

NetBalancer™

Features

- Transparently distribute client traffic to Web Server Farms
- Application-based policies allow distribution of traffic according to individual server capabilities
- Assure one hundred percent up time by automatically rerouting down-server traffic to alternate sites

Introduction

Web and other Internet-based server farms are a critical company resource. However, increased complexity of server farms and the need for improved server performance have created the need for network managers to more efficiently control and distribute server traffic. The Allot NetEnforcer™ allows you to define advanced load-balancing policies that reflect the capabilities of individual servers on your network. Using advanced load-balancing and traffic management algorithms, the NetEnforcer continuously adjusts both the flow and prioritization of applications through the network and the distribution of those applications to servers resulting in efficient, optimized traffic throughout the network.

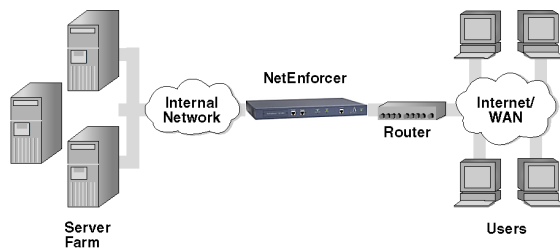


Figure 1. Load-Balancing Network Configuration

The NetEnforcer allows you to control and balance traffic to enterprise, corporate, and service provider server farms. It examines all user traffic and, when appropriate, redirects traffic to the appropriate server according to centrally defined policies. It then goes beyond traditional load-balancing equipment by allowing you to define single policies that control both the prioritization of applications on the network and the distribution of those applications to servers.

Simplify Adds, Moves and Changes

Using the NetEnforcer, you can avoid inherent problems associated with adds, moves, and changes to your Internet server farm. For example, the NetEnforcer allows you to grow your network as required while minimizing changes. You can add a new server to your current server farm while retaining the capabilities of your current servers. You can remove or upgrade servers without changing your basic network configurations. You simply instruct the NetEnforcer to understand the new changes.

If problems arise on your network, the NetEnforcer will automatically reroute traffic around a down server or, alternatively, send a message back to the client informing the user of the reason for the outage. Additionally, you can bring your servers down for maintenance while maintaining connectivity to the rest of your server farm.

Defining Load-Balancing Conditions and Actions

As server needs and demands grow, the NetEnforcer lets network managers seamlessly add servers and distribute traffic according to the individual capabilities of each server.

Specifically, the NetEnforcer allows the definition of network traffic as broadly and narrowly as needed using conditions such as network addresses, TCP Ports, time-of-day, and Web content type.

Policies can be defined to reflect the individual capabilities of each server. For example, policies can be defined to redirect all video to the video server, all Web traffic to the Web server, and all employees in marketing to the marketing server.

Traffic that flows through the NetEnforcer and matches the defined policy will result in the traffic being automatically rerouted from the NetEnforcer to the specific server that best meets the capabilities defined by the policy. Traffic can then be balanced between available servers using algorithms such as:

- **Round-Robin** whereby each server will be treated with equal priority.
- **Weighted Round-Robin** whereby each server can be given an individual weight or priority based on its ability to deliver specific applications.
- **Maintenance Rerouting.** The NetEnforcer can reroute traffic to another server when a server becomes unavailable.

Integrated Services

The Allot Communications NetBalancer module is part of the Allot Policy-based Networking System that includes integrated bandwidth management, access control, cache redirection, network monitoring as well as server load-balancing. By deploying this type of integrated solution, network managers use the same rules and policies to control the entire flow of traffic through the server farm, local network, and the WAN or Internet.

Summary

Server load-balancing provides valuable benefits by improving network and server performance. Using Allot Communications' NetBalancer Module, network managers can improve the user experience by distributing overall server load, limiting administration costs of server configuration, and enforcing centrally defined server policies. The NetBalancer Module, used in conjunction with the NetEnforcer system of bandwidth management products, provides an optimal system for maximizing the use of Internet and WAN links using common policies defined according to the

Ordering Information

Part No.	Product
S001840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-101/128, AC-101/512
S002840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-201/2M, AC-201/10M
S003840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-301
S004840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-401
S006840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-601
S007840	NetBalancer™ for NetEnforcer™ AC-701/C and AC-701/F

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