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Load Based Teaming in vSphere 4.1

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Purpose

This article provides information about the new Load Based Teaming policy in vSphere 4.1.

Resolution

Note: Load Based Teaming policy is available only with distributed virtual switch (vDS). It is not available with standard switches.

In vSphere 4.0, there are three policies:

- Route based on the originating virtual Port ID
- Route based on IP hash
- Route based on source MAC hash

These three policies provide static mapping from vSwitch port to pNIC adapter. It is possible that two heavy network load virtual machines are mapped to same physical adapter that is congested while the other adapters still have free bandwidth.

With Load Based Teaming in vSphere 4.1, after initial port based assignment, the load balancing algorithm regularly checks the load of all the teaming NICs. If one gets overloaded while another one has bandwidth available, it reassigns the port-NIC mapping to reach a balanced status. During the period until the next check is performed, the mapping is stable.

Note: Bandwidth is still limited to the maximum bandwidth a single pNIC provides.

Load Based Teaming has these advantages:

- Dynamic adjustments to load
- Different NIC speeds are taken into account. You can have a mix of 1Gbit, 10Gbit, and even 100Mbit NICs.

Note: If Load Based Teaming reassigns ports, the MAC address change to a different pSwitch port. The pSwitch must allow for this.

Additional Information

For more information on virtual networking, see [VMware Virtual Networking Concepts](#).

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