSCS as fault tolerant as possible but then you make it *depend* on DNS for proper operation (not access from clients, but even then, we've used IP addresses for 30 years when DNS goes down).

~kenny

"Rodney R. Fournier [MVP]" <rod@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
<news:eDsCWQd3HHA.4436@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Than 90% of clusters were configured wrong to begin with :)
Honestly, if DNS is running properly you won't ever need a hosts file. Host files don't scale very well or allow for easy changes!

Cheers,

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Rodney R. Fournier

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"Kenny Speer" <kenny.speer@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:OvjOjNd3HHA.1208@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Really? Hmm. I've seen 90% of long failover times resolved by doing this.

~kenny

"Rodney R. Fournier [MVP]"

<rod@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

<news:OdC0XMc3HHA.5984@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Hosts file! No, DNS works nicely :)

Cheers,

Rodney R. Fournier

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"Kenny Speer"

<kenny.speer@xxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

<news:uaFNDsH2HHA.5884@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Re: Long failover time...

I thought it
was
recommended
to put all
cluster
names/ips
in the hosts
file located
at:
%WINDIR%\system32\drivers\etc\hosts

By default,
you don't
want your
cluster
communicating
over the
public
(client
access)
interface
and you
don't want
your cluster
to fail just
because
your DNS
server goes
down or is
not
accessible.

By adding
each node
to this file
on both
nodes, you
won't even
do a name
lookup via
DNS since
Windows
uses
hosts/lmhosts
then DNS.

~kenny

"LOVEBEINGDBA"
<LOVEBEINGDBA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in

Re: Long failover time...

message

news:EC8A3B7D-E8D7-4B1E-BF4A-DD63E31750E9@xxxxxxxx

Thanks
and
I
appretiate
your
reply...

Is
it
required
to
create
a
PTR
record
for
the
Cluster
Name
in
the
DNS
Server???
We
already
have
a
cluster
whose
name
is
registered
in
the
DNS
only
for
forward
lookup...

Thanks.
Arun
M

"John
Fullbright"
wrote:

Re: Long failover time...

news:A70ABBFB-6DDA-495D-B715-542869DCC
>
Environment:
>
Windows
Server
2003
R2
x64
SP2
>
MSCS
2
node
failover
cluster
>
>
Failover
takes
about
2
minutes.
When
doing
the
failover
the
>
clustername
>
take
>
a
long
time
to
come
back
up.
>
>
Clustername
has
been
registered
in
the
DNS
for
forward

Re: Long failover time...

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look
up
. >
>
We
have
another
production
cluster
and
that
works
fine
in
the
>
same
setup.
>
>
These
are
the
lines
I
found
that
are
related
to
this
issue
from
>
cluster
>
log:
>
>
00000840.00000bb4::2007/08/06-16:57:27.835
WARN
Network
Name
>
<Cluster
>
Name>:
>
The
server

Re: Long failover time...

for
143.3.16.172.in-addr.arpa.
could
not
be
contacted
>
over
>
adapter
>
'Public'
to
determine
whether
it
accepts
DNS
registration
>
updates.
>
Retrying
>
at
a
later
time.
>
00000840.00000bb4::2007/08/06-16:57:27.835
INFO
Network
Name
>
<Cluster
>
Name>:
>
Replaced
DNS
name
<clustername.domain>
with
IP
Address
>
172.16.3.143
over
>
adapter
'Public'.

Re: Long failover time...

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```
>
00000840.00000b08::2007/08/06-16:57:28.679
INFO
Network
Name:
>
time
until
>
next
DNS
reg:
2007/08/06-22:17:35
(128309122556769715)
>
00000840.00000bb4::2007/08/06-16:58:26.795
WARN
Network
Name
>
<Cluster
>
Name>:
>
Failed
to
register
DNS
PTR
record
143.3.16.172.in-addr.arpa.
for
>
host
>
<clustername.domain>
over
adapter
'Public',
status
1460
>
00000840.00000bb4::2007/08/06-16:58:26.795
INFO
Network
Name
>
<Cluster
>
Name>:
>
```

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Modified
DNS
name
<clustername.domain>
with
IP
Address
>
172.16.3.143
over
>
adapter
'Public'.
>
00000840.00000b08::2007/08/06-16:58:28.638
INFO
Network
Name:
>
time
until
>
next
DNS
reg:
2007/08/06-22:17:35
(128309122556769715)
>
>
Any
help
will
be
greatly
appretiated.

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