BIG-IP® Link Controller™: Implementations

Version 11.6

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Chapter 1

Configuring the Link Controller system to manage traffic

- *Overview: Configuring the Link Controller system to manage traffic*
- *Task summary*
- *Implementation result*

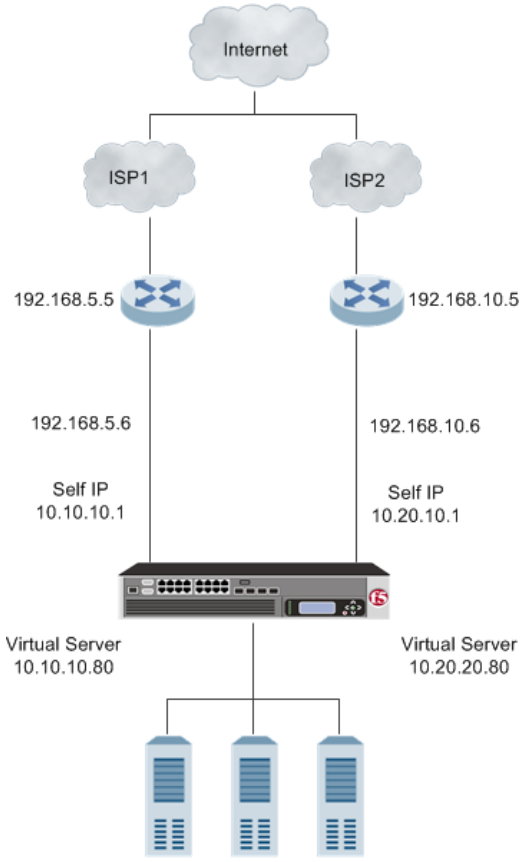
Overview: Configuring the Link Controller system to manage traffic

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

The BIG-IP® Link Controller™ provides a variety of methods for managing the traffic flowing in and out of a network. In order to integrate Link Controller into your network to manage traffic, you must complete a specific set of tasks for the capabilities of Link Controller to be available to you.

The following illustration shows a network for configuring the Link Controller system to manage Internet traffic on two connections using two different Internet service providers (ISPs).

Figure 1: Example of a network for configuring a Link Controller system to manage traffic



About the initial setup of Link Controller

Before you configure Link Controller™ on a BIG-IP® device, make sure you complete the following:

- Install the BIG-IP hardware with an initial network configuration applied.
- Provision Link Controller at the level Nominal or Dedicated.
- Configure the management IP address, network mask, and management route on the BIG-IP system.
- Designate the host name of the system as a fully qualified domain name (FQDN).
- Define the user name and password on the system that you will use when logging in to the BIG-IP Configuration utility.
- License the appropriate BIG-IP software.

Task summary

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

Use the tasks in this implementation to integrate BIG-IP® Link Controller™ into your network. After completed, you can configure a variety of methods for managing the traffic flowing in and out of a network, including cost-based and bandwidth load balancing.

Task list

Creating VLANs for communication between the network and links

Creating a default gateway pool
Creating a default route to the Internet
Creating links to define the physical connections to the Internet
Creating listeners to detect traffic coming from ISPs
Creating a load balancing pool
Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers
Creating a wildcard virtual server
Creating a wide IP that encompasses virtual servers

Creating VLANs for communication between the network and links

Before you begin creating VLANs, ensure that you have completed the initial setup of the Link Controller™ system.

Create VLANs to encompass the IP addresses associated with Link Controller and the other network components that help manage DNS traffic.

1. On the Main tab, click **Network** > **VLANs**.
   The VLAN List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New VLAN screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type the name of the first VLAN.
4. In the **Tag** field, type a numeric tag, from 1-4094, for the VLAN, or leave the field blank if you want the BIG-IP system to automatically assign a VLAN tag.

   The VLAN tag identifies the traffic from hosts in the associated VLAN.
5. If you want to use Q-in-Q (double) tagging, use the **Customer Tag** setting to perform the following two steps. If you do not see the **Customer Tag** setting, your hardware platform does not support Q-in-Q tagging and you can skip this step.
   a) From the **Customer Tag** list, select **Specify**.
   b) Type a numeric tag, from 1-4094, for the VLAN.

   The customer tag specifies the inner tag of any frame passing through the VLAN.
6. For the **Interfaces** setting:
   a) From the **Interface** list, select an interface number.
   b) From the **Tagging** list, select **Tagged** or **Untagged**.

      Select **Tagged** when you want traffic for that interface to be tagged with a VLAN ID.
   c) If you specified a numeric value for the **Customer Tag** setting and from the **Tagging** list you selected **Tagged**, then from the **Tag Mode** list, select a value.
   d) Click **Add**.
7. Click **Finished**.
8. Repeat these steps to create two additional VLANs.

Creating a default gateway pool

Gather the IP addresses associated with each link.

Create a default gateway pool to load balance the outbound traffic across the links.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Pools**.
   The Pools list screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the pool.
   Names must begin with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, and the underscore (_) character.

   Important: *The pool name is limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the New Members area, add the IP addresses associated with each link.
   a) In the **Address** field, type the IP address.
   b) Click **Add**.
5. Click **Finished**.

Creating a default route to the Internet

Configure Link Controller™ to use the pool as the default gateway connection between the internal network and the Internet.

1. On the Main tab, click **Network** > **Routes**.
2. Click **Add**.
   The New Route screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name.
4. From the **Resource** list, select **Use Pool**.
5. From the **Pool** list, select **default_gateway_pool**.
6. Click **Finished**.

Creating links to define the physical connections to the Internet

Gather the IP addresses of the routers associated with the ISPs and IP addresses, which correspond with the external Internet connections.

Create links using the IP addresses of routers on the network that provide a path to the Internet.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Links**.
   The Links List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the link that represents one of the ISPs.
4. In the **Router Address** field, type the IP address of the router associated with the ISP.
5. In the **Uplink Address** field, type the IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection.
6. In the **Service Provider** field, type the name of the ISP.
7. For the **Health Monitors** setting, from the **Available** list, select **bigip_link** and **gateway_icmp** and move the monitors to the **Enabled** list.
8. Click **Create**.
9. Repeat these steps to create the second service provider link.

Creating listeners to detect traffic coming from ISPs

Gather the self IP addresses on which Link Controller™ listens for traffic.

Create two listeners for detecting DNS traffic.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Listeners**.
   The Listeners List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The Listeners properties screen opens.
3. In the **Destination** field, type the self IP address on which the Link Controller listens for traffic.
4. Click **Finished**.
5. Repeat these steps to create the second listener.

Creating a load balancing pool

Create a load balancing pool to process the inbound traffic from the Internet.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Pools**.
   The Pool List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Pool screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the pool.
   Names must begin with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, and the underscore (_) character.

   Important: *The pool name is limited to 63 characters.*
4. For the **Health Monitors** setting, from the **Available** list, select the **http** monitor and move the monitor to the **Active** list.
5. Click **Finished**.

Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers

Gather the IP addresses you want to use for creating the virtual servers.

Create two virtual servers, one for each link, to load balance inbound connections across the servers on the network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.
   The New Virtual Server screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. In the **Destination Address** field, type the IP address you want to use for the virtual server.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `80`, or select **HTTP** from the list.
6. Click **Finished**.
7. Repeat these steps to create the second virtual server.

Creating a wildcard virtual server

Create a wildcard server to load balance outbound connections across the routers.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.
   The New Virtual Server screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. For the **Destination** setting, select **Network**, and type `0.0.0.0` in the **Address** field and `0.0.0.0` in the **Mask** field.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `0`.

   Note: *Port **0** defines a wildcard virtual server that handles all types of services. If you specify a port number, you create a port-specific wildcard virtual server. In that case, the wildcard virtual server handles traffic only for the specified port.*
6. In the Resources area, from the **Default Pool** list, select **default_gateway_pool**.
7. Click **Finished**.

Creating a wide IP that encompasses virtual servers

Gather the IP addresses of the two virtual servers that you created previously.

Create a wide IP that encompasses the virtual servers.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Inbound Wide IPs**.
   The Wide IP List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Wide IP screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the wide IP.
4. From the **Load Balancing Method** list, make selections from the **Preferred**, **Alternate**, and **Fallback** lists.
5. For the **Member List** field, add the virtual servers that you created previously.
   a) From the **Virtual Server** list, select a virtual server.
   b) Click **Add**.
6. Click **Finished**.

Implementation result

Now Link Controller™ is configured to manage the DNS traffic in and out of a network.

Chapter 2

Configuring cost-based load balancing

- *Overview: Configuring cost-based load balancing*
- *Task summary*
- *Implementation result*

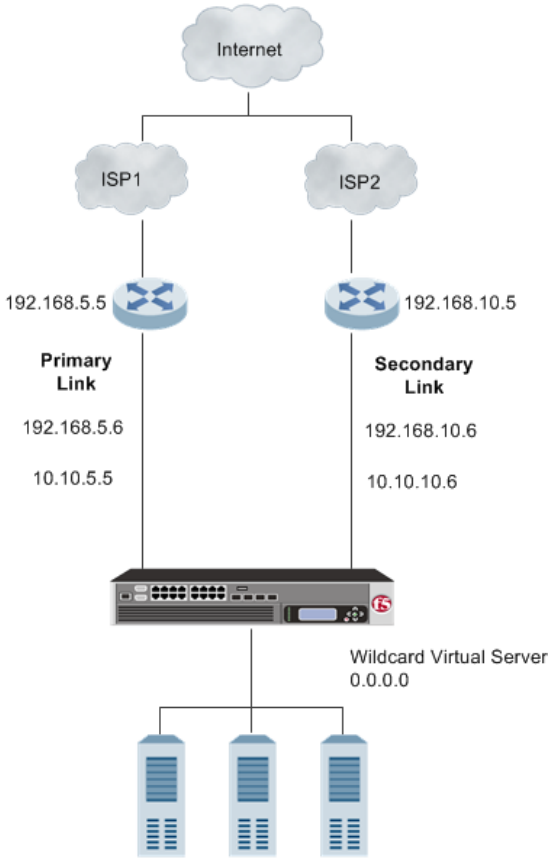
Overview: Configuring cost-based load balancing

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

You can configure BIG-IP® Link Controller™ to use cost-based load balancing to manage the traffic flowing in and out of a network. In cost-based load balancing, you prioritize link usage based on the cost of the bandwidth for the connection to the Internet. Link Controller sends traffic to the link that is currently operating at the lowest cost. As the usage cost for each link changes, Link Controller dynamically shifts traffic to the best link.

The following illustration shows a network for configuring a cost-based load balancing configuration.

Figure 2: Example of a network for configuring cost-based load balancing



As the illustration shows, while traffic remains below a certain level (for example, 4 Mbps), the Link Controller uses the Primary Link. If traffic exceeds a certain level (for example, 4 Mbps), the Link Controller sends the overflow traffic to the Secondary Link. If a link goes offline for any reason, Link Controller uses the Alternate and Fallback load balancing methods to route traffic through an available link.

Task summary

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

Use the tasks in this implementation to create a cost-based, load balancing configuration to manage the traffic flowing in and out of a network.

Task list

Creating the first cost-based link for load balancing
Creating the second cost-based link for load balancing
Creating a default gateway pool
Creating a default route to the Internet
Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers
Creating a wildcard virtual server
Creating a wide IP

Creating the first cost-based link for load balancing

Gather the IP address of the router associated with the ISP and IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection. In addition, determine an amount of appropriate bandwidth for the link.

Create and configure the first link on Link Controller™ to specify how traffic enters and leaves your network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Links**.
   The Links List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Link screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the link.

   Important: *Link names are limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the **Router Address** field, type the IP address of the router.
5. In the **Uplink Address** field, type the IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection.
6. For the **Service Provider** field, type the name of the ISP provider.
7. From the **Configuration** list, select **Advanced**.
   Additional controls display on the screen.
8. From the **Weighting** list, select **Price (Dynamic Ratio)**.
9. From the **Prepaid Segment** field, type the amount of bandwidth that is prepaid for the link.
10. From the **Incremental Segments** field, add the incremental segment price.
11. Click **Create**.
    The Link List screen displays.

Creating the second cost-based link for load balancing

Gather the IP address of the router associated with the ISP and IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection. In addition, determine an amount of appropriate bandwidth for the link.

Create and configure the second link on Link Controller™ to specify how traffic enters and leaves your network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Links**.
   The Links List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Link screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the link.

   Important: *Link names are limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the **Router Address** field, type the IP address of the router.
5. In the **Uplink Address** field, type the IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection.
6. For the **Service Provider** field, type the name of the ISP provider.
7. From the **Configuration** list, select **Advanced**.
   Additional controls display on the screen.
8. From the **Weighting** list, select **Price (Dynamic Ratio)**.
9. From the **Prepaid Segment** field, type the amount of bandwidth that is prepaid for the link.

10. Click **Create**.
    The Link List screen displays.
11. From the **Incremental Segments** field, add the incremental segment price.

Creating a default gateway pool

Gather the IP addresses associated with each link.

Create a default gateway pool to load balance the outbound traffic across the links.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Pools**.
   The Pools list screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the pool.
   Names must begin with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, and the underscore (_) character.

   Important: *The pool name is limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the New Members area, add the IP addresses associated with each link.
   a) In the **Address** field, type the IP address.
   b) Click **Add**.
5. Click **Finished**.

Creating a default route to the Internet

Configure Link Controller™ to use the pool as the default gateway connection between the internal network and the Internet.

1. On the Main tab, click **Network** > **Routes**.
2. Click **Add**.
   The New Route screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name.
4. From the **Resource** list, select **Use Pool**.
5. From the **Pool** list, select **default_gateway_pool**.
6. Click **Finished**.

Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers

Gather the IP addresses you want to use for creating the virtual servers.

Create two virtual servers, one for each link, to load balance inbound connections across the servers on the network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.

The New Virtual Server screen opens.

3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. In the **Destination Address** field, type the IP address you want to use for the virtual server.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `80`, or select **HTTP** from the list.
6. Click **Finished**.
7. Repeat these steps to create the second virtual server.

Creating a wildcard virtual server

Create a wildcard server to load balance outbound connections across the routers.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.
   The New Virtual Server screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. For the **Destination** setting, select **Host**, and type `0.0.0.0` in the **Address** field.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `0`.

   Note: *Port **0** defines a wildcard virtual server that handles all types of services. If you specify a port number, you create a port-specific wildcard virtual server. In that case, the wildcard virtual server handles traffic only for the specified port.*

6. Click **Finished**.

Creating a wide IP

Before you can create a wide IP, you need IP addresses from two previously created virtual servers.

Create a wide IP to which Link Controller™ load balances incoming DNS requests.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Inbound Wide IPs**.
   The Wide IP List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Wide IP screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the wide IP.
4. From the **Load Balancing Method** list, make selections from the **Preferred**, **Alternate**, and **Fallback** lists.
5. For the **Member List** field, add the address of the appropriate virtual server.
   a) From the **Virtual Server** list, select a virtual server.
   b) Click **Add**.
6. Click **Create**.

Implementation result

You now have Link Controller™ configured to use cost-based load balancing to manage DNS traffic.

Chapter 3

Configuring bandwidth load balancing

- *Overview: Configuring bandwidth load balancing*
- *Task summary*
- *Implementation result*

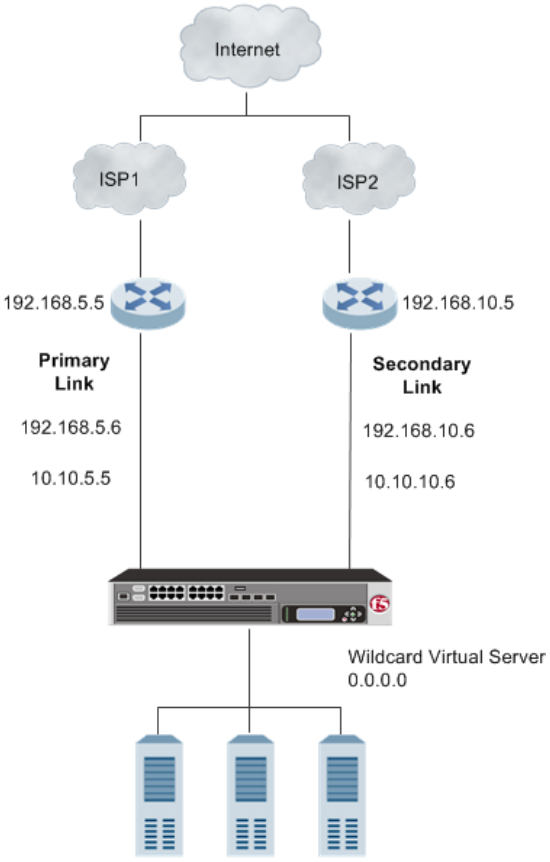
Overview: Configuring bandwidth load balancing

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

You can configure BIG-IP® Link Controller™ to use bandwidth load balancing to manage the traffic flowing in and out of a network. In bandwidth load balancing, Link Controller uses a specific link until a traffic threshold has been met. After that threshold is met, the Link Controller shifts traffic to another link. When the traffic falls below the threshold, the Link Controller shifts traffic back to the first link.

The following illustration shows a network for configuring a bandwidth load balancing configuration.

Figure 3: Example of a network for configuring bandwidth load balancing



As the illustration shows, the most cost-efficient configuration is to have the Primary Link handle traffic until it reaches a certain level (for example, 50 Mbps), then send any traffic over a certain level (for example: 50 Mbps) to the Secondary Link. When the traffic decreases, the Link Controller must switch back to using only the Primary Link again.

Task summary

Important: *This functionality is not currently available in the U.S.*

Use the tasks in this implementation to create a bandwidth load balancing configuration to manage the traffic flowing in and out of a network.

Task list

Creating the first bandwidth link for load balancing
Creating the second bandwidth link for load balancing
Creating a default gateway pool
Creating a default route to the Internet
Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers
Creating a wildcard virtual server
Creating a wide IP

Creating the first bandwidth link for load balancing

Gather the IP address of the router associated with the ISP and IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connections. For the link, determine the total bandwidth threshold you want to use.

Create and configure the first link on Link Controller™, which determines how traffic enters and leaves your network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Links**.
   The Links List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Link screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the link.

   Important: *Link names are limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the **Router Address** field, type the IP address of the router.
5. In the **Uplink Address** field, type the IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection.
6. For the **Service Provider** field, type the name of the ISP provider.
7. From the **Configuration** list, select **Advanced**.
   Additional controls display on the screen.
8. From the **Traffic Links** field, set the total bandwidth thresholds for the link.
9. Click **Create**.

Creating the second bandwidth link for load balancing

Gather the IP address of the router associated with the ISP and IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection. For the link, determine the total bandwidth threshold you want to use.

Create and configure the second link on Link Controller™, which determines how traffic enters and leaves your network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Links**.
   The Links List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Link screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the link.

   Important: *Link names are limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the **Router Address** field, type the IP address of the router.
5. In the **Uplink Address** field, type the IP address that corresponds with the external Internet connection.
6. For the **Service Provider** field, type the name of the ISP provider.
7. From the **Configuration** list, select **Advanced**.
   Additional controls display on the screen.
8. From the **Traffic Links** field, set the total bandwidth thresholds for the link.
9. Click **Create**.

Creating a default gateway pool

Gather the IP addresses associated with each link.

Create a default gateway pool to load balance the outbound traffic across the links.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Pools**.
   The Pools list screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the pool.
   Names must begin with a letter, and can contain only letters, numbers, and the underscore (_) character.

   Important: *The pool name is limited to 63 characters.*

4. In the New Members area, add the IP addresses associated with each link.
   a) In the **Address** field, type the IP address.
   b) Click **Add**.
5. Click **Finished**.

Creating a default route to the Internet

Configure Link Controller™ to use the pool as the default gateway connection between the internal network and the Internet.

1. On the Main tab, click **Network** > **Routes**.
2. Click **Add**.
   The New Route screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name.
4. From the **Resource** list, select **Use Pool**.
5. From the **Pool** list, select **default_gateway_pool**.
6. Click **Finished**.

Creating virtual servers to load balance connections across servers

Gather the IP addresses you want to use for creating the virtual servers.

Create two virtual servers, one for each link, to load balance inbound connections across the servers on the network.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.
   The New Virtual Server screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. In the **Destination Address** field, type the IP address you want to use for the virtual server.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `80`, or select **HTTP** from the list.

6. Click **Finished**.
7. Repeat these steps to create the second virtual server.

Creating a wildcard virtual server

Create a wildcard server to load balance outbound connections across the routers.

1. On the Main tab, click **Local Traffic** > **Virtual Servers**.
   The Virtual Server List screen opens.
2. Click the **Create** button.
   The New Virtual Server screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a unique name for the virtual server.
4. For the **Destination** setting, select **Host**, and type `0.0.0.0` in the **Address** field.
5. In the **Service Port** field, type `0`.

   Note: *Port **0** defines a wildcard virtual server that handles all types of services. If you specify a port number, you create a port-specific wildcard virtual server. In that case, the wildcard virtual server handles traffic only for the specified port.*

6. Click **Finished**.

Creating a wide IP

Before you can create a wide IP, you need IP addresses from two previously created virtual servers.

Create a wide IP to which Link Controller™ load balances incoming DNS requests.

1. On the Main tab, click **Link Controller** > **Inbound Wide IPs**.
   The Wide IP List screen opens.
2. Click **Create**.
   The New Wide IP screen opens.
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for the wide IP.
4. From the **Load Balancing Method** list, make selections from the **Preferred**, **Alternate**, and **Fallback** lists.
5. For the **Member List** field, add the address of the appropriate virtual server.
   a) From the **Virtual Server** list, select a virtual server.
   b) Click **Add**.
6. Click **Create**.

Implementation result

You now have Link Controller™ configured to use bandwidth load balancing to manage DNS traffic.

Chapter 4

Creating an Active-Standby Link Controller Configuration

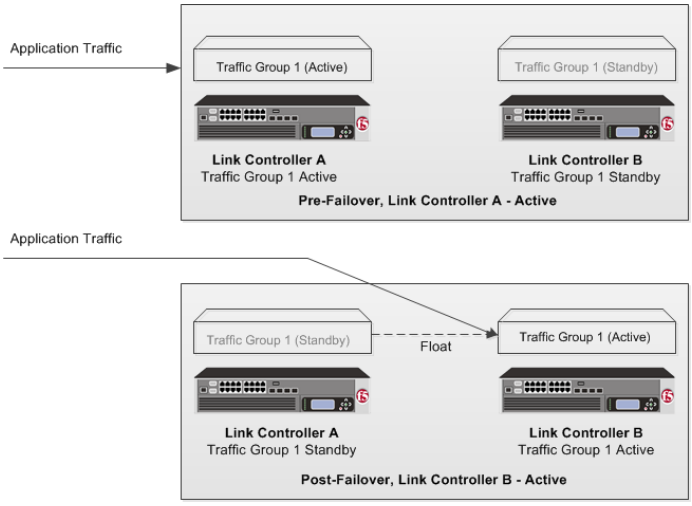
- *Overview: Creating an Active-Standby Link Controller Configuration*
- *Link Controller prerequisite worksheet*
- *Task summary*
- *Implementation result*

Overview: Creating an Active-Standby Link Controller Configuration

You can configure BIG-IP® Link Controller™ in an active-standby configuration, which is a set of two Link Controller systems: one operating as the active unit, the other operating as the standby unit. If the active unit in the active traffic group goes offline, the standby unit immediately assumes responsibility for managing traffic. The new active unit remains active until another event occurs that would cause the unit to go offline, or you manually reset the status of each unit.

This illustration shows Link Controller devices in an active-standby configuration.

Figure 4: Example of Link Controller devices in an active-standby configuration



Link Controller prerequisite worksheet

Before you set up an active-standby BIG-IP®Link Controller™ configuration, you must configure these BIG-IP components on each device that you intend to include in the device group.

Table 1: Link Controller deployment worksheet

Configuration component	Considerations
Hardware, licensing, and provisioning	Devices in a device group must match with respect to product licensing and module provisioning. Heterogeneous hardware platforms within a device group are supported.
BIG-IP software version	Each device must be running BIG-IP version 11.x. This ensures successful configuration synchronization.
Management IP addresses	Each device must have a management IP address, a network mask, and a management route defined.
FQDN	Each device must have a fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) as its host name.
User name and password	Each device must have a user name and password defined on it that you will use when logging in to the BIG-IP Configuration utility.
`root` folder properties	The platform properties for the `root` folder must be set correctly (`Sync-Failover` and `traffic-group-1`).
VLANs	You must create these VLANs on each device, if you have not already done so: • A VLAN for the internal network, named `internal`. • A VLAN for the external network, named `external`. • A VLAN for failover communications, named `HA`.
Self IP addresses	You must create these self IP addresses on each device, if you have not already done so: • Two self IP addresses (floating and non-floating) on the same subnet for VLAN `internal`. • Two self IP addresses (floating and non-floating) on the same subnet for VLAN `external`. • A non-floating self IP address on the internal subnet for VLAN `HA`. ***Note:*** *When you create floating self IP addresses, the BIG-IP system automatically adds them to the default floating traffic group,* `traffic-group-1`*. To add a self IP address to a different traffic group, you must modify the value of the self IP address* ***Traffic Group*** *property.* ***Important:*** *If the BIG-IP device you are configuring is accessed using Amazon Web Services, then the IP address you specify must be the floating IP address for high availability fast failover that you configured for the EC2 instance.*
Port lockdown	For self IP addresses that you create on each device, you should verify that the **Port Lockdown** setting is set to **Allow All**, **All Default**, or **Allow Custom**. Do not specify **None**.
Application-related objects	You must create any virtual IP addresses and optionally, SNAT translation addresses, as part of the local traffic configuration. You must also configure any iApp®

Configuration component	Considerations
	application services if they are required for your application. When you create these addresses or services, the objects automatically become members of the default traffic group `traffic-group-1`.
Time synchronization	The times set by the NTP service on all devices must be synchronized. This is a requirement for configuration synchronization to operate successfully.
Device certificates	Verify that each device includes an x509 device certificate. Devices with device certificates can authenticate, and thus, trust one another, which is a prerequisite for device-to-device communication and data exchange.

Task summary

Use the tasks in this implementation to create a two-member device group, with one active traffic group that syncs the BIG-IP® configuration to the peer device and provides failover capability if the peer device goes offline.

Task list

Establishing a device trust between Link Controller devices
Specifying an IP address for config sync
Specifying an IP address for connection mirroring
Specifying IP addresses for failover communication
Creating a Sync-Failover device group
Verifying new traffic group membership
Syncing BIG-IP configuration between Link Controller devices
Enabling global traffic synchronization
Running the gtm_add script

Establishing a device trust between Link Controller devices

Before you begin this task, verify that:

- Each BIG-IP® device that is to be part of the local trust domain has a device certificate installed on it.
- The local device is designated as a certificate signing authority.

Establish trust among devices on one or more network segments to constitute the *local trust domain*.

Note: *A device must be a member of the local trust domain prior to joining a device group.*

By default, the BIG-IP software includes a local trust domain with one member, which is the local device. You can choose any one of the BIG-IP devices slated for a device group and log into that device to add other devices to the local trust domain.

1. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Device Trust**, and then either **Peer List** or **Subordinate List**.
2. Click **Add**.

3. Type a device IP address, administrator user name, and administrator password for the remote BIG-IP® device with which you want to establish trust. The IP address you specify depends on the type of BIG-IP device:
   - If the BIG-IP device is an appliance, type the management IP address for the device.
   - If the BIG-IP device is a VIPRION® device that is not licensed and provisioned for vCMP®, type the primary cluster management IP address for the cluster.
   - If the BIG-IP device is a VIPRION device that is licensed and provisioned for vCMP, type the cluster management IP address for the guest.
   - If the BIG-IP device is an Amazon Web Services EC2 device, type one of the Private IP addresses created for this EC2 instance.
4. Click **Retrieve Device Information**.
5. Verify that the certificate of the remote device is correct.
6. Verify that the management IP address and name of the remote device are correct.
7. Click **Finished**.

As a result of these steps, the local device is now a member of the local trust domain. Also, the BIG-IP system automatically creates a special Sync-Only device group for the purpose of synchronizing trust information among the devices in the local trust domain, on an ongoing basis.

Repeat these steps to specify each device that you want to add to the local trust domain.

Specifying an IP address for config sync

Before configuring the config sync address, verify that all devices in the device group are running the same version of BIG-IP® system software.

You perform this task to specify the IP address on the local device that other devices in the device group will use to synchronize their configuration objects to the local device.

Note: *You must perform this task locally on each device in the device group.*

1. Confirm that you are logged in to the device you want to configure.
2. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Devices**.
   This displays a list of device objects discovered by the local device.
3. In the Name column, click the name of the device to which you are currently logged in.
4. From the **Device Connectivity** menu, choose ConfigSync.
5. For the **Local Address** setting, retain the displayed IP address or select another address from the list.

   F5 Networks recommends that you use the default value, which is the self IP address for the internal VLAN. This address must be a non-floating self IP address and not a management IP address.

   Important: *If the BIG-IP device you are configuring is accessed using Amazon Web Services, then the internal self IP address that you select must be an internal private IP address that you configured for this EC2 instance as the* ***Local Address****.*
6. Click **Update**.

After performing this task, the other devices in the device group can synchronize their configurations to the local device whenever a sync operation is initiated.

Specifying an IP address for connection mirroring

Specify the local self IP address that you want other devices in a device group to use when mirroring their connections to this device. Connection mirroring ensures that in-process connections for an active traffic group are not dropped when failover occurs.

Note: *You must perform these steps locally on each device in the device group.*

1. Confirm that you are logged in to the device you want to configure.
2. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Devices**.
   This displays a list of device objects discovered by the local device.
3. In the Name column, click the name of the device to which you are currently logged in.
4. From the Device Connectivity menu, choose Mirroring.
5. For the **Primary Local Mirror Address** setting, retain the displayed IP address or select another address from the list.

   The recommended IP address is the self IP address for either VLAN `HA` or VLAN `internal`.

   Important: *If the BIG-IP device you are configuring is accessed using Amazon Web Services, then the self IP address you specify must be one of the private IP addresses that you configured for this EC2 instance as the* ***Primary Local Mirror Address****.*
6. For the **Secondary Local Mirror Address** setting, retain the default value of **None**, or select an address from the list.

   This setting is optional. The system uses the selected IP address in the event that the primary mirroring address becomes unavailable.
7. Click **Update**.

In addition to specifying an IP address for mirroring, you must also enable connection mirroring on the relevant virtual servers on this device.

Specifying IP addresses for failover communication

Specify the local IP addresses that you want other devices in the device group to use for continuous health-assessment communication with the local device. You must perform the steps locally on each device in the device group.

Note: *The IP addresses that you specify must belong to route domain* `0`*.*

1. Confirm that you are logged in to the device you want to configure.
2. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Devices**.
   This displays a list of device objects discovered by the local device.
3. In the Name column, click the name of the device to which you are currently logged in.
4. From the **Device Connectivity** menu, choose Failover Network.
5. For the Failover Unicast Configuration settings, click **Add** for each IP address on this device that other devices in the device group can use to exchange failover messages with this device. The unicast IP addresses you specify depend on the type of device:

Platform	Action
Appliance without vCMP	Type a static self IP address associated with an internal VLAN (preferably VLAN HA) and the static management IP address currently assigned to the device.
Appliance with vCMP	Type a static self IP address associated with an internal VLAN (preferably VLAN HA) and the unique management IP address currently assigned to the guest.
VIPRION without vCMP®	Type a static self IP address associated with an internal VLAN (preferably VLAN HA). If you choose to specify unicast addresses only (and not a multicast address), you must also type the existing, static management IP addresses that you previously configured for all slots in the cluster. If you choose to specify one or more unicast addresses and a multicast address, then you do not need to specify the existing, per-slot static management IP addresses when configuring addresses for failover communication.
VIPRION with vCMP	Type a self IP address that is defined on the guest and associated with an internal VLAN on the host (preferably VLAN HA). If you choose to specify unicast failover addresses only (and not a a multicast address), you must also type the existing, virtual static management IP addresses that you previously configured for all slots in the guest's virtual cluster. If you choose to specify one or more unicast addresses and a multicast address, you do not need to specify the existing, per-slot static and virtual management IP addresses when configuring addresses for failover communication.

Important: *Failover addresses should always be static, not floating, IP addresses.*

6. To enable the use of a failover multicast address on a VIPRION® platform (recommended), then for the **Use Failover Multicast Address** setting, select the **Enabled** check box.
7. If you enabled **Use Failover Multicast Address**, either accept the default **Address** and **Port** values, or specify values appropriate for the device.

   If you revise the default **Address** and **Port** values, but then decide to revert to the default values, click **Reset Defaults**.
8. Click **Update**.

After you perform these steps, other devices in the device group can send failover messages to the local device using the specified IP addresses.

Creating a Sync-Failover device group

This task establishes failover capability between two or more BIG-IP® devices. If an active device in a Sync-Failover device group becomes unavailable, the configuration objects fail over to another member of the device group and traffic processing is unaffected. You perform this task on any one of the authority devices within the local trust domain.

Repeat this task for each Sync-Failover device group that you want to create for your network configuration.

1. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Device Groups**.
2. On the Device Groups list screen, click **Create**.
   The New Device Group screen opens.
3. Type a name for the device group, select the device group type **Sync-Failover**, and type a description for the device group.
4. From the **Configuration** list, select **Advanced**.

5. In the Configuration area of the screen, select a host name from the **Available** list for each BIG-IP device that you want to include in the device group, including the local device. Use the Move button to move the host name to the **Includes** list.

   The **Available** list shows any devices that are members of the device's local trust domain but not currently members of a Sync-Failover device group. A device can be a member of one Sync-Failover group only.

6. For the **Network Failover** setting, select or clear the check box:

   - Select the check box if you want device group members to handle failover communications by way of network connectivity. This choice is required for active-active configurations.
   - Clear the check box if you want device group members to handle failover communications by way of serial cable (hard-wired) connectivity.

   For active-active configurations, you must select network failover, as opposed to serial-cable (hard-wired) connectivity.

7. For the **Automatic Sync** setting, select or clear the check box:

   - Select the check box when you want the BIG-IP system to automatically sync the BIG-IP configuration data whenever a config sync operation is required. In this case, the BIG-IP system syncs the configuration data whenever the data changes on any device in the device group.
   - Clear the check box when you want to manually initiate each config sync operation. In this case, F5 networks recommends that you perform a config sync operation whenever configuration data changes on one of the devices in the device group.

8. For the **Full Sync** setting, select or clear the check box:

   - Select the check box when you want all sync operations to be full syncs. In this case, the BIG-IP system syncs the entire set of BIG-IP configuration data whenever a config sync operation is required.
   - Clear the check box when you want all sync operations to be incremental (the default setting). In this case, the BIG-IP system syncs only the changes that are more recent than those on the target device. When you select this option, the BIG-IP system compares the configuration data on each target device with the configuration data on the source device and then syncs the delta of each target-source pair.

   If you enable incremental synchronization, the BIG-IP system might occasionally perform a full sync for internal reasons. This is a rare occurrence and no user intervention is required.

9. In the **Maximum Incremental Sync Size (KB)** field, retain the default value of `1024`, or type a different value.

   This value specifies the total size of configuration changes that can reside in the incremental sync cache. If the total size of the configuration changes in the cache exceeds the specified value, the BIG-IP system performs a full sync whenever the next config sync operation occurs.

10. Click **Finished**.

You now have a Sync-Failover type of device group containing BIG-IP devices as members.

Verifying new traffic group membership

Verify new traffic group membership to ensure that the IP addresses in the traffic group failover. Confirm that the same traffic group (typically the default traffic group, `traffic-group-1`) has all the the appropriate floating IP addresses, such as the internal and external self IP addresses, and a virtual IP address.

Note: *You must perform these steps on each Link Controller device.*

---

1. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Traffic Groups**.

2. In the Name column, click the name of the traffic group for which you want to view the associated objects.

   This displays a list of all failover objects for the traffic group.

3. In the Address column, for the traffic group selected, verify the listing of all of the appropriate floating IP addresses, including the internal and external self IP addresses, and a virtual IP address. If a SNAT address was created, also verify it is listed.

Syncing BIG-IP configuration between Link Controller devices

Before you sync the configuration, verify that the BIG-IP® Link Controller™ devices targeted for config sync are members of a device group and that device trust is established.

Synchronize the BIG-IP configuration data from a local device to devices in a device group to ensure that all devices operate properly. When synchronizing self IP addresses, the BIG-IP system synchronizes floating self IP addresses only.

Important: *You can perform these steps on either of the two devices, but not both.*

---

1. On the Main tab, click **Device Management** > **Overview**.
2. In the Device Groups area of the screen, in the Name column, select the name of the relevant device group.
   The screen expands to show a summary and details of the sync status of the selected device group, as well as a list of the individual devices within the device group.
3. In the Devices area of the screen, in the Sync Status column, select the device that shows a sync status of `Changes Pending`.
4. In the Sync Options area of the screen, select **Sync Device to Group**.
5. Click **Sync**.
   The BIG-IP system syncs the configuration data of the selected device in the Device area of the screen to the other members of the device group.

Except for non-floating self IP addresses, the entire set of BIG-IP configuration data is replicated on each device in the device group.

Enabling global traffic synchronization

Enable global traffic synchronization options and create a name for the global traffic synchronization group.

Important: *Perform the following steps only on the active system.*

---

1. On the Main tab, click **System** > **Configuration** > **Global Traffic** > **General**.
   The General configuration screen opens.
2. Select the **Synchronize** check box.
3. Select the **Synchronize DNS Zone Files** check box.
4. In the **Group Name** field, type the name of the synchronization group.
5. Click **Update**.

Running the gtm_add script

Before you run the `gtm_add` script, make sure that the TCP port `4353` is available on both the active and standby systems.

Run the `gtm_add` script for the standby system to acquire the configuration established on the active system.

1. On the standby system, log in to the command-line interface.
2. Type `gtm_add`, and press Enter.
3. Press the y key to start the `gtm_add` script.
4. Type the IP address of the active system.
5. Press Enter.
   The `gtm_add` process begins, acquiring configuration data from the active system.

Implementation result

You now have created a active-standby configuration consisting of two Link Controller™ systems: one operating as the active unit, the other operating as the standby unit.

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