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Setting VMware ESX vSwitch Load Balancing Policy via CLI

Friday, September 5, 2008 in [Networking](#), [Virtualization](#) by [slowe](#) | [7 comments](#)

I see this question popping up a lot, so I thought I'd just throw up this quick blog entry with the command that's necessary to set the load balancing policy for a VMware ESX vSwitch.

In VMware ESX3.5 U2 (which users should be using if at all possible, now that [it's validated by Microsoft](#)), the command to do this is vmware-vim-cmd:

```
vmware-vim-cmd /hostsvc/net/vswitch_setpolicy  
-nicteaming-policy=loadbalance_ip vSwitch1
```

This command sets the vSwitch to use "Route based on ip hash". To set the vSwitch back to "Route based on the originating virtual port ID", use this command:

```
vmware-vim-cmd /hostsvc/net/vswitch_setpolicy  
-nicteaming-policy=loadbalance_srcid vSwitch1
```

Obviously, users will need to replace vSwitch1 with the appropriate vSwitch that needs to be configured. Note that this command is a bit different than in earlier versions, which used vmsh.

I hope this is useful!

Tags: [ESX](#), [Networking](#), [Virtualization](#), [VMware](#)

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Pingback from [VMware ESX, NIC Teaming, and VLAN Trunking with HP ProCurve](#) - [blog.scottlowe.org](#) - The weblog of an IT pro specializing in virtualization, storage, and servers on Friday, September 5, 2008 at 11:23 am

Duncan on Friday, September 5, 2008 at 12:38 pm

Keep in mind that if you want to do a scripted install you will need to setup the server that it can have atleast 2 active nics. from the installer normally if you add a nic and set the switch to load balancing on ip you would still only have 1 active nic.



i used the following for the second vswitch (0001), so i set the value "1" to "two" in the esx.conf file:

```
/bin/sed -e 's/net/vswitch/vchild[0001]/vteamPolicy/vmaxActive =  
\'1\'/net/vswitch/vchild[0001]/vteamPolicy/vmaxActive = \'2\'/g' /tmp/esx.conf.bak >>  
/etc/vmware/esx.conf
```

slowe on Friday, September 5, 2008 at 12:51 pm

Good point, Duncan! Thanks for adding that information to the conversation.



ccassel on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 7:45 am

Is there any difference between modifying the esx.conf and adding two active nics using vswitch_setpolicy or portgroup_set from vmware-vim-cmd? I've been doing it like this in my post script, which works as far as I can tell:

```
esxcfg-vswitch -a vSwitch2  
esxcfg-vswitch -L vmnic4 vSwitch2
```



```
esxcfg-vswitch -L vmnic6 vSwitch2
esxcfg-vswitch -L vmnic8 vSwitch2
vmware-vim-cmd hostsvc/net/refresh
vmware-vim-cmd hostsvc/net/vswitch_setpolicy--nicorderpolicy-active=vmnic4,vmnic6
--nicorderpolicy-standby=vmnic8 --nicteaming-policy=loadbalance_ip vSwitch2
```

Jay on [Friday, September 26, 2008 at 2:02 pm](#)

I would like to set up multiple vSwitches to utilize one physical nic. I am unable to locate how to add an ip to a second, third, or fourth nic and assign that nic to an active state. Can you help ?



slowe on [Friday, September 26, 2008 at 3:37 pm](#)

ccassel,

I'm not aware of any difference, other than modifying esx.conf is strongly discouraged.

Jay,

AFAIK there is no way to do it. A physical NIC (pNIC) can be bound to only one vSwitch at a time. The opposite—binding multiple pNICs to a single vSwitch—is easily accomplished via the command line above.

Hope this helps!



Pingback from [Standard ESX networking tasks from command line \(Part 2\)](#) « [Virtual RJ](#) on [Monday, January 5, 2009 at 4:10 am](#)

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