

Citrix NetScaler and Citrix XenDesktop 7 Deployment Guide

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This guide demonstrates how to deploy Citrix NetScaler in conjunction with Citrix XenDesktop 7 with a focus on both simplicity in configuration and advanced features not easily delivered with other products.

Executive summary and document overview

1. Introduction

In this guide you'll learn how to provision the XenDesktop 7 infrastructure, the NetScaler appliance and NetScaler Insight Center services to extend Citrix virtual desktop infrastructure and services to remote users in small to medium-size enterprises.

1.1 Overview summary

Best end user experience: With an integrated Citrix solution for remote and portable workstyles, end users enjoy a seamless experience resulting in fewer help desk calls and reduced training needs. Citrix Receiver client software is installed on the user device (iPhone, Android phone, thin client) to allow users, by way of the NetScaler appliance delivering high availability, scale and security, to access their desktops, applications and data through Citrix StoreFront. StoreFront, which ships with XenDesktop 7, authenticates users to XenDesktop sites and Citrix XenApp farms, enumerating and aggregating available desktops and applications into stores that users can access through Citrix Receiver or Receiver for Web. The StoreFront database records details of users' application subscriptions to enable synchronization of those applications across all their devices. Benefits of the NetScaler/StoreFront solution include one-click configuration for user setup, local and remote access, automatically provisioned applications, self-service simplicity, a consistent user experience across any device and persistent access to applications and desktops.

End-to-end application visibility: New NetScaler 10.1 with HDX Insight seamlessly integrates with Desktop Director to provide a single location for management and monitoring of the XenApp and XenDesktop infrastructure. IT teams can drill down into network protocols (primarily ICA) through Desktop Director to troubleshoot individual user issues from a single console. The AppFlow capability of NetScaler allows you to export this data to third-party tools such as Splunk for in-depth correlation, analysis and reporting. The reports generated by NetScaler Insight Center, such as the applications and users consuming the most resources, can help IT determine peak usage and proactively allocate bandwidth accordingly. Response time measurements can help detect and resolve problems before a critical network or application failure occurs.

Enhanced security: By acting as a full proxy for ICA connections, NetScaler filters these connections before they hit the backend server, ensuring they are attack free. Proper integration with Secure Ticketing Authority (STA) prevents internal



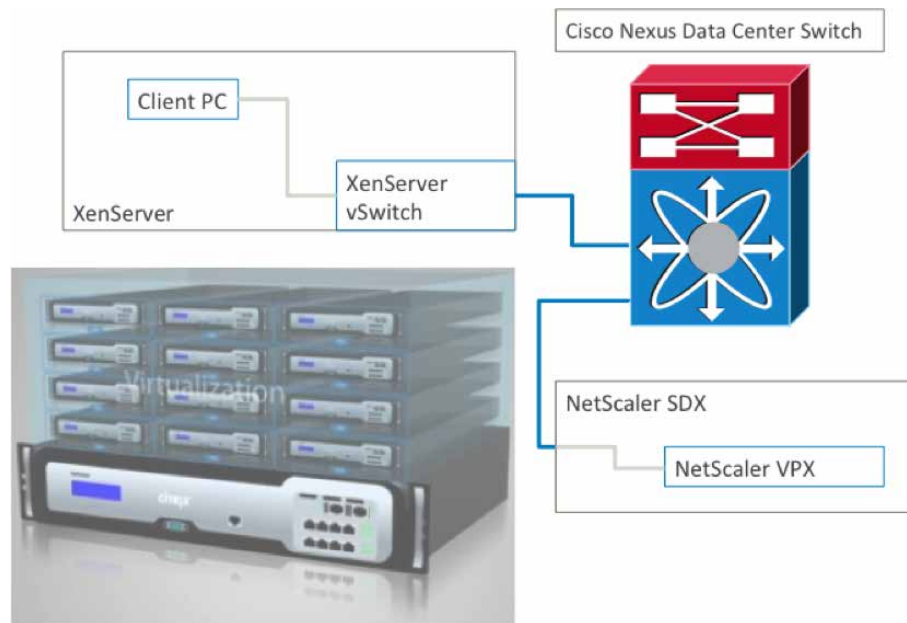
user and server data, including IP address information, from leaking. SmartAccess allows you to control access to published XenApp virtual applications and XenDesktop virtual desktops on a server through the use of NetScaler Access Gateway session policies. NetScaler Access Gateway is a full-featured SSL VPN that is an integral component of NetScaler. It gives administrators granular, application-level control while empowering users with remote access to their virtual desktops from anywhere.

End-to-end support from a single vendor: Integration between NetScaler and IT Desktop Director provides a single console for troubleshooting end-user issues concerning the network and desktops. It also helps lower support and training costs (TCO) in the long run and enables IT teams to stay abreast of product roadmap updates. Choosing one vendor instead of multiple providers prevents finger pointing on integration issues.

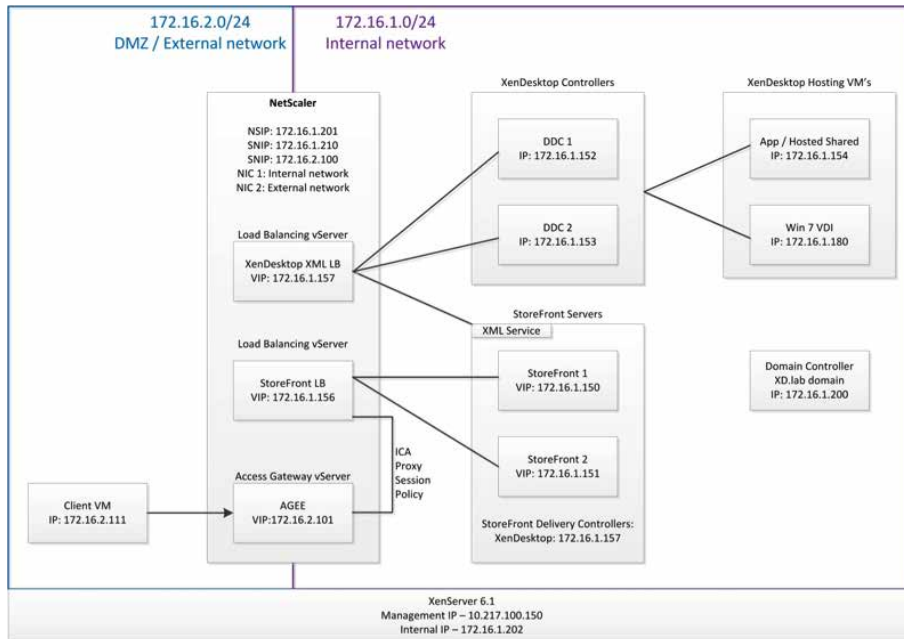
2. Architectural overview

The environment described in this guide has been deployed on a single host, with internal networks configured to simulate an internal corporate network and a DMZ. The following diagrams illustrate the machines and network configuration in this deployment.

2.1 Physical view



2.2 Logical view



2.3 Target architecture

The following components have been installed on each of the machines:

1. Domain controller (DC)
 - Active Directory domain services
 - DNS
 - DHCP
 - Citrix License Server 11.11
2. Dynamic Delivery Controller 1 (DDC1)
 - XenDesktop 7
 - SQL Server Express 2012
3. Dynamic Delivery Controller 2 (DDC2)
 - XenDesktop 7
4. App/hosted shared desktops (APP)
 - XenDesktop 7 Virtual Desktop Agent (VDA)
5. Windows 8 VDI (XDVDI)
 - XenDesktop 7 VDA
6. StoreFront 1 (SF1)
 - StoreFront 1.3
7. StoreFront 2 (SF2)
 - StoreFront 1.3
8. Client machine (client)
 - Citrix Receiver 3.4



Cloud infrastructure

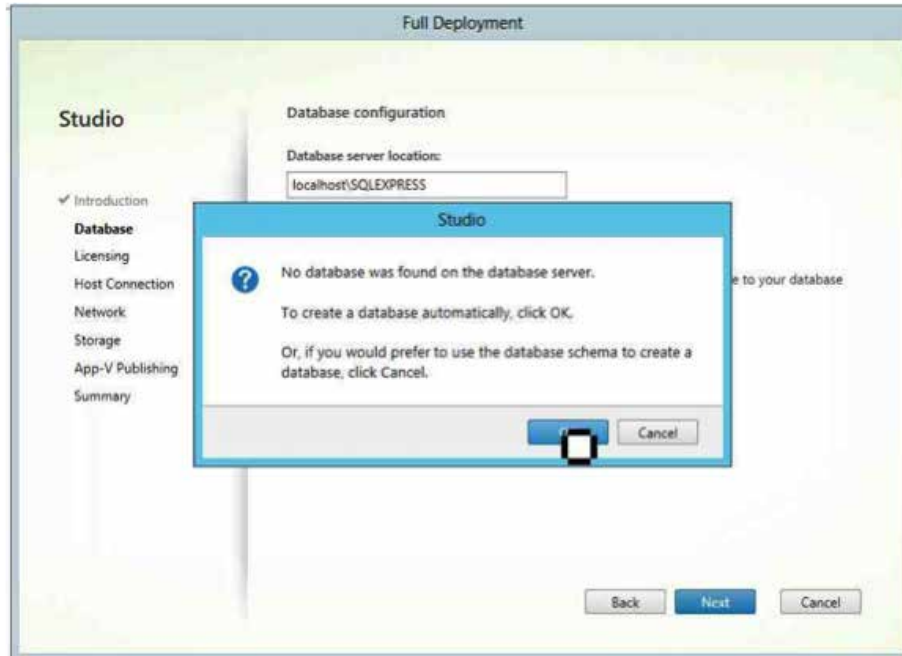
3. XenDesktop 7 management infrastructure setup

This section defines the steps required to build the complete infrastructure.

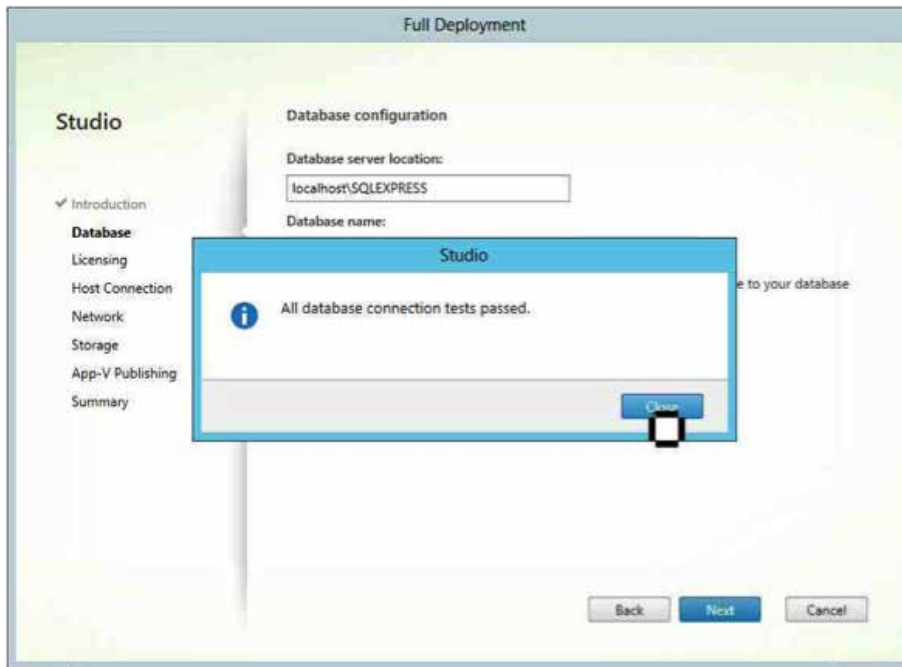
3.1 Install Citrix XenDesktop 7 and supporting components

The XenDesktop 7 install process is a simple next/next/finish install. The services installed on each machine in this deployment are described in the previous section.

Once XenDesktop is installed, a site must be created. Click on **Create a site** in the studio mmc, and click **Next** on the introduction step. On the database configuration page, enter the details to connect to the SQL server. In this case, SQL Server Express has been installed on DDC1 and no database has been configured. As long as connectivity tests to the SQL Server pass, XenDesktop will create the database automatically. Enter whatever you want the database to be called in the database name field.



Click **Test** to confirm the database can be connected to.

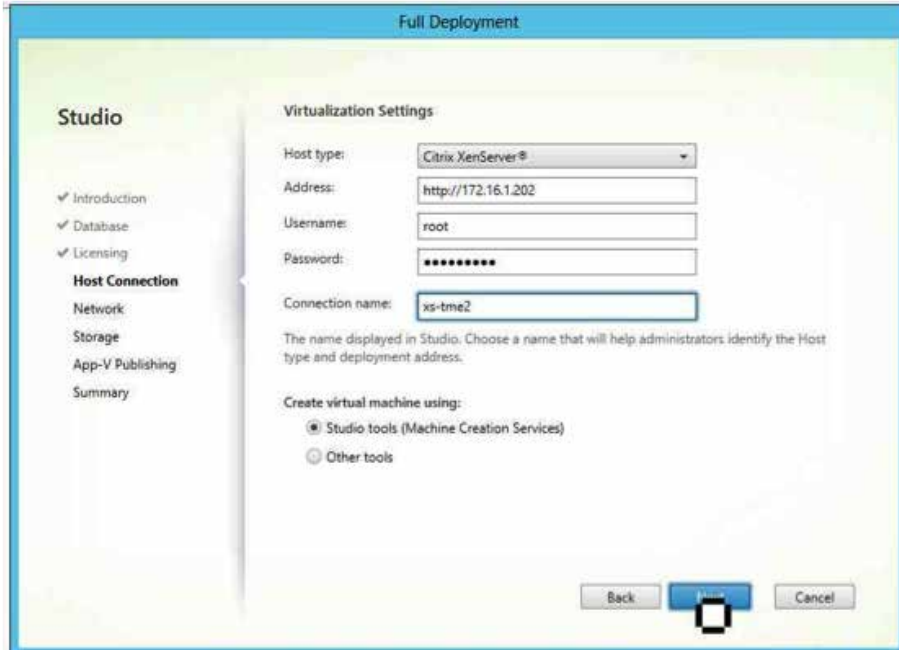


Configure the license server and license for XenDesktop. In this deployment the license server has been installed on the domain controller, and we are using a trial license.



You may receive a certificate warning during this step if you do not have a computer certificate on the domain controller.

Enter the hypervisor information. XenDesktop must be able to create machines on the hypervisor, so root permission is required. Use the root account for Citrix XenServer.

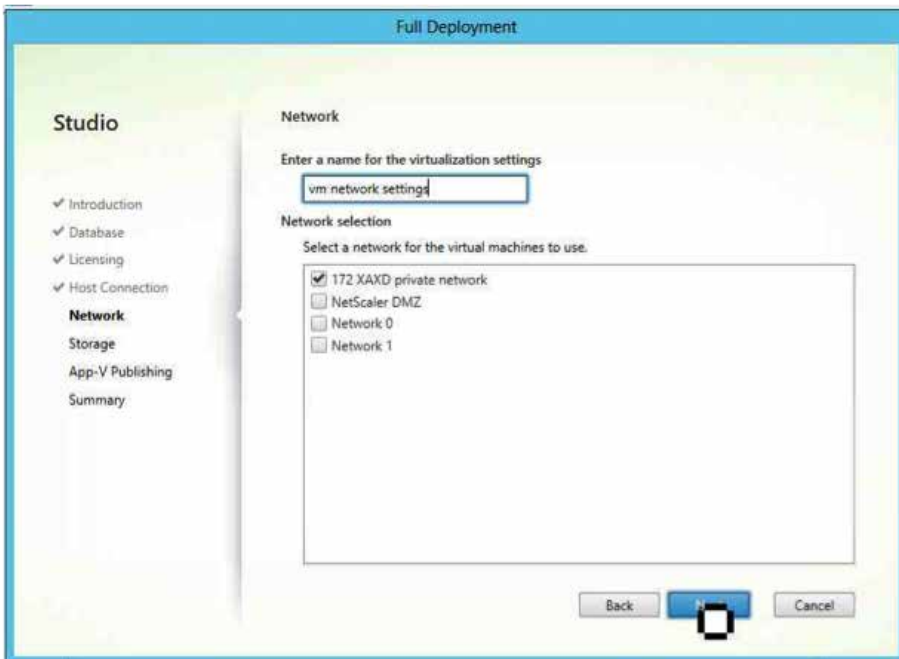


The screenshot shows the 'Full Deployment' wizard at the 'Virtualization Settings' step. On the left, a 'Studio' sidebar lists steps: Introduction, Database, Licensing, Host Connection (selected), Network, Storage, App-V Publishing, and Summary. The main area is titled 'Virtualization Settings' and contains the following fields:

- Host type: Citrix XenServer® (dropdown)
- Address: http://172.16.1.202
- Username: root
- Password: [masked]
- Connection name: xs-bme2

Below these fields is a note: "The name displayed in Studio. Choose a name that will help administrators identify the Host type and deployment address." At the bottom, there are radio buttons for "Create virtual machine using:" with "Studio tools (Machine Creation Services)" selected and "Other tools" unselected. At the bottom right are 'Back', 'Next', and 'Cancel' buttons.

Select the network on which you would like new machines to be created.



The screenshot shows the 'Full Deployment' wizard at the 'Network' step. The 'Studio' sidebar on the left has 'Network' selected. The main area is titled 'Network' and contains the following elements:

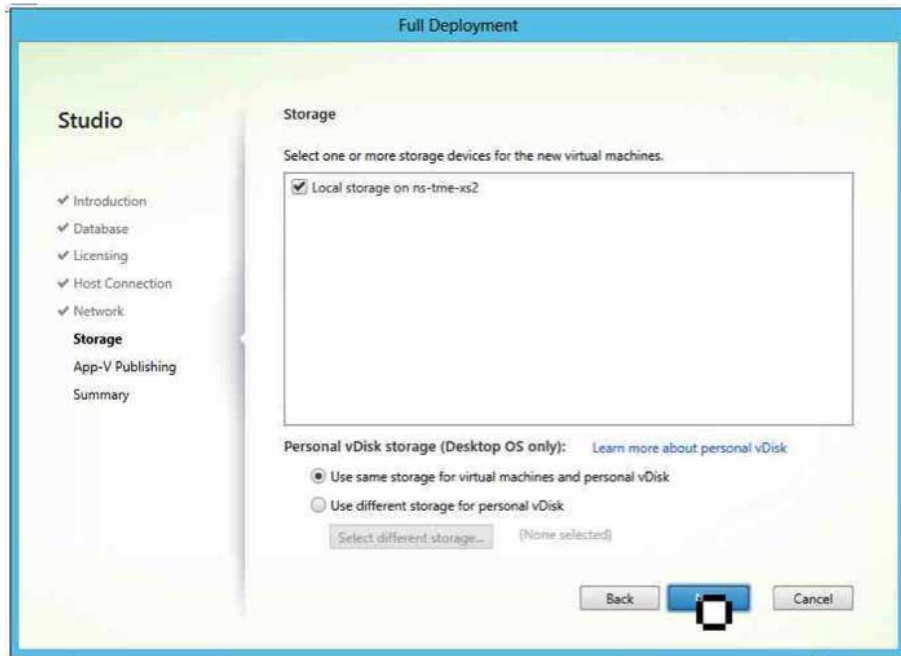
- Section: 'Enter a name for the virtualization settings' with a text box containing 'vm network settings'.
- Section: 'Network selection' with the instruction 'Select a network for the virtual machines to use.' and a list of networks:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	172.XAXD private network
<input type="checkbox"/>	NetScaler DMZ
<input type="checkbox"/>	Network 0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Network 1

At the bottom right are 'Back', 'Next', and 'Cancel' buttons.

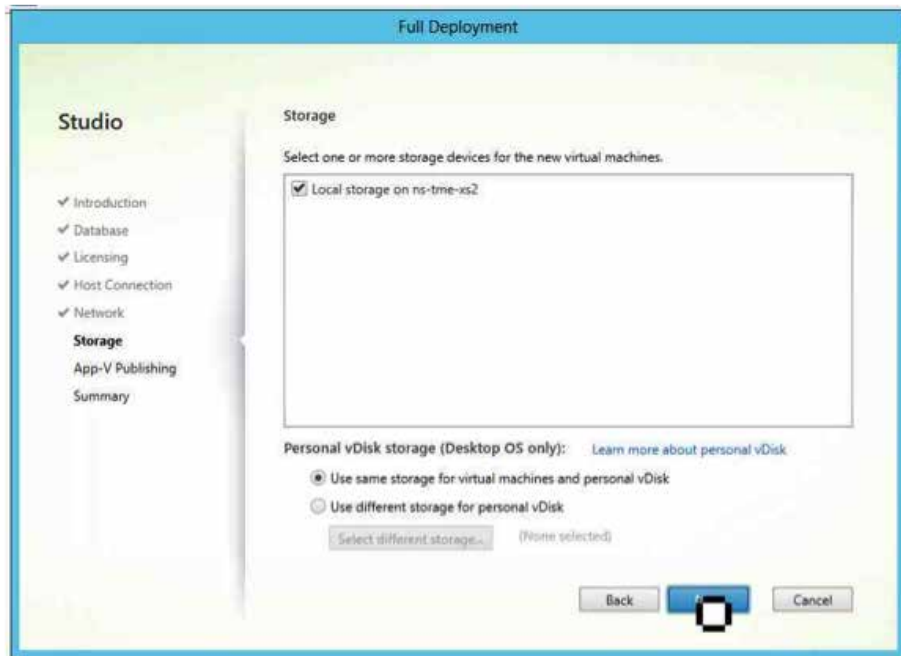


Select the storage location where the new devices will be placed.

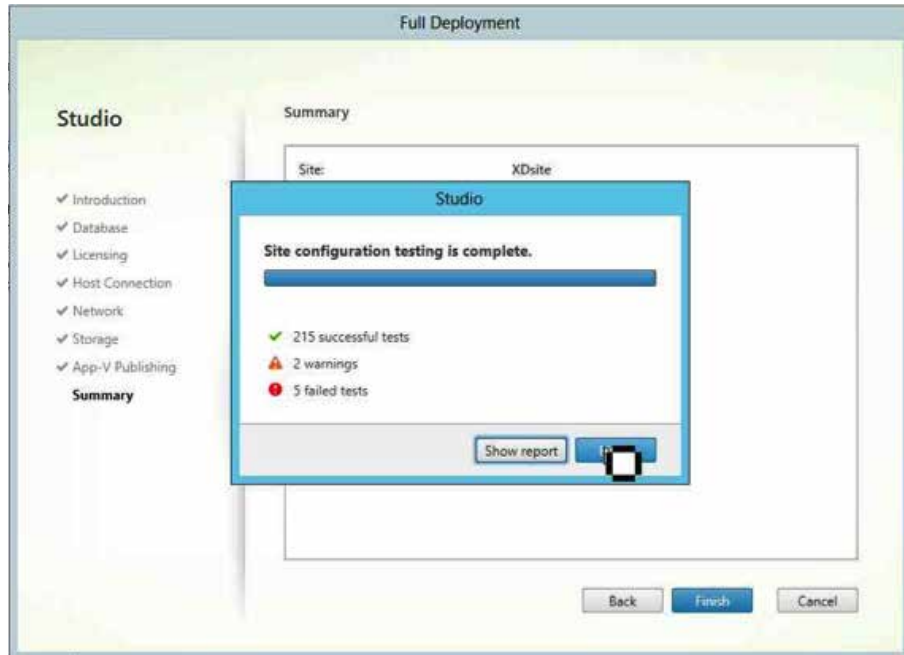


Add App-V if necessary, as it was not configured as part of this deployment.

Review the settings and click **Finish**. A new site will be **created**.

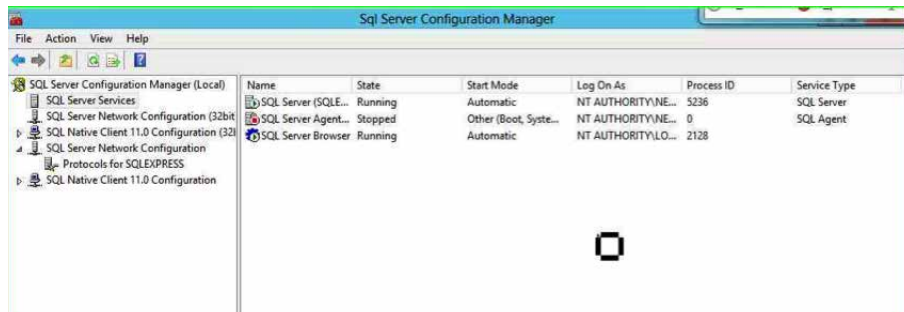


Some of the site configuration tests may fail. In this case the failed tests were SQL Server reference schema tests, which have no impact on the XenDesktop deployment.



3.2 Add DDCs to XenDesktop

If you are using SQL Server Express, you will have to start the browser on the SQL Server before you can add DDCs to the site, as without the browser remote machines cannot access the database.



From the studio MMC, click **Scale out your deployment** and input the address of the existing DDC in the deployment.



Click **Yes** to update the Citrix Studio database automatically.



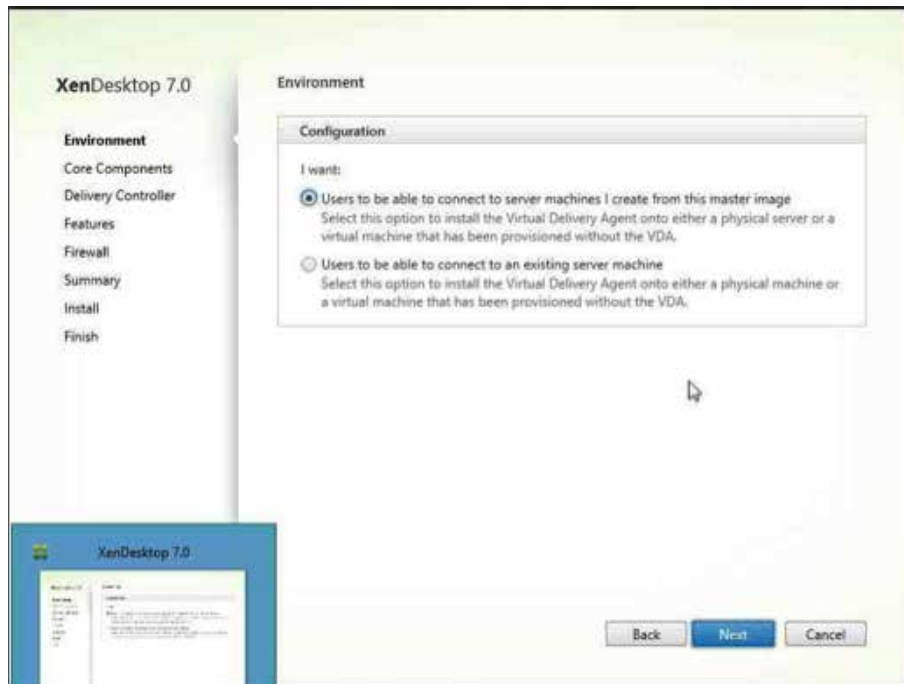
Verify by navigating to **Desktop Studio, Configuration, Controllers** in the left panel. You should see both servers listed.



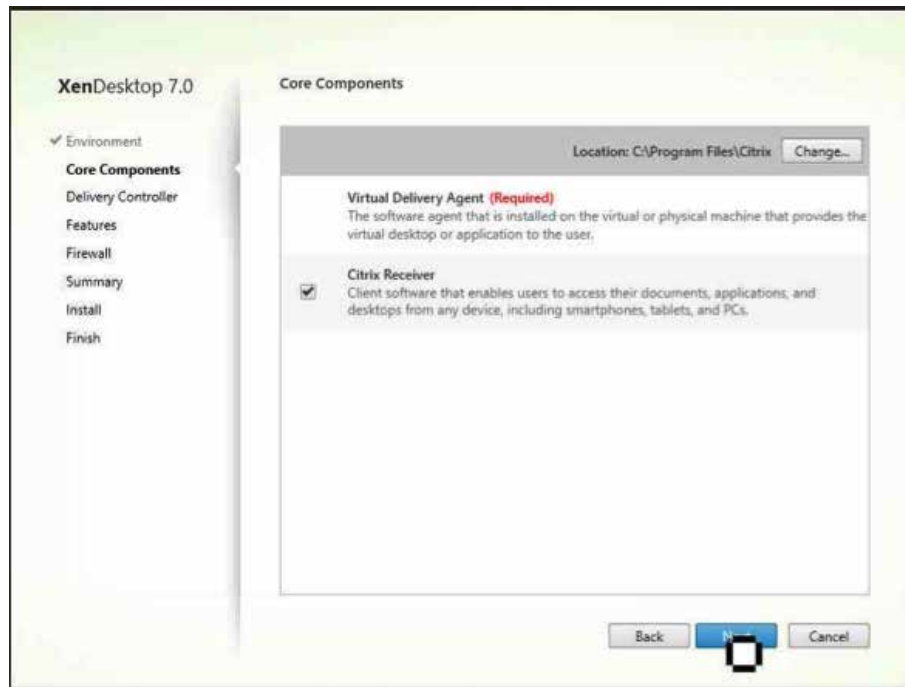
3.3 Install the Virtual Delivery Agent

The VDA must be installed on all machines that will deliver desktops or apps. Load the XenDesktop install media onto the target machines to launch the VDA installation.

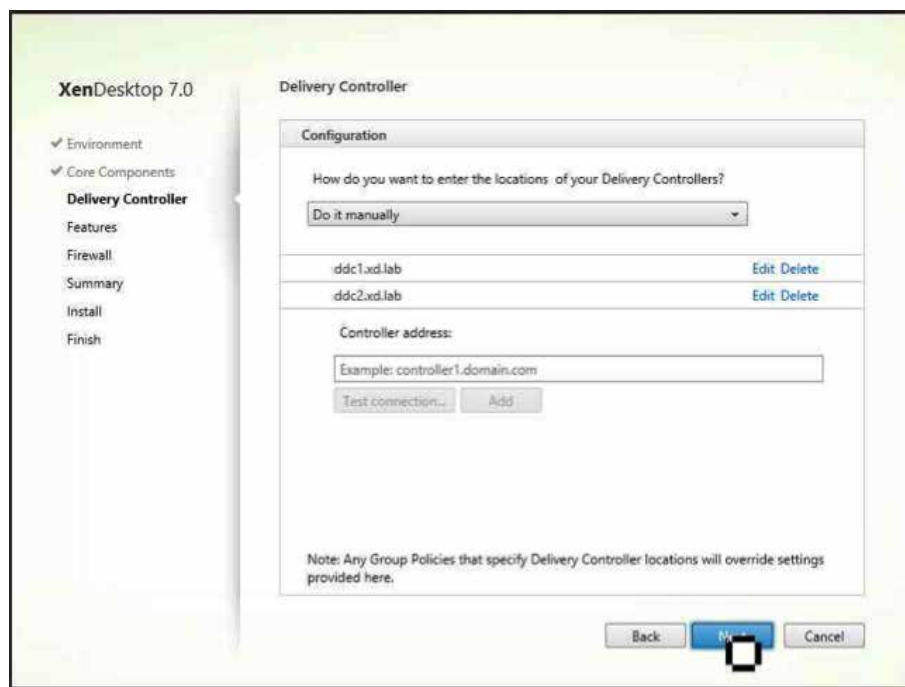
Since we will be creating machines from this image with Machine Creation Services (MCS), we select the first option.



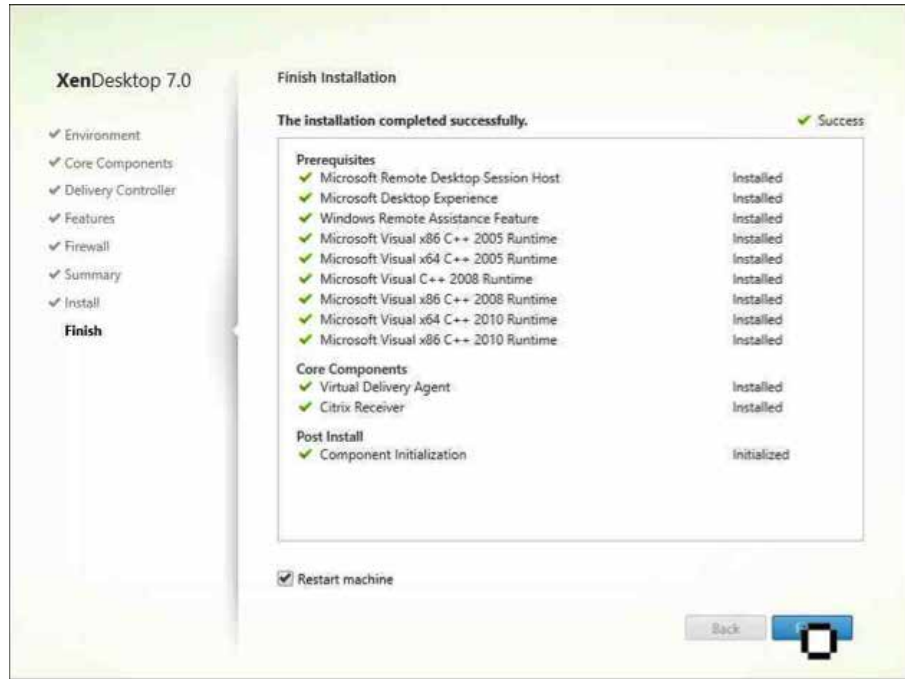
Add Citrix Receiver to the installation so that users can access applications from within hosted desktops.



Add both delivery controllers to the configuration. These must be FQDNs, so make sure that the machine is configured to use your DNS server and verify that the DNS entries are correct.

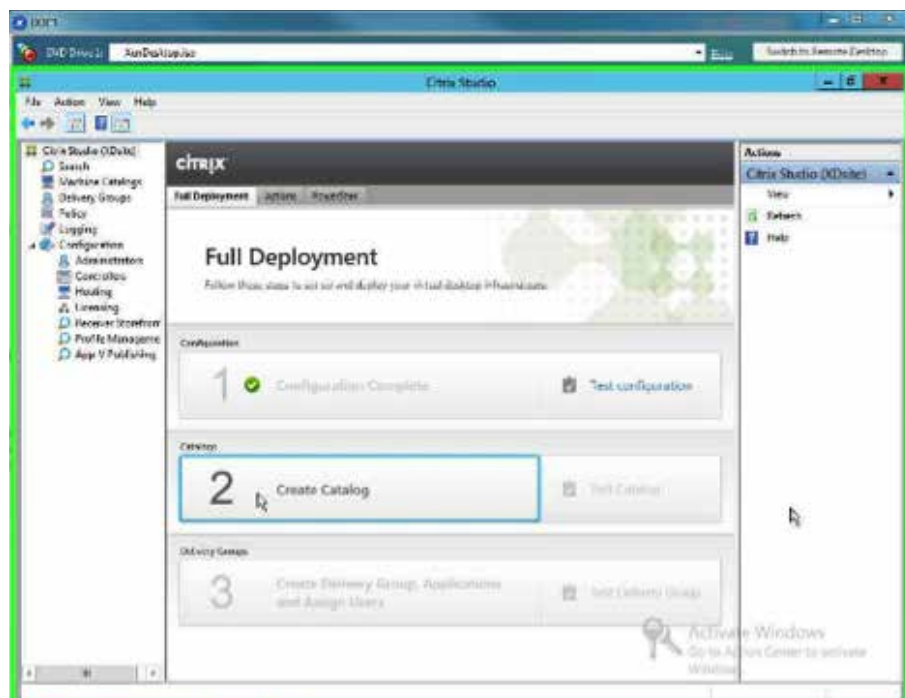


Leave the default features and firewall configuration unchanged and click **Install**. The machine will restart during installation. Verify that installation has completed successfully.



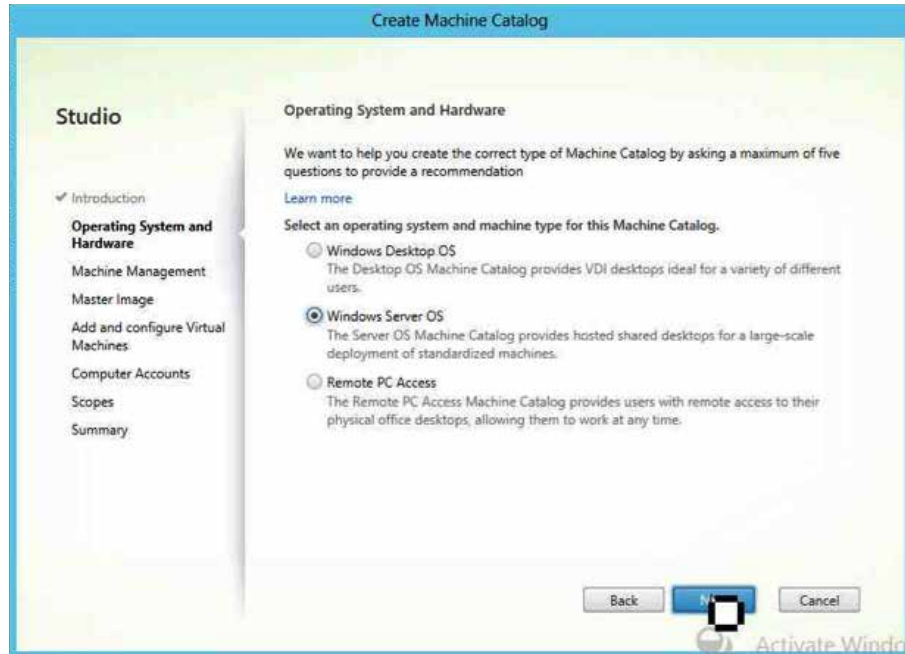
3.4 Create machine catalogs

From the studio MMC, click **Create Catalog**.

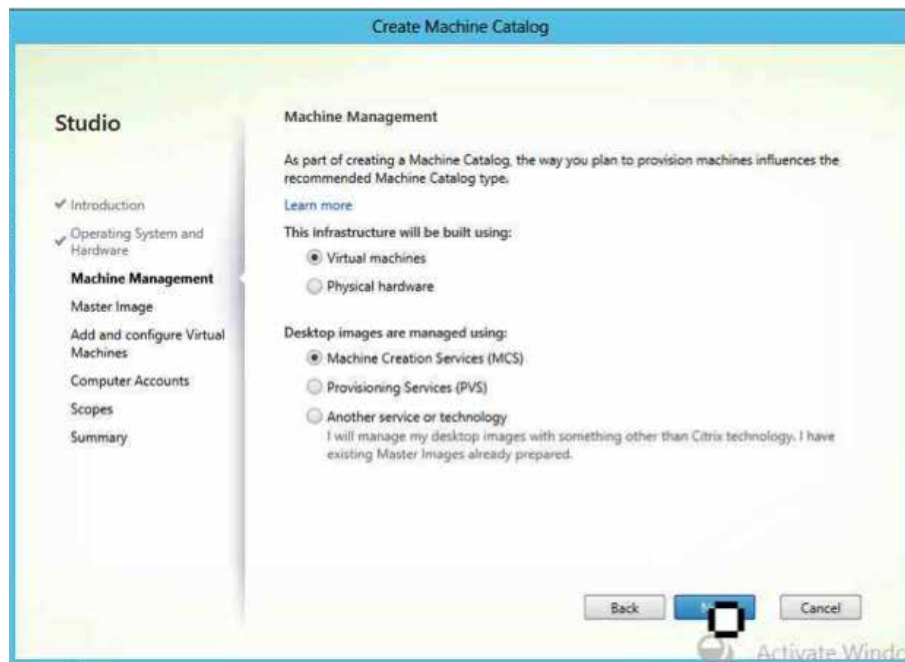


Click **Next** on the welcome screen.

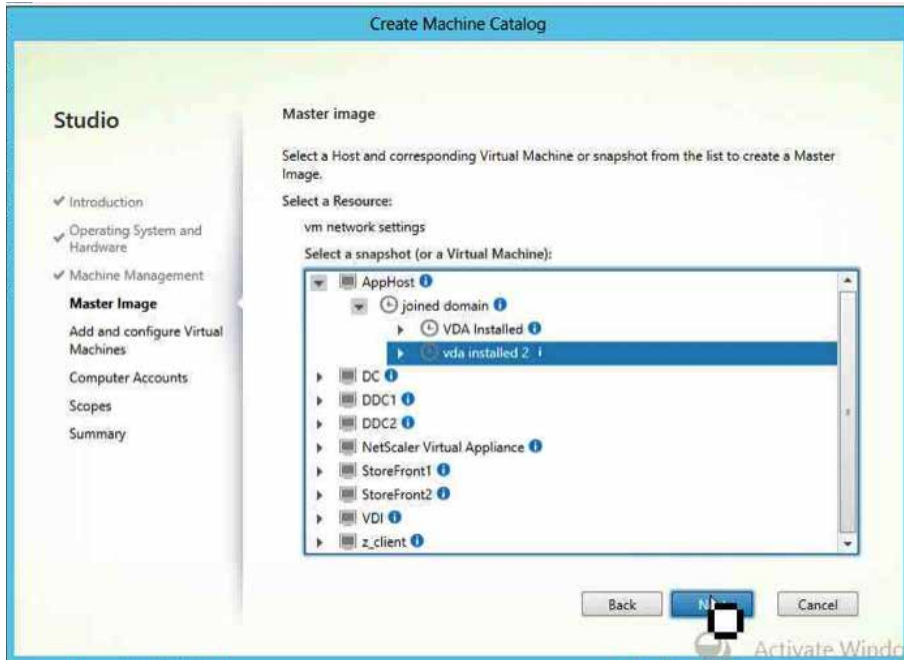
Select the type of deployment. This will be a Windows Server OS catalog for hosting applications on RDS and hosted shared desktops.



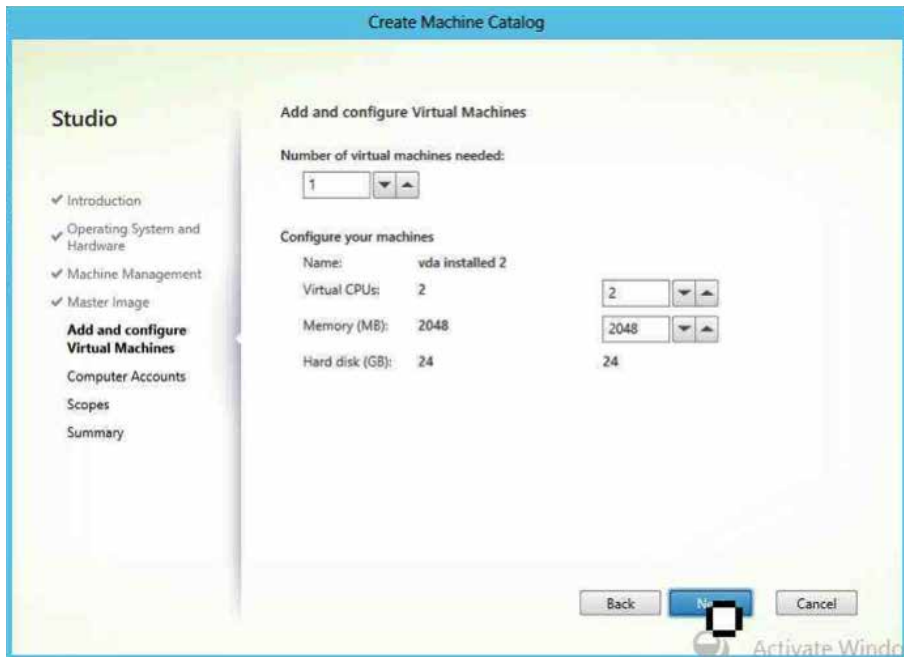
Select **virtual machines** (VMs) or **physical hardware** and the image management you want to use. In this case we are managing virtual machines with MCS.



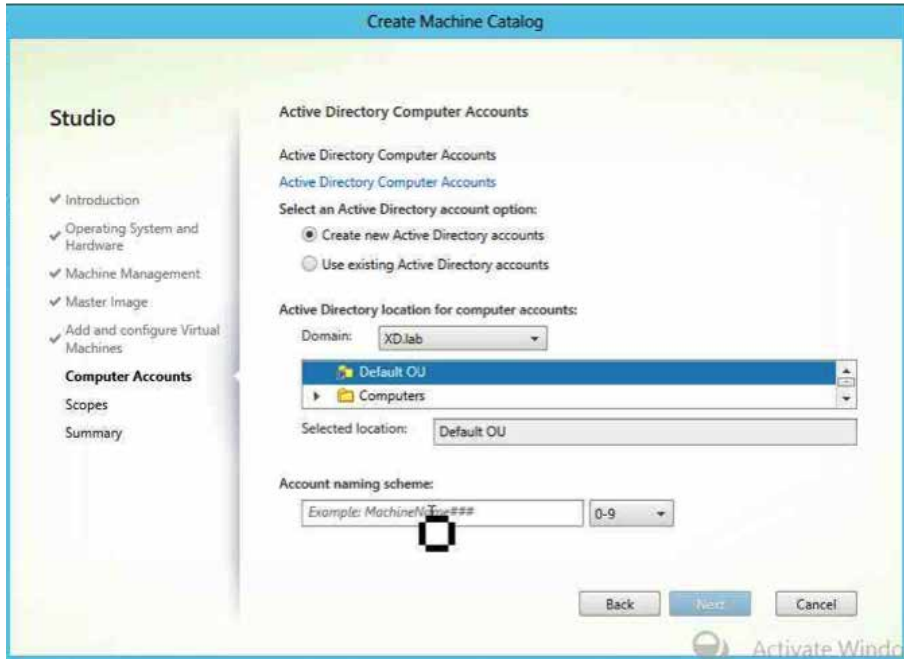
Select the snapshot of the master image to be used for image creation.



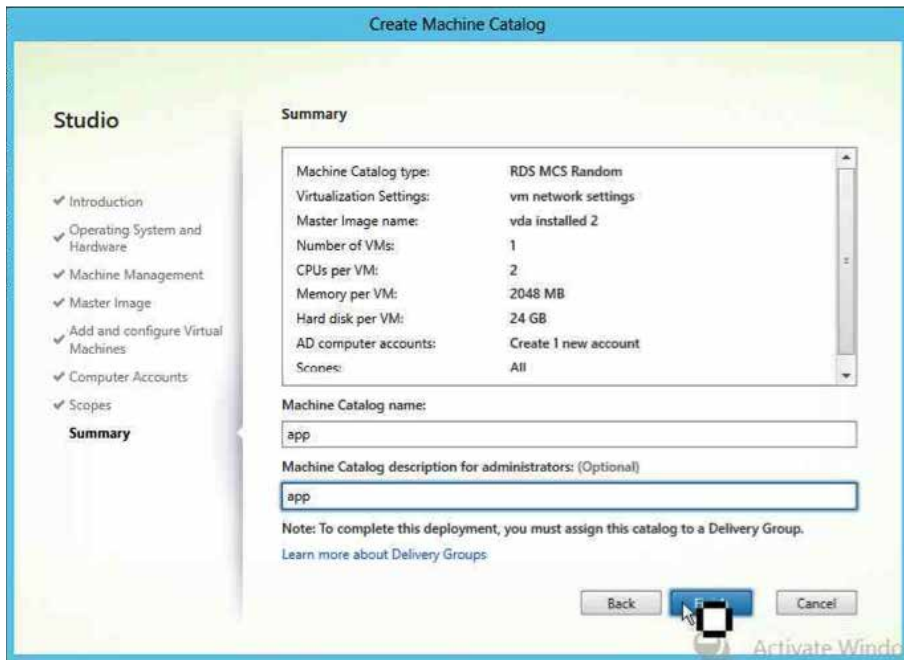
Select machine parameters for created VMs.



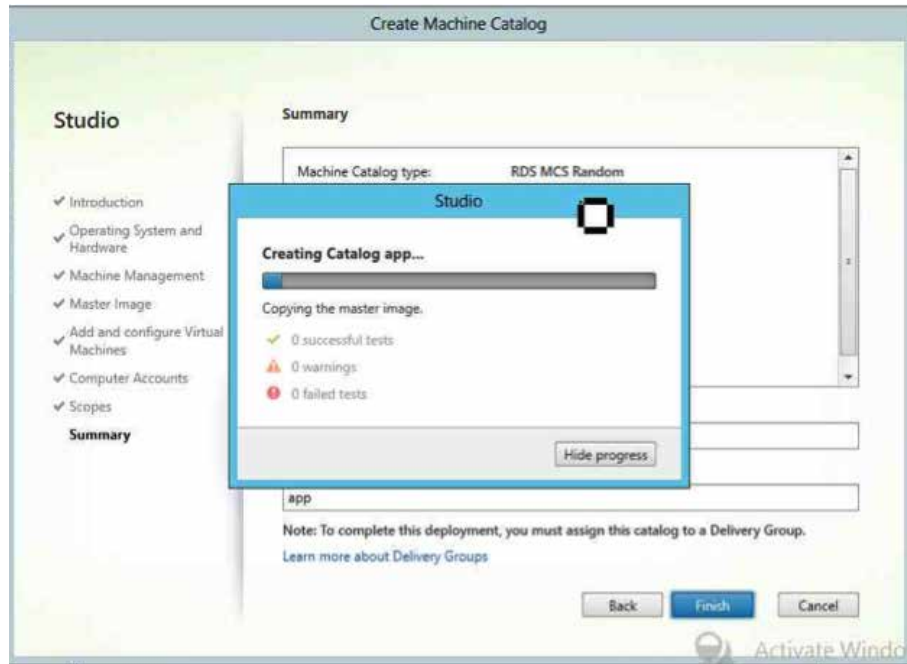
Specify the naming scheme and organizational unit (OU) for Active Directory accounts.



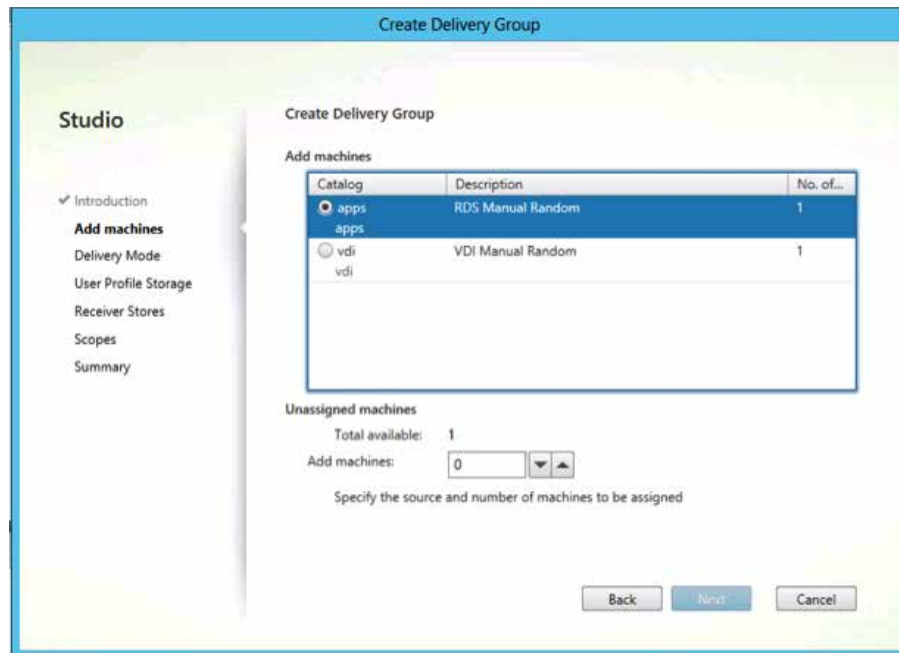
Add a scope if necessary. No scope was defined for machine catalogs in this deployment. Name the catalog and review the settings.



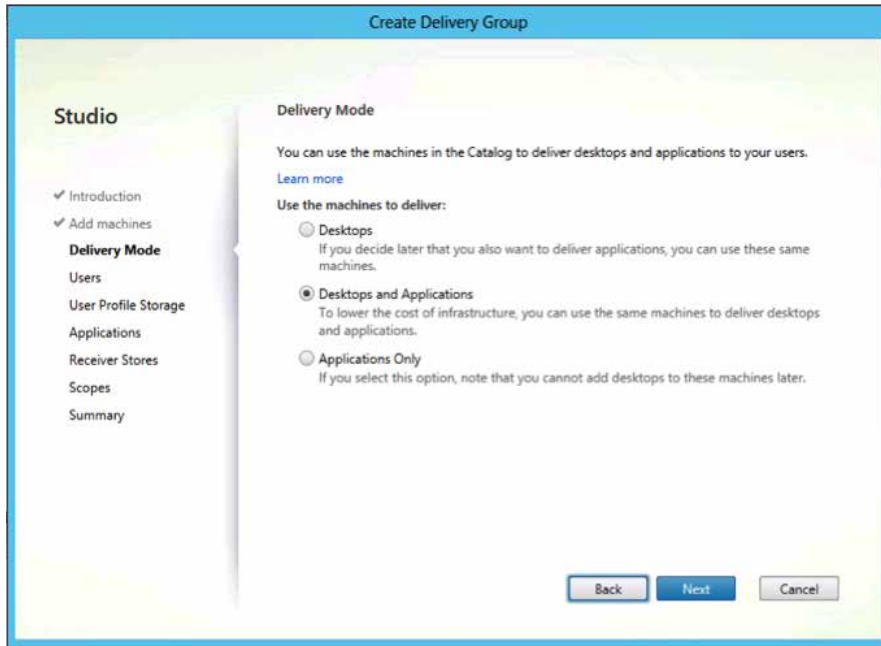
Studio will begin creating the machine catalog, and this will take a while.



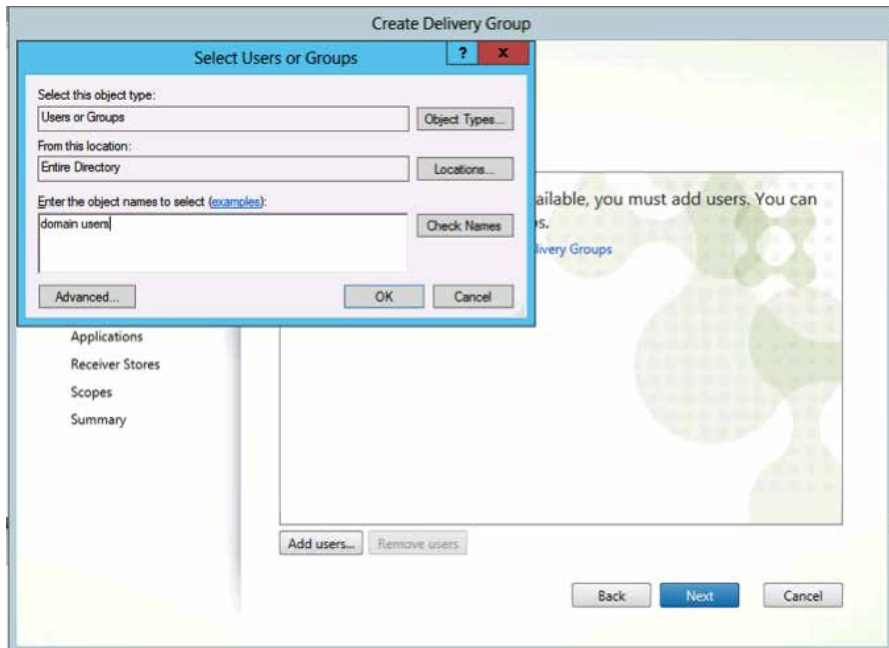
3.5 Create XenDesktop delivery groups



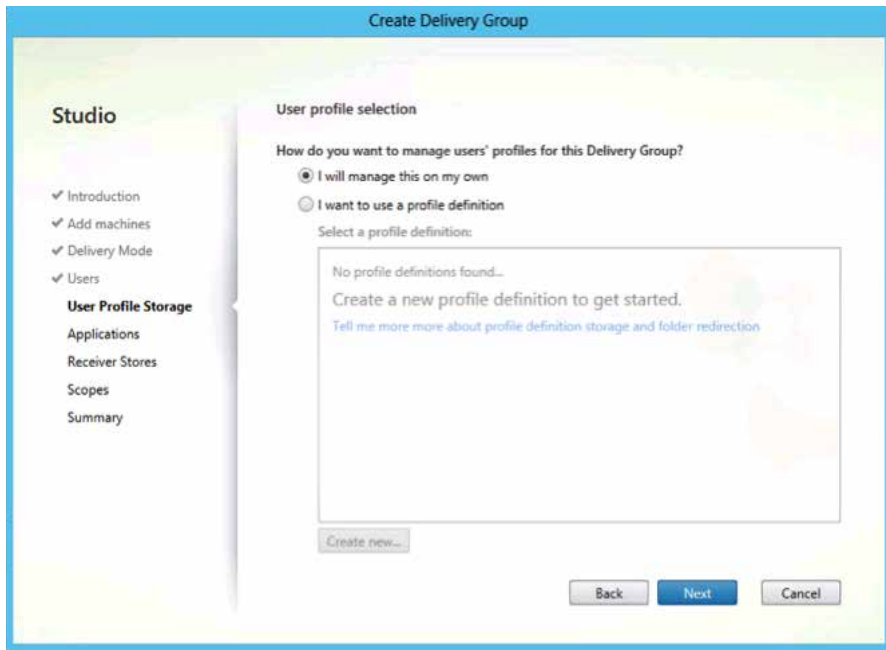
Add some machines and click **Next**.



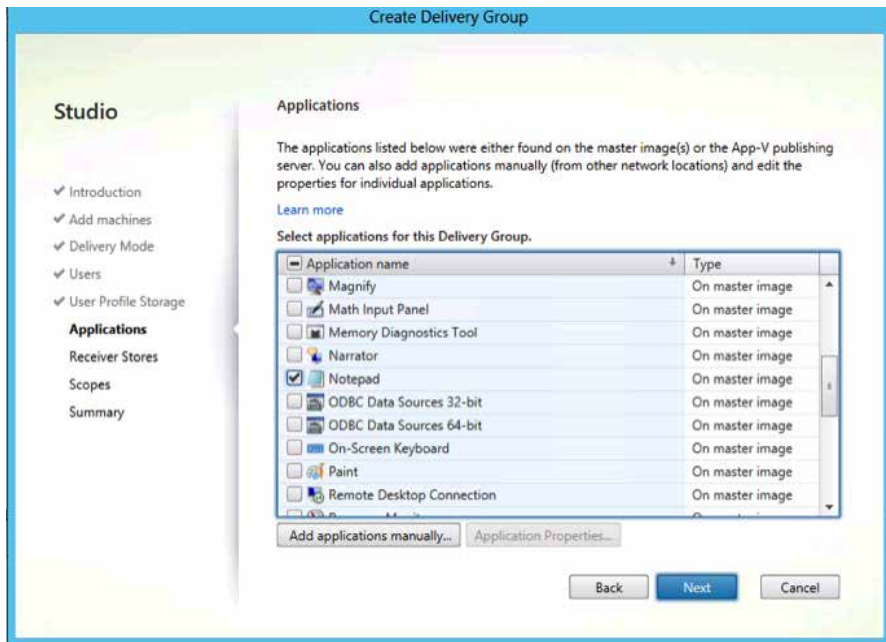
Add users.



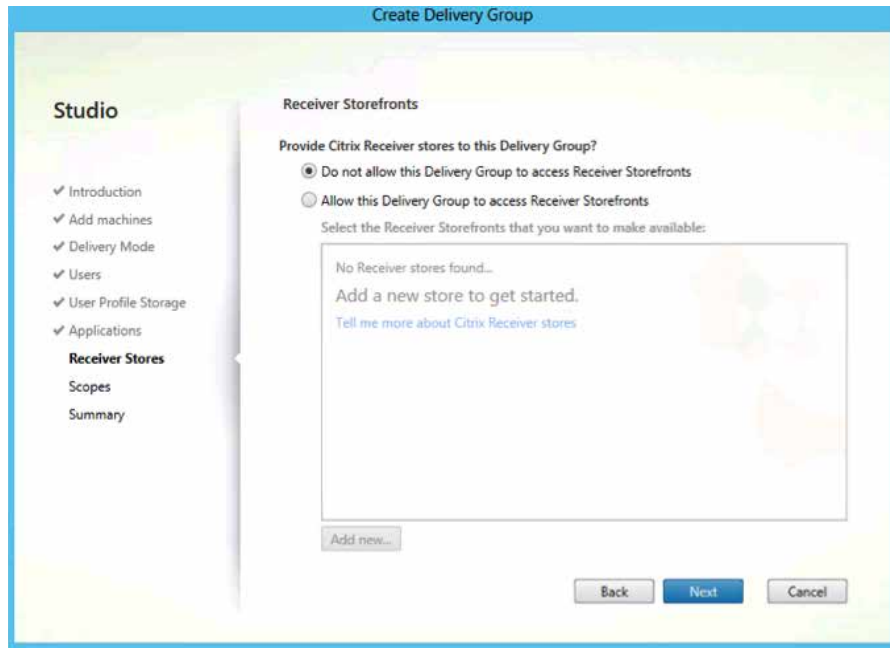
Create profile definitions.



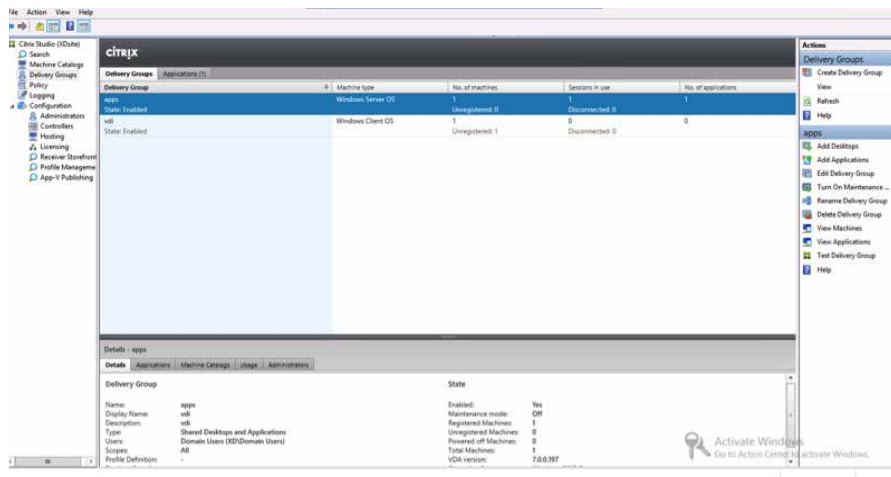
Add applications.



Add StoreFront access for application access within hosted shared desktops.



Repeat as necessary for all delivery groups.



At this point, XenDesktop and apps and desktops are configured. In the next section you'll install StoreFront to test the configuration.



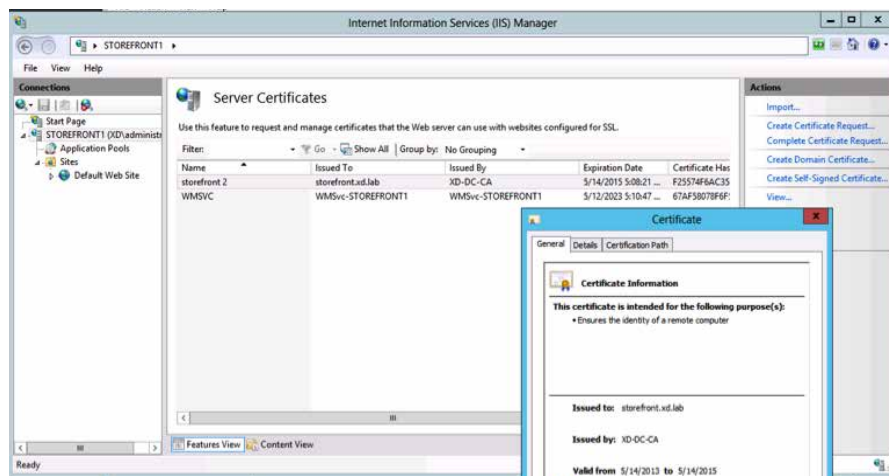
3.6 StoreFront configuration

Once StoreFront is installed, you must switch IIS to HTTPS before configuring StoreFront.

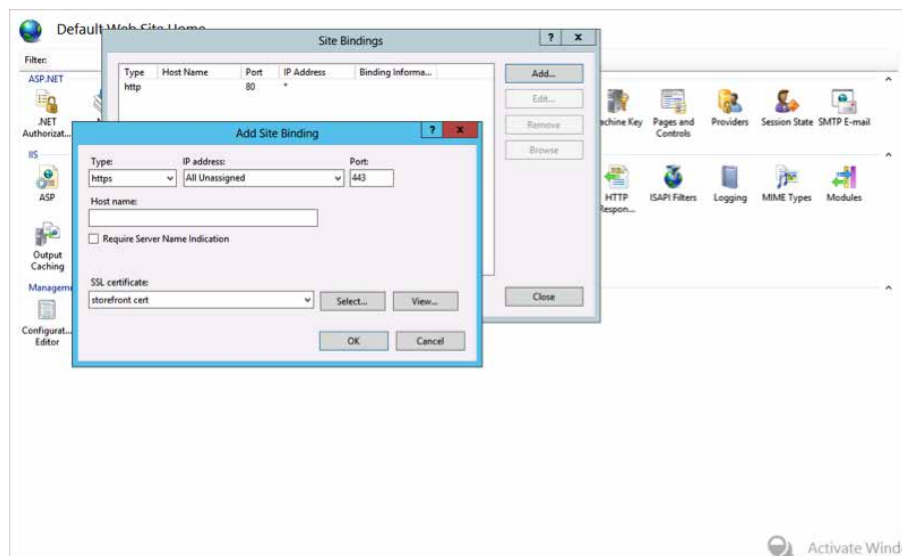
Go to IIS -> server certificates.

We will be using a domain certificate from the domain CA.

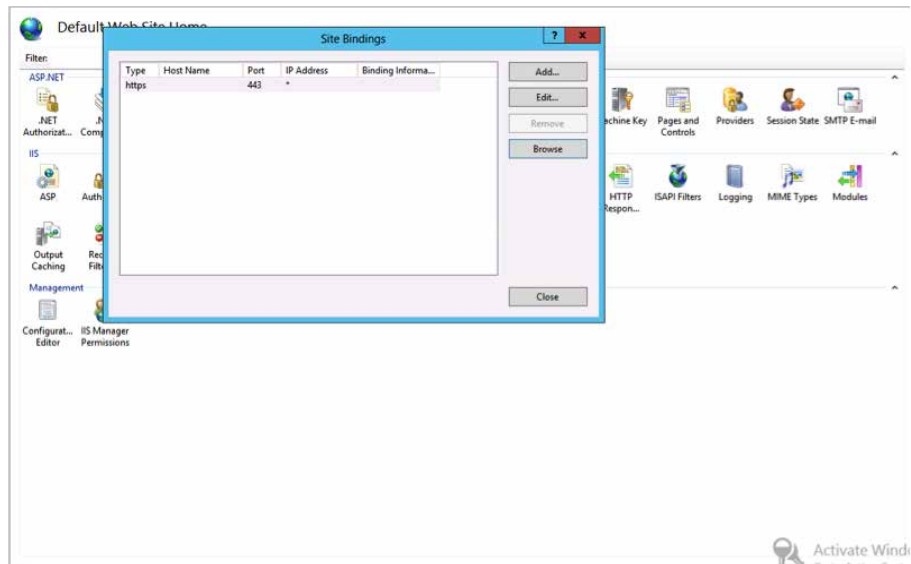
Import or create a web certificate for the URL that the clients will be using to access the environment. This certificate can be for the machine name. The URL that users will enter to access the environment will point to the load balancing server, so that server requires a matching certificate.



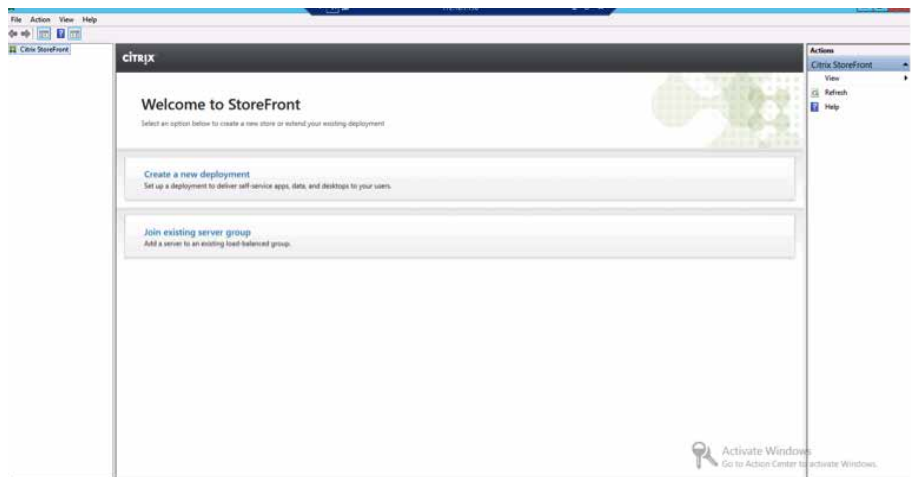
Edit the site bindings and add an HTTPS binding using the certificate just added to IIS.



Remove the HTTPS binding.

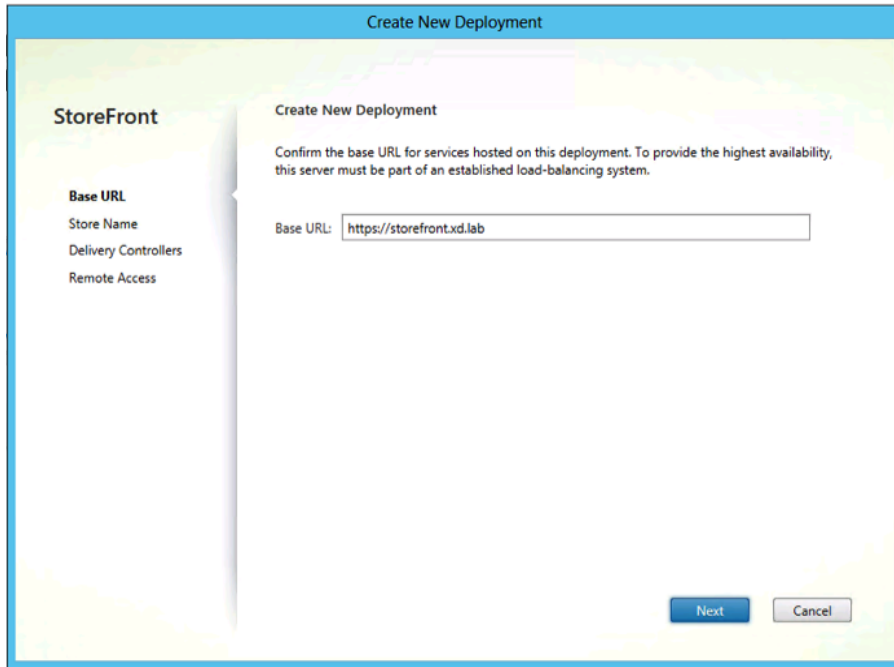


Launch StoreFront MMC.

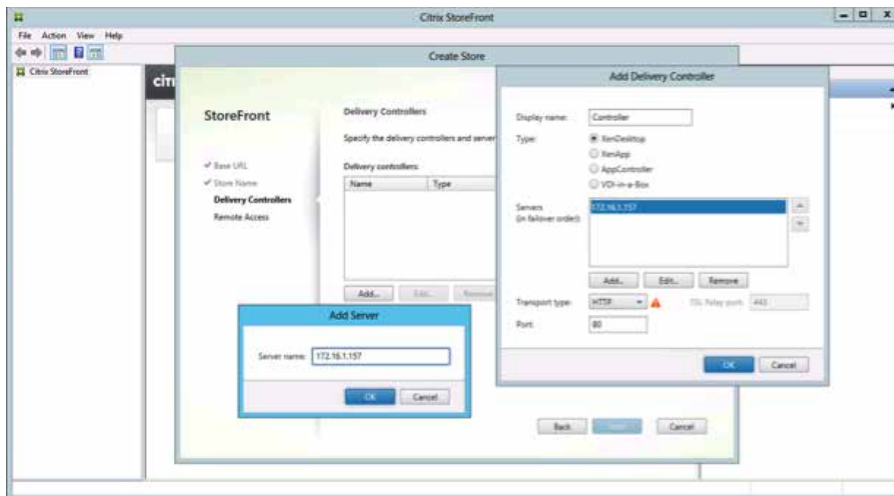


Select **Create New Deployment**.

The Create New Deployment wizard will launch with HTTPS and the common name of the certificate as the base URL. This is the URL that users will enter to access the environment, and will eventually resolve to the Access Gateway IP address.

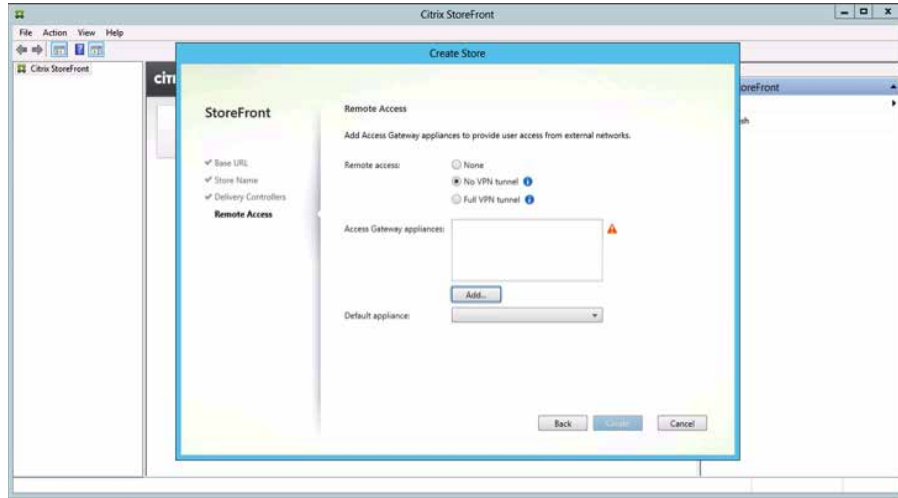


Name the store and click **Next**. Enter the delivery controllers. In this case, we want to load balance the delivery controllers with NetScaler, so each delivery controller entered here will be the load balancing vServer VIP, not the actual DDCs. Even if you have not configured load balancing yet, as we don't, put in the IP of whatever the load balancing VIP will be when it is set up.

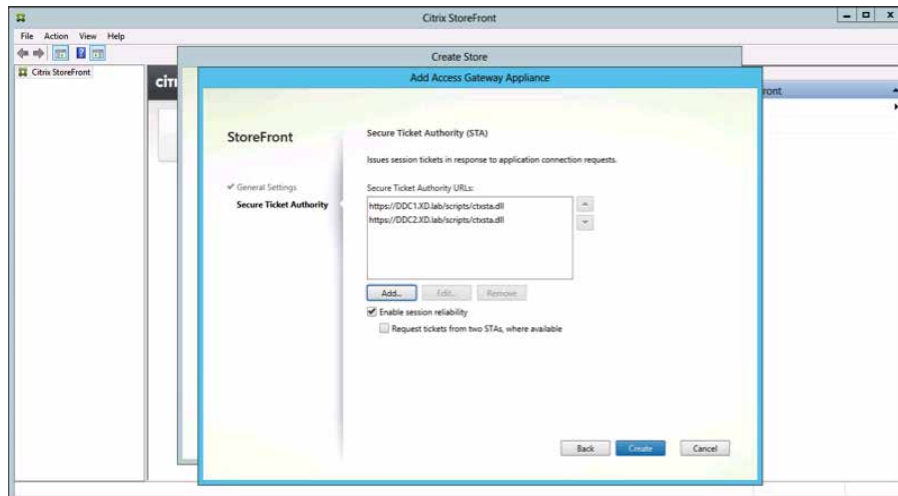


Access to the store typically does not need to be on SSL because it is completely internal traffic; however, SSL can be used if the DDCs and the load balancing vServer have certificates.

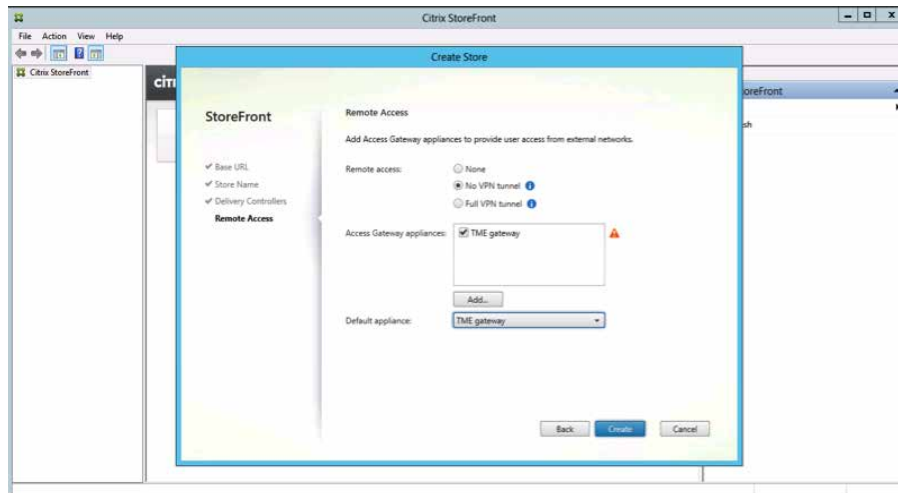
On the Remote Access page, select **No VPN tunnel** to specify the use of Access Gateway in ICA proxy mode. Click **Add**.



Add the two DDCs as Secure Ticket Authorities (STAs).



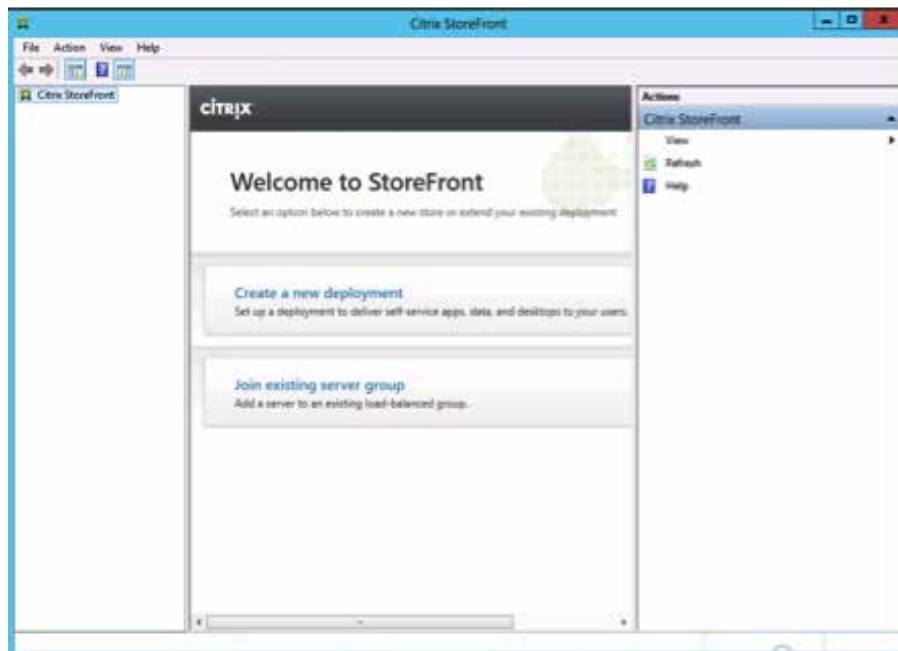
Click **Create** and Access Gateway will appear in the list of appliances.



Click **Create** and the store will be configured. The authentication, stores, Receiver for Web and Access Gateway should all be configured and visible from the StoreFront MMC.

3.7 Adding StoreFront servers to the deployment

To add servers to the existing StoreFront deployment, open the StoreFront MMC on the machine you wish to add and click **Join existing server group**.

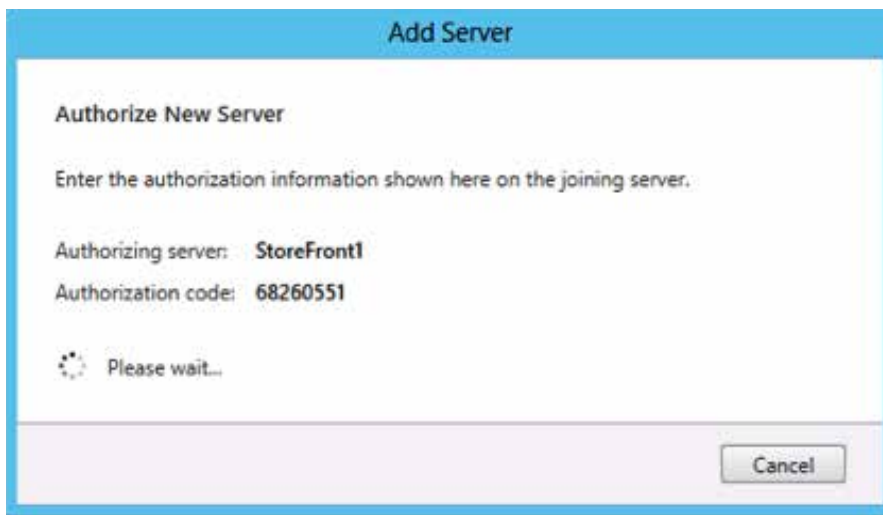


The server will ask for the name and code of an authorizing server.



The dialog box is titled "Join Server Group". It contains the following text: "Join Server Group", "To authorize this server, first connect to a server in the group and choose 'Add Server'. Enter the provided authorization information here.", "Authorizing server:" followed by a text input field, and "Authorization code:" followed by another text input field. At the bottom right, there are two buttons: "Join" and "Cancel".

A code for authorizing a new server will be generated. Enter this code on the server you want to join the deployment.



The dialog box is titled "Add Server". It contains the following text: "Authorize New Server", "Enter the authorization information shown here on the joining server.", "Authorizing server: StoreFront1", "Authorization code: 68260551", and a loading spinner icon followed by "Please wait...". At the bottom right, there is a "Cancel" button.

The server will join the deployment. Click **OK**.



Citrix NetScaler

4. NetScaler configuration

4.1 Initial configuration

Once NetScaler is licensed, run the setup wizard to configure the IP address that will be used for communication with internal servers.

The screenshot shows the 'Setup Wizard' window with the 'Network Config' step selected. The window title is 'Setup Wizard' and it includes the Citrix logo. Below the title bar, there is a 'Network Config' section with a description: 'System IP Address is the Management IP Address that is used for all management related access to the system. Mapped IP Address (MIP) and Subnet IP Address (SNIP) is used by the system to represent the client when communicating with a configured server. Default Gateway IP Address corresponds to the router that forwards traffic outside of the system subnet.' A sidebar on the left contains navigation options: 'Introduction', 'Network Config' (selected), 'Choose Application', and 'Summary'. The main area is divided into two sections: 'System Configuration' and 'MIP / SNIP Configuration'. The 'System Configuration' section has input fields for 'IP Address' (172.16.1.201), 'Netmask' (255.255.255.0), 'Gateway*' (172.16.1.200), and 'Host Name*'. The 'MIP / SNIP Configuration' section has a note: 'A MIP or SNIP is required to configure a virtual server.' It offers two radio button options: 'Mapped IP' (unselected) and 'Subnet IP' (selected). Below these are input fields for 'IP Address' (172.16.1.210) and 'Netmask' (255.255.255.0). At the bottom right, there are buttons for '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Close'.

In this deployment we've chosen to skip the configuration wizard for load balancing XenApp and XenDesktop and perform these configurations manually instead. Once the initial setup wizard is complete, go to Network/IPs and confirm that the SNIP is set correctly.

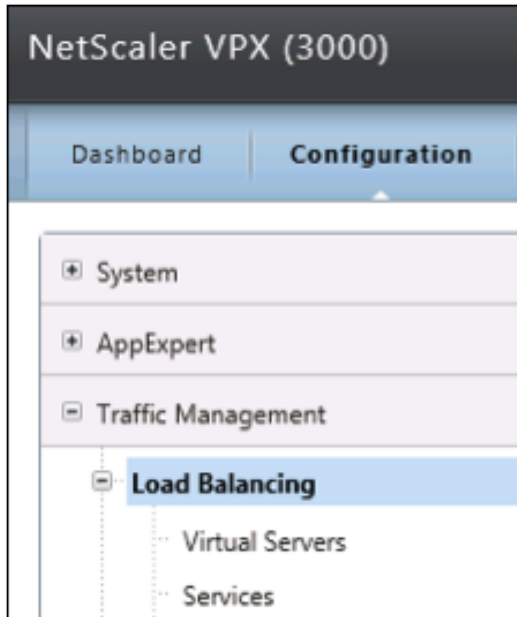
Go to system/settings and configure basic features.

The screenshot shows the 'Configure Basic Features' dialog box. It has a title bar with 'Configure Basic Features' and a close button. The main area contains a list of features with checkboxes: 'SSL Offloading' (checked), 'HTTP Compression' (unchecked), 'Load Balancing' (checked), 'Content Switching' (unchecked), 'Content Filter' (unchecked), 'Integrated Caching' (unchecked), 'Rewrite' (unchecked), 'Access Gateway' (checked), 'Authentication, Authorization and Auditing' (unchecked), and 'Application Firewall' (unchecked). At the bottom left, there is a 'Help' button with a question mark icon. At the bottom right, there are 'OK' and 'Close' buttons.

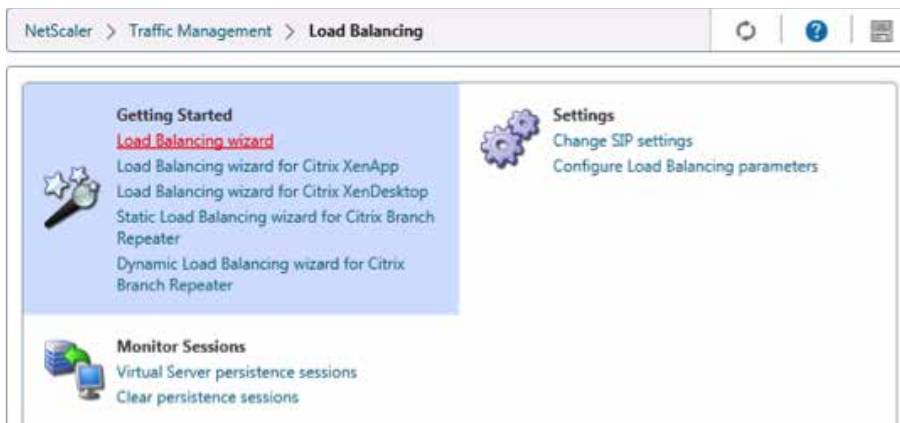


4.2 Load balancing StoreFront—wizard

From the navigation tree on the left, select **Traffic Management** and click on **Load Balancing**.



Click **Load Balancing wizard**.



Click **Next** on the **Introduction** screen.

Enter **SFService1** for the **Name** and click the **New** button.

Enter **SF1** for the server name, click **Domain Name** and enter **storefront1.xd.lab**. Then click **Create**.



Select **SSL** for the protocol.

New Service

Name* SFService1 Server* SF1 New...

Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

Add

Click the **Add** button to add in the first service.

LB Wizard

Create Services

Enter the Name, Server Name/IP address and Port of the service you wish to create and then click on Add. Repeat this process to create additional services before advancing to the next screen.

citrix

Introduction

Create Services

Create Virtual Server

Summary

New Service

Name* SFService1 Server* SF1 New...

Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

Add

Configured Services:

Name	IP Address	Port	Protocol	State
SFService1	192.168.10.19	443	SSL	UP

Remove

Enter **SFService2** for the name and click the **New** button.

New Service

Name* SFService2 Server* SF1 New...

Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

Add



Enter **SF2** for the server name, click **Domain Name** and enter **storefront2.xd.lab**. Then click **Create**.

Create Server [X]

Server Name*

IP Address Domain Name

Domain Name*

Translation IP Address

Translation Mask

Resolve Retry (secs)

IPv6 Domain

Enable after Creating

Comments

[Help](#) [Create](#) [Close](#)

Click the **Add** button to add in the second service.

New Service

Name* Server* [New...](#)

Protocol* Port* [Advanced...](#)

[Add](#)



Click **Next**.

NetScaler VPX (3000) Host Name: 192.168.10.2 Version: NS10.1: Build 106.4.nc, Date: Mar 27 2013, 02:02:23 User: nsroot Logout CITRIX

LB Wizard

Create Services
Enter the Name, Server Name/IP address and Port of the service you wish to create and then click on Add. Repeat this process to create additional services before advancing to the next screen.

Introduction
Create Services
 Create Virtual Server
 Summary

New Service
 Name* SFService2 Server* SF2 New...
 Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...
 Add

Configured Services: Remove

Name	IP Address	Port	Protocol	State
SFService1	192.168.10.19	443	SSL	UP
SFService2	192.168.10.20	443	SSL	UP

< Back Next > Close

Enter **StoreFrontLB** for the name and **172.16.1.156** for the IP address. Select **SSL** for the protocol.

Name* SFVirtualServer IP Address* 192.168.10.60 IPv6
 Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

Select both services and click **Add**.

Name* SFVirtualServer IP Address* 192.168.10.60 IPv6
 Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

LB Method: Least Connection

Available Services:

Name	IP Address	Port
SFService1	192.168.10.19	443
SFService2	192.168.10.20	443

Weight: 1
 Add >
 < Remove

Configured Services:

Name	IP Address	Port	Weight
------	------------	------	--------

Certificate: Add... Upload...



Click **Next**.

NetScaler VPX (3000) Host Name: 192.168.10.2 Version: NS10.1: Build 106.4.nc, Date: Mar 27 2013, 02:02:23 User: nsroot Logout CITRIX

LB Wizard

Create Virtual Server
Enter the Name, IP address, Port and Protocol of the virtual server you wish to create. When you are done, select the appropriate load balancing Method you wish to use, then configure the services that the virtual server will distribute traffic across.

Introduction
Create Services
Create Virtual Server
Summary

Name* SFVirtualServer IP Address* 192.168.10.60 IPv6
Protocol* SSL Port* 443 Advanced...

LB Method: Least Connection

Available Services:

Name	IP Address	Port	Weight
			1

Add > < Remove

Configured Services:

Name	IP Address	Port	Weight
SFService2	192.168.10.20	443	1
SFService1	192.168.10.19	443	1

Certificate: Add... Upload...

< Back Next > Close

Click **Finish** to complete the wizard. Then click **Exit**.

LB Wizard

Summary
Configuration summary.

Introduction
Create Services
Create Virtual Server
Summary

You specified the following load balancing configuration settings :

Virtual Server : SFVirtualServer
IP Address : 192.168.10.60
Port : 443
Protocol : SSL
Method : Least Connection
Certificate :

To make any changes, click Back.
To complete the configuration, click Finish.

< Back Finish Close

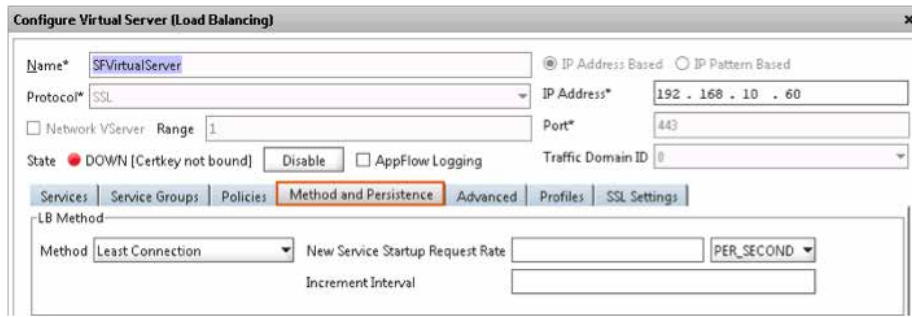
It is normal for the StoreFront virtual server to be in a down state at this point. We have created an SSL server but not added a certificate, causing the server to be in a down state. A certificate will be added next.



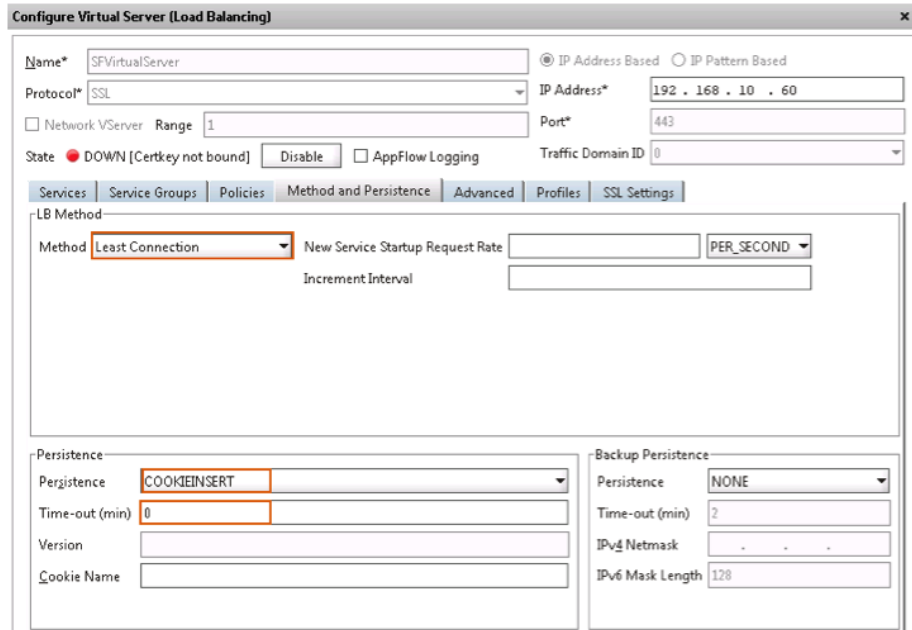
Under Load Balancing > Virtual Servers, double-click the new entry of **SFVirtualServer** that was created.



Click the **Method and Persistence** tab.



Ensure the method is set to **Least Connection**, persistence is set to **COOKIEINSERT** and time-out value is set to 0.



NOTE: This will result in fair-share load balancing between the two servers and ensure that open connections between clients persist to the same backend server. A time-out of 0 means that the session will only remain valid as long as the browser is open.

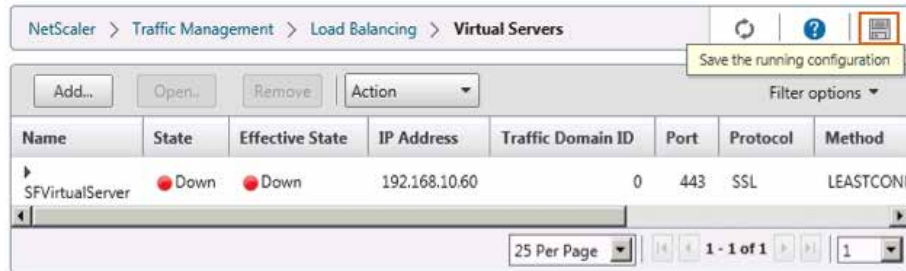


Click **OK**.



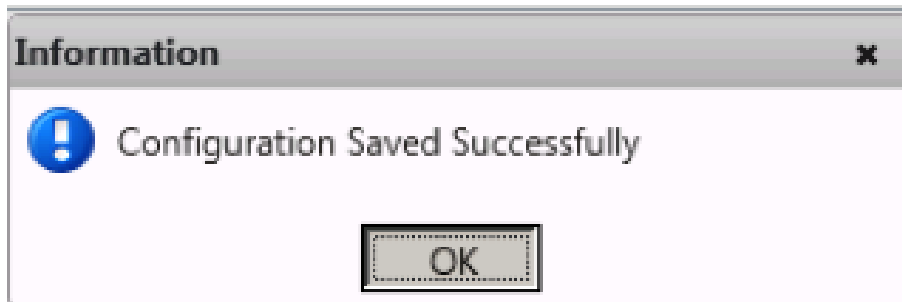
Comments

Click the **disk icon** towards the top right and then **Yes** to save the running state to disk.

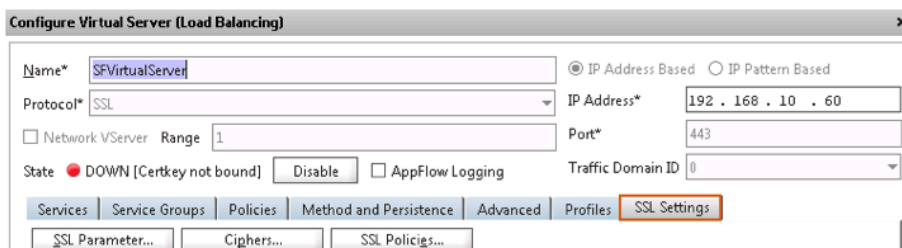


Name	State	Effective State	IP Address	Traffic Domain ID	Port	Protocol	Method
SFVirtualServer	Down	Down	192.168.10.60	0	443	SSL	LEASTCON

Click **OK** on the confirmation.



Click the **SSL Settings** tab.



Configure Virtual Server (Load Balancing)

Name* IP Address Based IP Pattern Based

Protocol* IP Address*

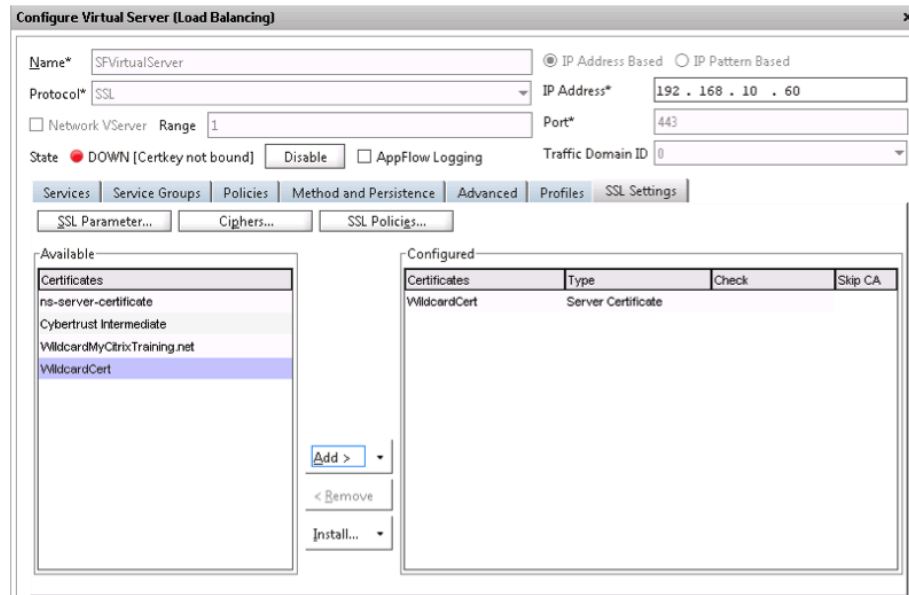
Network VServer Range Port*

State DOWN [Certkey not bound] AppFlow Logging Traffic Domain ID

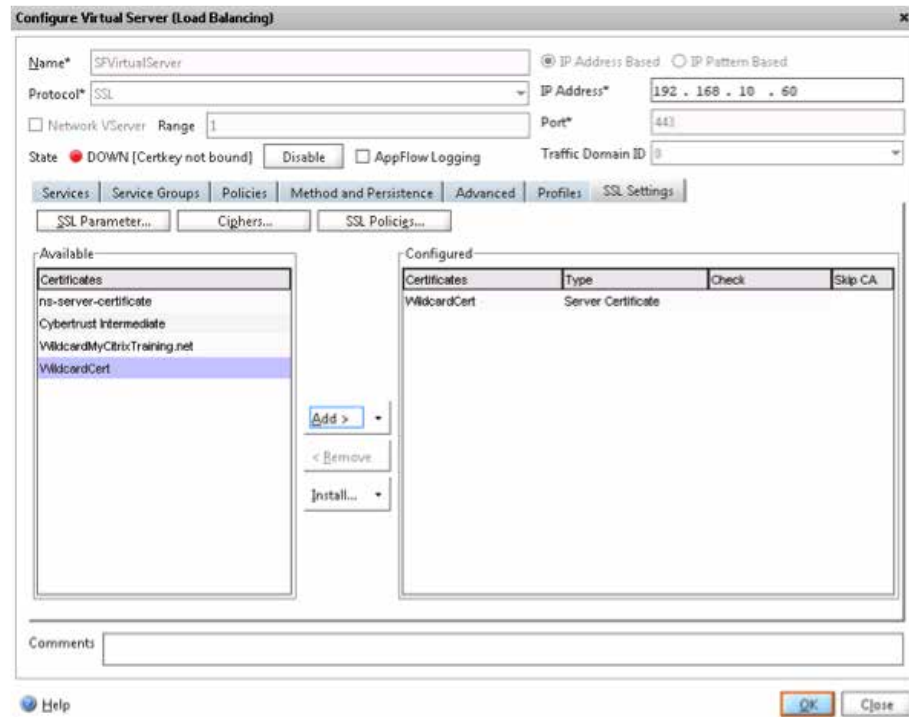
Services | Service Groups | Policies | Method and Persistence | Advanced | Profiles | **SSL Settings**



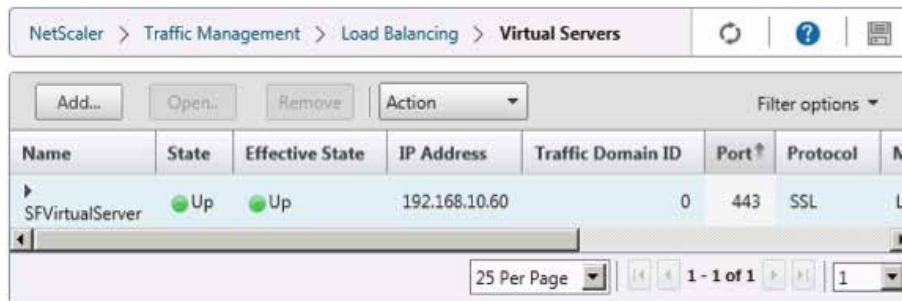
Click **WildcardCert** and click **Add**.



Click **OK**.



The **SFVirtualServer** should now show as Up.



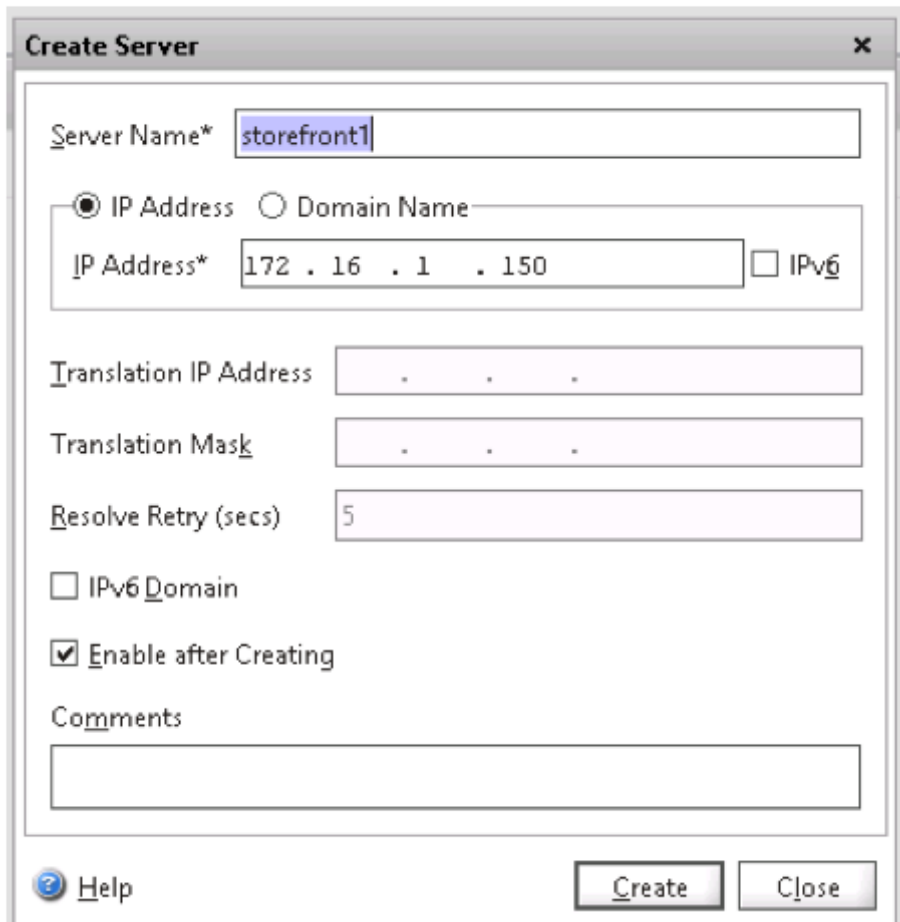
The screenshot shows the NetScaler management console interface. The breadcrumb navigation is: NetScaler > Traffic Management > Load Balancing > Virtual Servers. Below the navigation are buttons for 'Add...', 'Open...', 'Remove', and an 'Action' dropdown. A 'Filter options' dropdown is also present. The main table lists the virtual servers:

Name	State	Effective State	IP Address	Traffic Domain ID	Port	Protocol	...
SFVirtualServer	Up	Up	192.168.10.60	0	443	SSL	...

At the bottom of the table, there is a pagination control showing '25 Per Page' and '1 - 1 of 1'.

4.3 Load balancing StoreFront—manual setup

In this section we configure load balancing for the StoreFront servers. Go to load balancing/servers and click **Add** to add the two StoreFront servers.



The 'Create Server' dialog box is shown with the following fields and options:

- Server Name***: storefront1
- IP Address** (selected) / **Domain Name** (unselected)
- IP Address***: 172 . 16 . 1 . 150
- IPv6**:
- Translation IP Address**: . . .
- Translation Mask**: . . .
- Resolve Retry (secs)**: 5
- IPv6 Domain**:
- Enable after Creating**:
- Comments**: (empty text area)
- Buttons**: Help, Create, Close



Repeat for SF2.

Both servers should be enabled in the list of servers.

Name	State	IPAddress / Domain
storefront2	Enabled	172.16.1.151
storefront1	Enabled	172.16.1.150



Next create the SSL service on these servers. This will be the web traffic going to the StoreFront servers.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Service' dialog box for a service named 'SF1-SSL'. The 'Server' is set to 'storefront1 (172.16.1.150)'. The 'Protocol' is 'SSL' and the 'Port' is '443'. The 'Monitors' tab is selected, and the 'SSL Settings' sub-tab is active. In the 'Available' list, 'tcps-ecv' is selected. In the 'Configured' list, 'https' is listed with a weight of 1 and is checked. The 'Enable Service', 'Enable Health Monitoring', and 'AppFlow Logging' checkboxes are all checked. The 'Create' and 'Close' buttons are visible at the bottom right.

Monitors	Weight	State
https	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Repeat for SF2.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Service' dialog box for a service named 'SF2-SSL'. The 'Server' is set to 'storefront2 (172.16.1.151)'. The 'Protocol' is 'SSL' and the 'Port' is '443'. The 'Monitors' tab is selected, and the 'SSL Settings' sub-tab is active. In the 'Available' list, 'tcps-ecv' is selected. In the 'Configured' list, 'https' is listed with a weight of 1 and is checked. The 'Enable Service', 'Enable Health Monitoring', and 'AppFlow Logging' checkboxes are all checked. The 'Create' and 'Close' buttons are visible at the bottom right.

Monitors	Weight	State
https	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Verify that both services are up.

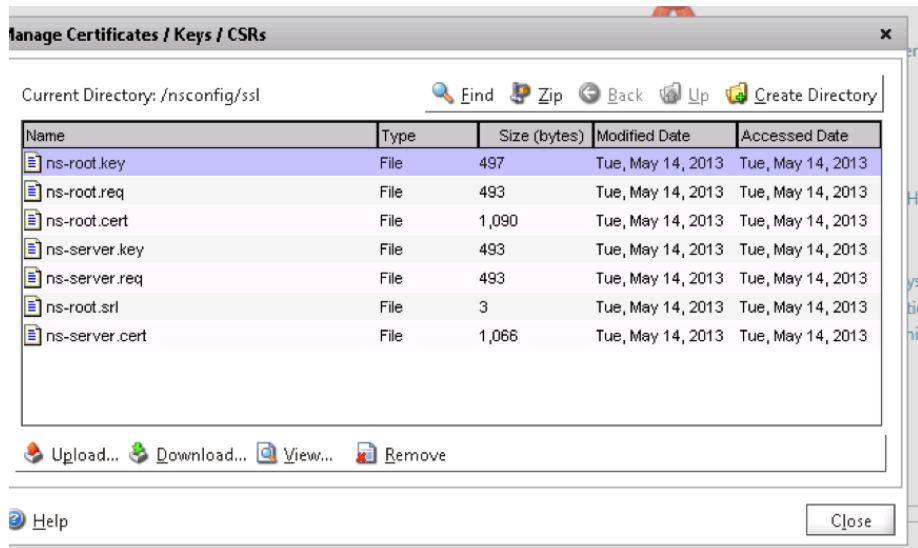
Name	State	IP Address/Domain Name	Port	Protocol	Max Cl
SF2-SSL	Up	172.16.1.151	443	SSL	
SF1-SSL	Up	172.16.1.150	443	SSL	

A load balancing virtual server can now be created to balance the two services created previously. This server must be an SSL server to load balance SSL services, meaning that it requires a certificate. Navigate to SSL certificates and import the certificate used for the Access Gateway URL.

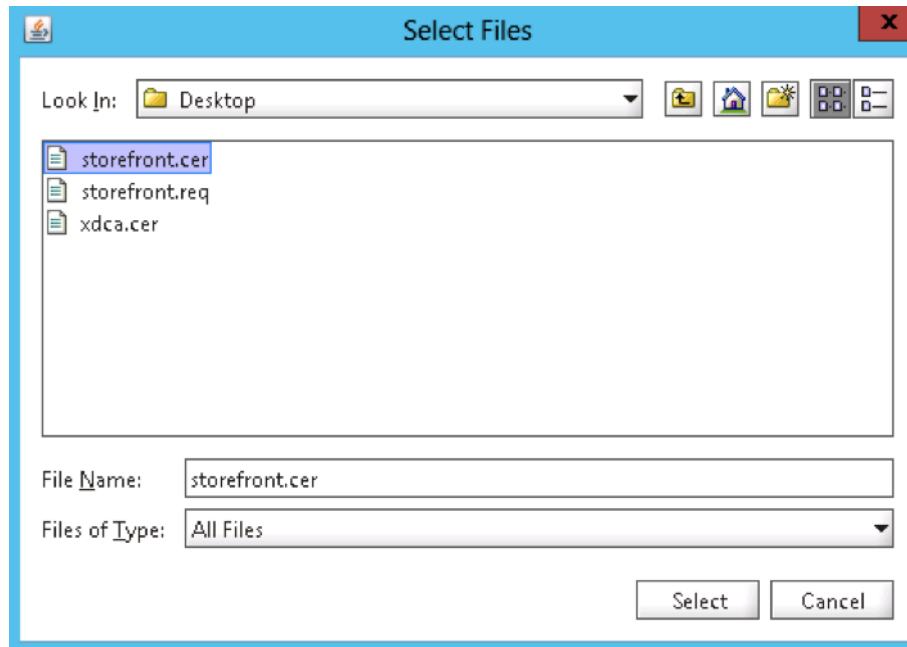
Click on **Manage Certificates/Keys/CSRs** under SSL/Tools



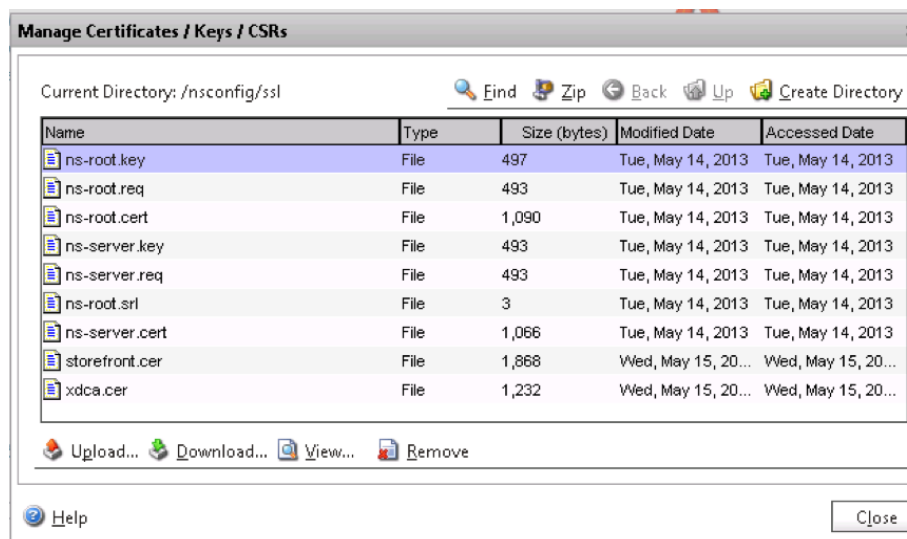
Select upload.



Upload the StoreFront certificate and any associated intermediate or root certificates.



In this case, the StoreFront certificate and the CA root certificate have been uploaded.



Navigate to **ssl/certificates** and click **Install**. Select the certificate for StoreFront.

Install Certificate

Certificate-Key Pair Name* storefront-NS

Details

Certificate and key files are stored in the folder /nsconfig/ssl/ on appliance.

Certificate File Name* /nsconfig/ssl/storefront.cer Browse (Appliance) Insert...

Private Key File Name Browse (Appliance) Insert...

Password

Certificate Format PEM DER

Certificate Bundle

Notify When Expires Enable Disable

Notification Period

Help Install Close

Repeat for intermediate and root certificates.

Name	
▶ ns-server-certificate	
▼ storefront-NS	
Certificate File Name	/nsconfig/ssl/storefront.cer
Expiry Monitor	DISABLED
▼ CA-root	
Certificate File Name	/nsconfig/ssl/xdca.cer
Expiry Monitor	DISABLED

Next select the **StoreFront certificate** and click **Link**. The root CA will be the only option for linking in this case. Click **OK**.

Link Server Certificate(s)

CA Certificate Name CA-root

Help OK Close



The certificate will now be available for use on the load balancing virtual server and Access Gateway.

Go to load balancing/virtual servers and click **Add**.

Switch the protocol to SSL and enter the IP address that the virtual server will use. This is the IP address that was entered into the StoreFront configuration as the hostname. Select both StoreFront services.

Configure Virtual Server (Load Balancing)

Name* Storefront-SSL IP Address Based IP Pattern Based

Protocol* SSL IP Address* 172 . 16 . 1 . 156

Network VServer Range 1 Port* 443

State UP Disable AppFlow Logging

Services: Service Groups Policies Method and Persistence Advanced Profiles SSL Settings

[Activate All](#) [Deactivate All](#) Find

Active	Service Name	IP Address	Port	Protocol	State	Weight	Dynamic Weight
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SF1-SSL	172.16.1.150	443	SSL	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UP	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SF2-SSL	172.16.1.151	443	SSL	<input checked="" type="radio"/> UP	1	0

Persistence Cookie Value: NSC_Tupsfjgypou-TTM=ffffffaf181f8745525d5f4f5845e445a4a42378b

Comments

Help



Change to the method and persistence tab and specify COOKIEINSERT persistence with a SOURCEIP backup.

Configure Virtual Server (Load Balancing)

Name* IP Address Based IP Pattern Based

Protocol* IP Address*

Network VServer Range Port*

State UP AppFlow Logging

Services | Service Groups | Policies | **Method and Persistence** | Advanced | Profiles | SSL Settings

LB Method

Method New Service Startup Request Rate PER_SECOND

Increment Interval

Current Method: Round Robin
Reason: Bound service's state changed to UP

Persistence

Persistence

Time-out (min)

Version

Backup Persistence

Persistence

Time-out (min)

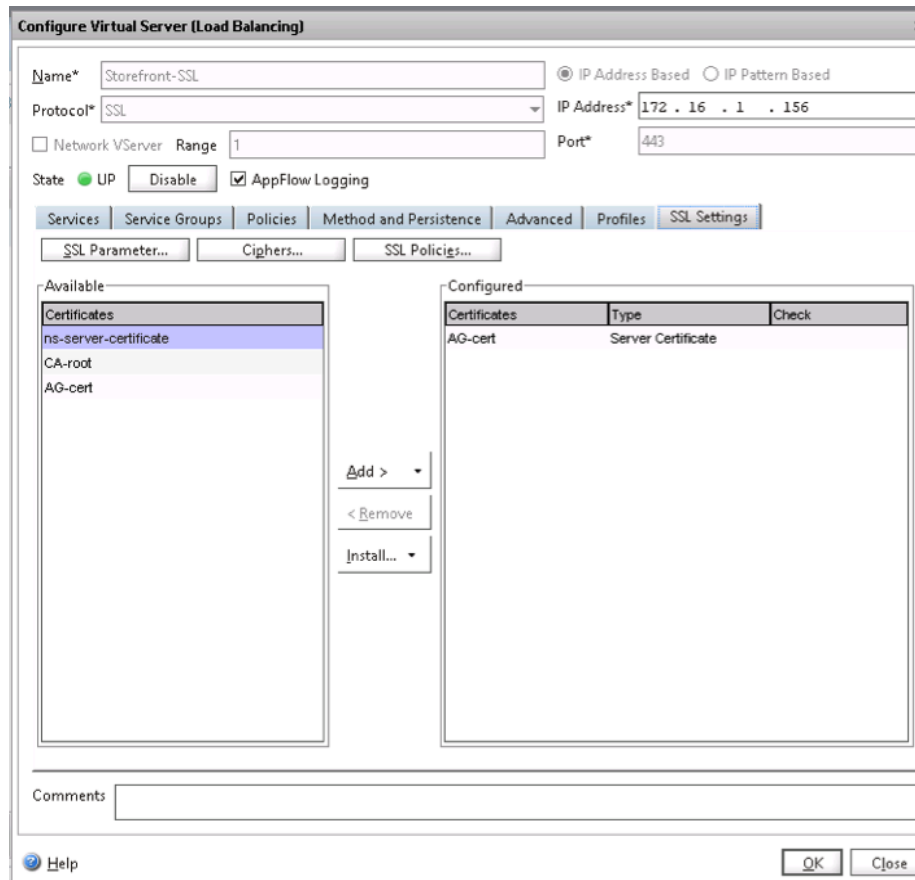
IPv4 Netmask

IPv6 Mask Length

Comments



Finally, under SSL settings, add the certificate for the server.



Verify that the server state is shown as **Up**.



4.4 Load balance DDCs

Next we need to configure load balancing for the DDCs. Go back to load balancing servers and add the first DDC server.

Configure Server ✕

Server Name*

IP Address Domain Name

IP Address* IPv6

Translation IP Address

Translation Mask

Resolve Retry (secs)

Resolve Domain Immediately

Comments

Help



Repeat for DDC 2.

Configure Server [X]

Server Name*

IP Address Domain Name

IP Address* IPv6

Translation IP Address

Translation Mask

Resolve Retry (secs)

Resolve Domain Immediately

Comments

Help



Next, create the services for XML traffic on the DDCs. In this deployment the XML service was left on port 80, the default. If the port was changed by the broker service, reflect that in the services created here.

Configure Service

Service Name* Server*

Protocol* Port*

Service State: UP Enable Health Monitoring AppFlow Logging

Monitors | Policies | Profiles | Advanced | SSL Settings

Available Monitors:

- arp
- nd6
- ping
- http
- tcp-ecv
- http-ecv
- udp-ecv
- dns
- ftp
- tcps

Configured Monitors:

Monitors	Weight	State
tcp	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

State: UP
Probes: 51 Failed [Total: 0 Current: 0]
Last Response: Success - TCP syn+ack received.
Response Time: 0.0 millisecond

Comments

Repeat for DDC 2.

Create Service

Service Name* Server*

Protocol* Port*

Enable Service Enable Health Monitoring AppFlow Logging

Monitors | Policies | Profiles | Advanced | SSL Settings

Available Monitors:

- arp
- nd6
- ping
- http
- tcp-ecv
- http-ecv
- udp-ecv
- dns
- ftp
- tcps

Configured Monitors:

Monitors	Weight	State
tcp	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Comments



Now, create the load balancing virtual server for the XML service. This is the IP address that was entered for the delivery controller in the StoreFront configuration.

Create Virtual Server (Load Balancing)

Name* IP Address Based IP Pattern Based

Protocol* IP Address* IPv6

Network VServer Range Port*

Directly Addressable State AppFlow Logging

Services | Service Groups | Policies | Method and Persistence | Advanced | Profiles | SSL Settings

[Activate All](#) [Deactivate All](#)

Active	Service Name	IP Address	Port	Protocol	State	Weight	Dynamic Weight
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DDC 1 XML	172.16.1.152	80	TCP	UP	1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DDC 2 XML	172.16.1.153	80	TCP	UP	1	

Comments

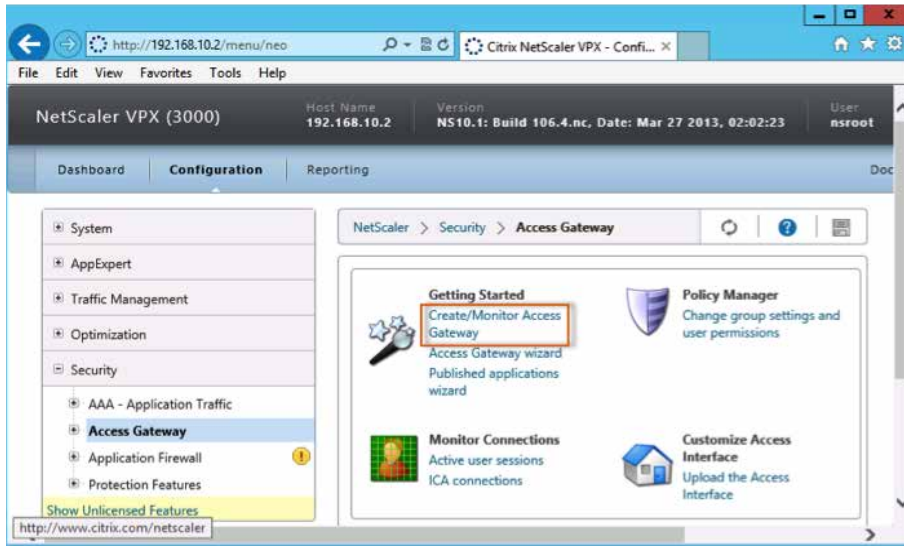
Note: Persistence isn't required for the DDC XML service.



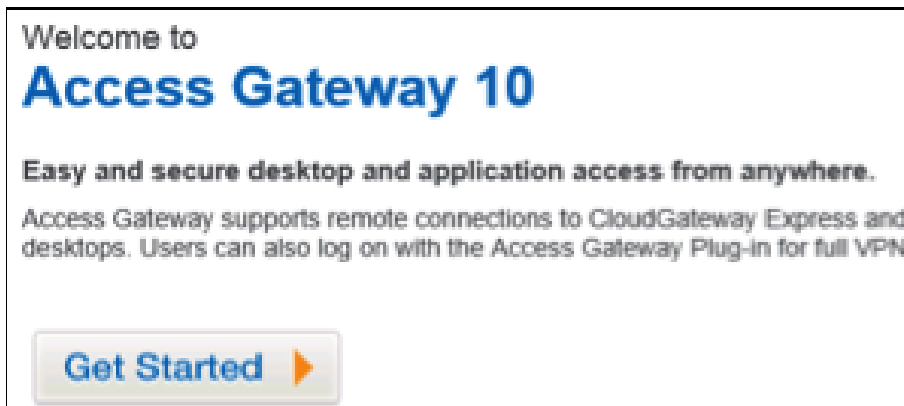
4.5 Remote access with NetScaler Access Gateway – wizard

Log into the NetScaler GUI.

Expand Security and click **Access Gateway**. Click **Create/Monitor Access Gateway**.



Click the **Get Started** button.



Enter **RemoteAccess** for the Name.

IP Address: <<**Public IP for access**>>

Click **Redirect requests from port 80 to secure port**.

Then click **Continue**.

Access Gateway Settings

Name: RemoteAccess

IP Address: 184 . 172 . 40 . 243

Port: 443

Redirect requests from port 80 to secure port*

Continue Cancel

From the Certificate drop-down menu, select **the public CA certificate for the NetScaler Access Gateway** and click **Continue**.

Access Gateway Settings Edit

Name	IP Address	Port	Redirect requests from port 80 to secure port
RemoteAccess	184.172.40.243	443	Yes

Certificate

Choose Certificate Install Certificate Use Test Certificate

Certificate: WildcardMyCitrixTraining.net

Continue Cancel

NOTE: This certificate needs to be issued from a public CA and must be previously installed on the NetScaler appliance.



Next is authentication. If you have previously configured LDAP authentication on NetScaler, select the available authentication and skip to the next step.

Under **Authentication Settings**, click the button for **Configure New** and enter the following details:

IP Address: **172.16.1.200**

Base DN: **cn=Users, dc=xd, dc=lab**

Admin Base DN: **cn=Administrator, cn=Users, dc=xd, dc=lab**

Password/Confirm Password: **Password1**

Click **Continue**.

The screenshot shows the 'Authentication Settings' configuration page for a certificate named 'WildcardMyCitrixTraining.net'. The 'Primary Authentication' is set to 'LDAP'. The 'Configure New' tab is selected. The configuration fields are as follows:

Field	Value
Primary Authentication*	LDAP
Choose LDAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Configure New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IP Address*	192 . 168 . 10 . 11 <input type="checkbox"/> IPv6
Port*	389
Time out (seconds)*	3
Base DN*	cn=Users, dc=training, dc=lab
Admin Base DN*	cn=Administrator, cn=Users, dc=training, dc=lab
Server Logon Name Attribute*	sAMAccountName
Password*
Confirm Password*
Secondary Authentication*	None

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Continue' and 'Cancel'.



Enter the following details for **Citrix Integration Settings**:

CloudGateway

Deployment Type: **Windows Storefront**

StoreFront FQDN: **storefront.xd.lab (FQDN of storefront load balancer)**

Receiver for Web Path: **/Citrix/StoreWeb** (url of receiver for web)

PNAgent Path: **/Citrix/PNAgent/config.xml**

Single Sign-on Domain: **xd.lab**

STA URL: **http://ddc1.training.lab**

Click **Done**.

Citrix Integration Settings

CloudGateway **Web Interface**

Deployment Type* Windows Storefront ▼

StoreFront FQDN* connect.training.lab

Use HTTPS

Receiver for Web Path* /Citrix/CorporateStoreWeb

PNAgent Path /Citrix/PNAgent/config.xml

Single Sign-on Domain* training.lab

STA URL* https://dc1.training.lab

Done **Cancel**



Under **Configuration**, go to **Security > Access Gateway > Virtual Servers**.



Double-click the **RemoteAccess** entry.

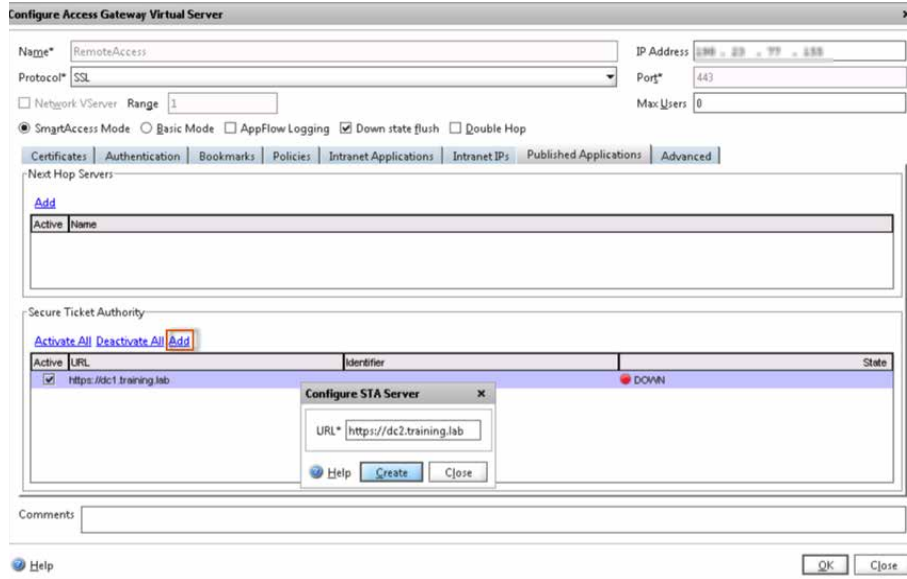
The screenshot shows the configuration page for 'Access Gateway Virtual Servers'. At the top, there are navigation breadcrumbs: 'NetScaler > Security > Access Gateway > Access Gateway Virtual Servers'. Below the breadcrumbs are buttons for 'Add...', 'Open...', 'Remove', and an 'Action' dropdown. To the right is a 'Filter options' dropdown. Below these is a table with the following data:

Name	State	IP Address	Port	Protocol	Maximum Users	Current Users
RemoteAccess	Up	104.172.40.242	443	SSL	0	0

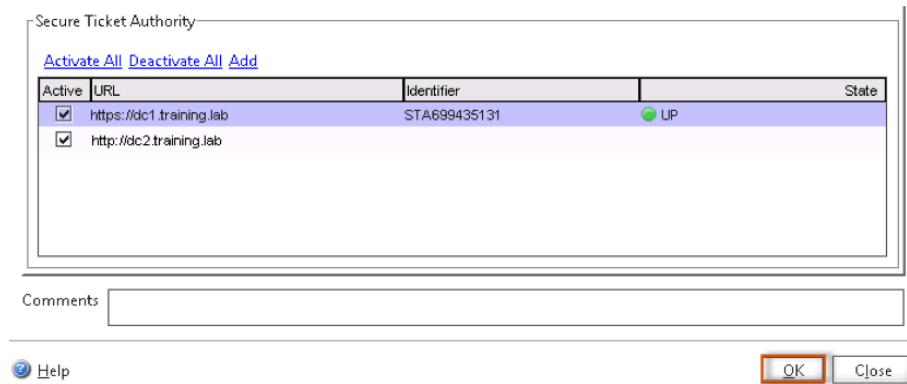
At the bottom of the table, there is a pagination control showing '25 Per Page', '1 - 1 of 1', and a page number '1'.



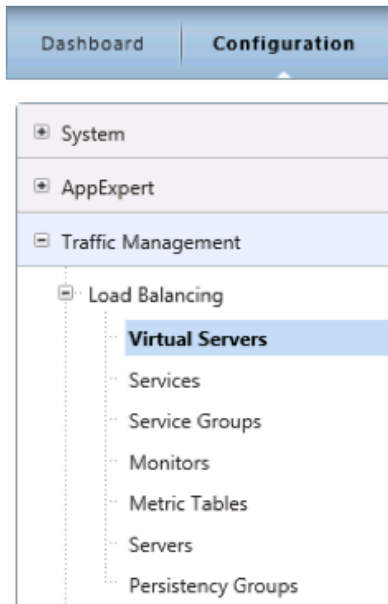
Under **Published Applications** tab, click **Add** under Secure Ticket Authority. Type in **http://ddc2.training.lab** and click **Create**.



Click **OK**.



Go to **Traffic Management > Load Balancing > Virtual Servers**.



Double-click the entry with the name that contains **http_redirect**. This was created as part of the wizard.

NetScaler > Traffic Management > Load Balancing > Virtual Servers

Buttons: Add... Open... Remove Action Filter options

Name	State	Effective State	IP Address	Traffic Domain ID	Port	Protocol
SFVirtualServer	Up	Up	192.168.10.60	0	443	SSL
TFTP_vserver	Up	Up	172.16.0.6	0	69	TFTP
184.172.40.243http_redirect	Down	Down	184.172.40.243	0	80	HTTP

25 Per Page 1 - 3 of 3 1



Click the Advanced tab and change the **Redirect URL** to be in the format **https://externally-accessible-FQDN** based on the IP address that was there.

Configure Virtual Server (Load Balancing)

Name* 184.172.40.243http_redirect IP Address Based IP Pattern Based

Protocol* HTTP IP Address* 184.172.40.243

Network VServer Range 1 Port* 80

State **DOWN** AppFlow Logging Traffic Domain ID 0

Services | Service Groups | Policies | Method and Persistence | **Advanced** | Profiles | SSL Settings

Redirect URL **https://184-172-40-243.mycitrixtraini** Client Time-out(sec) 180

Backup Virtual Server ICMP VServer Response PASSIVE

Minimum Autoscale Members 0 Maximum Autoscale Members 0

VServer IP Port Inserti... OFF

Redirection Mode IP Based MAC Based IP Tunnel Based TOS Based TOSId 0

Spillover

Method NONE Threshold

Persistence Persistence Time-out (min) 2 Backup Action

4.6 Remote access with NetScaler Access Gateway – manual setup

Now that load balancing is configured, Access Gateway can be configured. In this deployment, a second subnet was configured to act as the “WAN.” This subnet contains only the Access Gateway VIP, a NetScaler SNIP and a client access machine. The subnet used is 172.16.2.x/24. First configure a SNIP on this subnet; in this guide 172.16.2.100 was used. Then go to **Access Gateways/virtual servers** and click **Add**.

Name the server using the common name of the certificate, give it a VIP and assign the StoreFront certificate and click **Create**.

Create Access Gateway Virtual Server

Name* storefront.xd.lab IP Address 172.16.2.101 IPv6

Protocol* SSL Port* 443

Network VServer Range 1 Max Users

SmartAccess Mode Basic Mode AppFlow Logging Down state flush Double Hop Enable Virtual Server

Certificates | Authentication | Bookmarks | Policies | Intranet Applications | Intranet IPs | Published Applications | **Advanced**

Available		Configured	
Certificates		Certificates	Type
ns-server-certificate		AG-cert	Server Certificate
CA-root			
AG-cert			

To bind a Certificate to Access Gateway Virtual Server, select a certificate on the left and click 'Add'. To bind a Certificate to Access Gateway Virtual Server as CA, select a certificate on the left and click 'Add as CA'. To configure SSL parameters, click 'SSL Parameters'. To configure ciphers, click 'Ciphers'.

Comments



We want Access Gateway to be able to authenticate users with Active Directory, so we added LDAP authentication to the system. Go to the **system/authentication/ldap/servers** tab and click **Add**. Fill in the domain controller information and click **Create**.

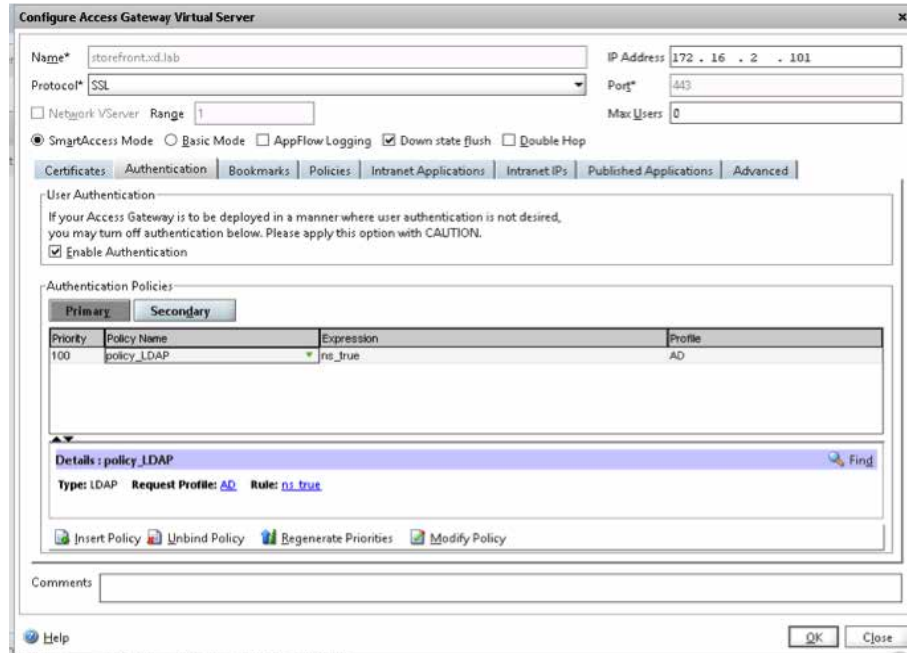
The screenshot shows the 'Create Authentication Server' dialog in the NetScaler GUI. The 'Name' field is set to 'AD' and the 'Authentication Type' is 'LDAP'. In the 'Server' section, the IP Address is '172.16.1.200', Port is '389', and Type is 'AD'. The 'Connection Settings' section includes 'Base DN (location of users)' as 'DC=ad,DC=lab', 'Administrator Bind DN' as 'ad/administrator', and 'Administrator Password' as a masked field. The 'Other Settings' section shows 'Server Logon Name Attribute' as 'sAMAccountName', 'Group Attribute' as 'memberOf', and 'Sub Attribute Name' as 'CN'. The 'Security Type' is set to 'PLAINTEXT', and both 'Authentication' and 'User Required' checkboxes are checked.

Now switch over to the **Policies** tab and click **Add**. Add the **ns_true** expression to the policy and click **Create**.

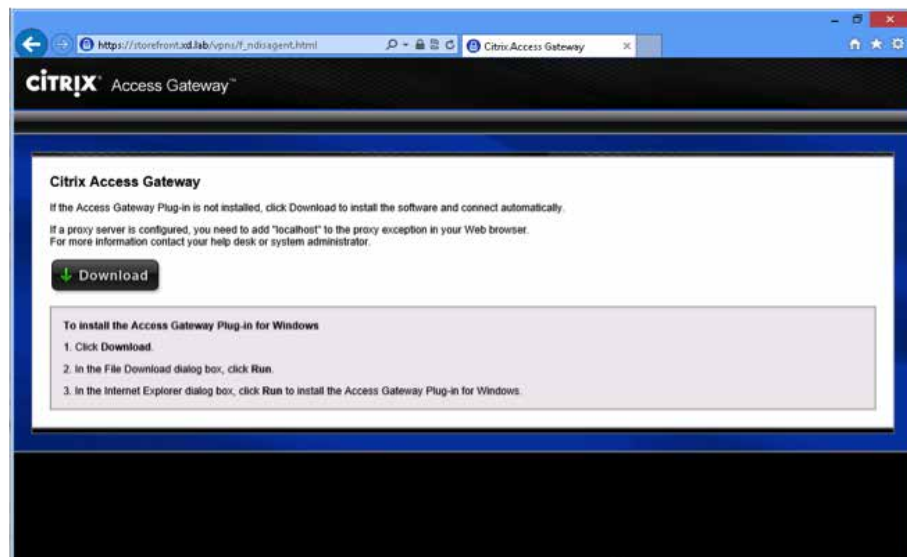
The screenshot shows the 'Create Authentication Policy' dialog in the NetScaler GUI. The 'Name' field is 'policy_LDAP' and the 'Authentication Type' is 'LDAP'. The 'Server' is set to 'AD'. The 'Expression' field contains the text 'ns_true'. Below the expression field, there are controls for 'Match Any Expression' (set to 'General'), 'Named Expressions' (set to 'True value'), and a 'Preview Expression' field showing 'ns_true'. The 'Create' and 'Close' buttons are visible at the bottom.



Now go back to the Access Gateway virtual server and switch to the **authentication** tab, and click **Insert Policy**. Select the policy we just created and click **OK**.

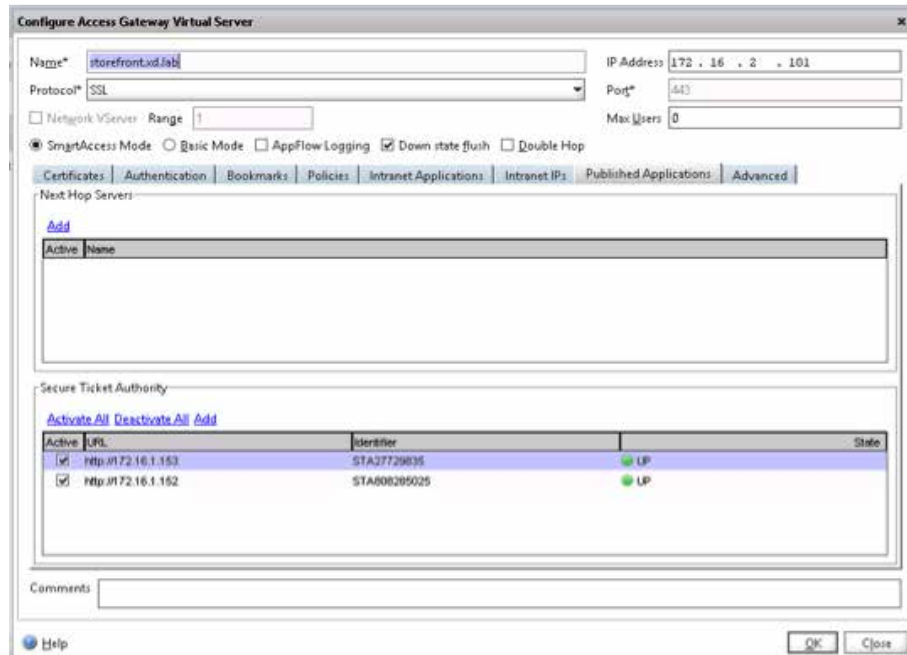


At this point we should be able to log into NetScaler Access Gateway.

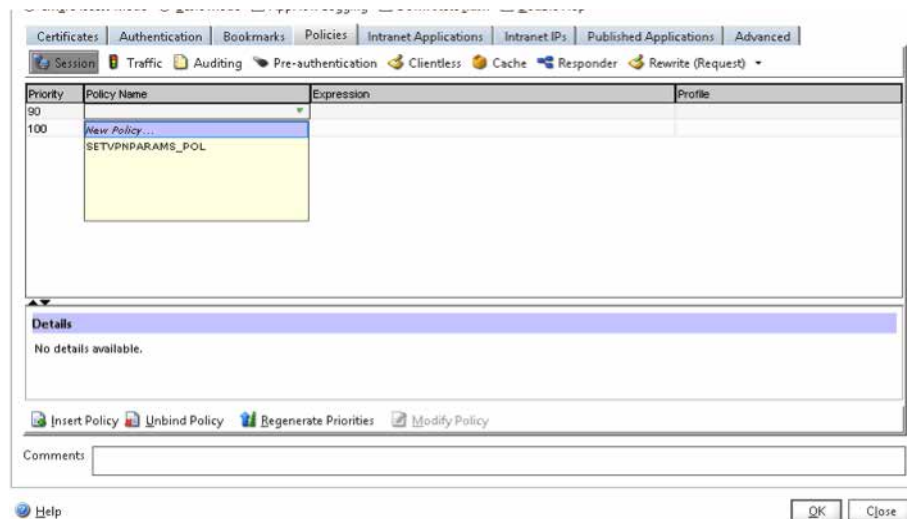


You land on the NetScaler Access Gateway portal because there is no session policy defined to forward the session. That will be the next step. This step verifies that the certificate is valid and that the authentication works.

Back on the StoreFront Access Gateway virtual server, add the two DDs as STAs. Go to the **Published Applications** tab, and under **Secure Ticket Authority** enter http:// followed by the IP address of the servers. Once entered, each entry should appear up with an identifier listed.



Navigate to the **Policies** tab and click Insert Policy. Select **New Policy**. Name the policy. Next to **Request Profile**, select **New**.



Switch to the **Published Applications** tab and make the following changes:

The screenshot shows the 'Create Access Gateway Session Profile' dialog box with the 'Published Applications' tab selected. The 'Name' field contains 'sessionprof_AG'. Below the tabs, there is a note: 'Unchecked Override Global check box indicates that the value is inherited from Global Access Gateway Parameters.' The 'Override Global' column has checkboxes for each setting. The settings are:

Setting	Value	Override Global
IICA Proxy	ON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Web Interface Address	https://172.16.1.156/Citrix/Storeweb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Web Interface Portal Mode	NORMAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
Single Sign-on Domain	xd.lab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citrix Receiver Home Page		<input type="checkbox"/>
Account Services Address		<input type="checkbox"/>

Buttons at the bottom: Help, Create, Close.

Click the **Security** tab and set the **Default Authorization Action** to **ALLOW**.

The screenshot shows the 'Create Access Gateway Session Profile' dialog box with the 'Security' tab selected. The 'Name' field contains 'sessionprof_AG'. Below the tabs, there is a note: 'Unchecked Override Global check box indicates that the value is inherited from Global Access Gateway Parameters.' The 'Override Global' column has checkboxes for each setting. The settings are:

Setting	Value	Override Global
Default Authorization Action	ALLOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Secure Browse		<input type="checkbox"/>



Add the **ns_true** expression to the policy and click **Create**.

Create Access Gateway Session Policy

Name*

Request Profile*

Expression

Expression

ns_true

Match Any Expression AND OR

Named Expressions

Preview Expression

Now test it out....

You should be able to log in, be forwarded to Citrix Receiver, see applications and launch applications.

5. Uncompromised monitoring

NetScaler Insight Center is an industry-first application that consolidates end-to-end web application data with Citrix virtual desktop infrastructure performance data in one place for further detailed analysis. This section shows how to configure NetScaler Insight Center to monitor the XenDesktop 7 deployment.

5.1 NetScaler Insight Center configuration and screens

Log into the NetScaler Insight Center GUI, navigate to **Configuration** and under **Inventory**, click **Add**. Enter the IP, username and password of the NetScaler appliance from which you want to collect AppFlow data.

NetScaler Insight Center Host Name: 10.217.100.112 Version: 10.1: Build 112.15, Date: May 29 2013, 10:07:32

Dashboard Configuration

NetScaler Insight Center Inventory Setup

Enter the IP address, username and the password of the NetScaler device for which you want to collect information.

NetScaler IP Address

User name

Password



Click **Add**. Return to the **Inventory** screen, and the NetScaler appliance should be listed with its IP address and hostname.

Inventory	
<input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Action"/>	
IP Address	Host name
▶ 10.217.100.74	11500-1-vpx1

Click on the IP address of the NetScaler appliance. All load balancing vServers, content switching vServers and NetScaler Access Gateway vServers should be shown on the **Applications List**.

NetScaler Insight Center Inventory Setup			
NetScaler IP Address 10.217.100.74			
Application List			
Lists the LB, CS and VPN applications running on the NetScaler appliance. If you enable AppFlow for these applications, NetScaler Insight Center starts collect			
View: <input type="button" value="Load Balancing"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="button" value="Load Balancing"/> <input type="button" value="Content Switching"/> <input type="button" value="VPN"/> <input type="button" value="Action"/>			
IP Address	Name	State	Type
172.16.1.157	DDC XML	● Up	TCP
172.16.1.156	Storefront_LB	● Up	SSL
172.16.2.201	172.16.2.201http_redirect	● Down	HTTP

Navigate to the IP address and service for which you want to enable AppFlow logging, right click and select **Enable AppFlow**.

Application List			
Lists the LB, CS and VPN applications running on the NetScaler appliance. If you enable AppFlow for these applications, NetScaler Insight Center starts collect			
View: <input type="button" value="Load Balancing"/>			
<input type="button" value="Action"/>			
IP Address	Name	State	Type
172.16.1.157	DDC XML	● Up	TCP
172.16.1.156	Storefront_LB	● Up	SSL
172.16.2.201	172.16.2.201http_redirect	● Down	HTTP



You need to define an expression for the logging. This enables you to gather data only when a specific expression is true. To record all data from the vServer, enter **true** as the expression.

Enable AppFlow

Select Expression *

Load Balancing

true

On a given virtual server, the NetScaler Insight Center appliance for which you most recently enabled AppFlow has the highest priority for collecting AppFlow information from that virtual server.

? OK Cancel

Click **OK**.

Now there should be a green check mark with **ENABLED** under the insight column header. In the screenshot below, AppFlow logging has been enabled for the StoreFront load balancing vServer.

Application List
Lists the LB, CS and VPN applications running on the NetScaler appliance. If you enable AppFlow for these applications, NetScaler Insight Center starts collecting web-traffic information related to these applications.

View: Load Balancing

IP Address	Name	State	Type	Insight
172.16.1.157	DDC_XML	Up	TCP	
172.16.1.156	Storefront_LB	Up	SSL	ENABLED
172.16.2.201	172.16.2.201.http_redirect	Down	HTTP	

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NOTE: AppFlow logging must also be enabled on the NetScaler side to enable logging in Insight.



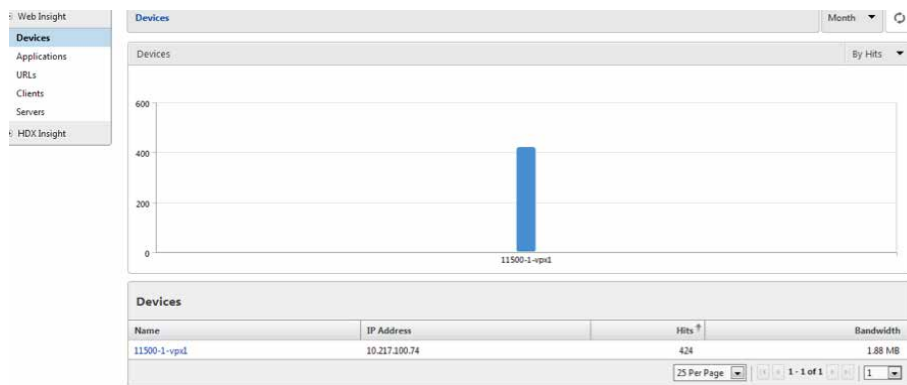
Repeat the process for any other load balancing vServers, then use the dropdown menu to switch to content switching vServers or VPN. The VPN category will list all NetScaler Access Gateway appliances. If the gateway runs in ICA proxy mode instead of VPN, check the **ICA** box when you complete the expression **true**.

Now navigate to the dashboard view and confirm that you can see the data gathered from NetScaler Access Gateway. In this example there is logging enabled on the StoreFront load balancing vServer, and several types of information are available, such as:

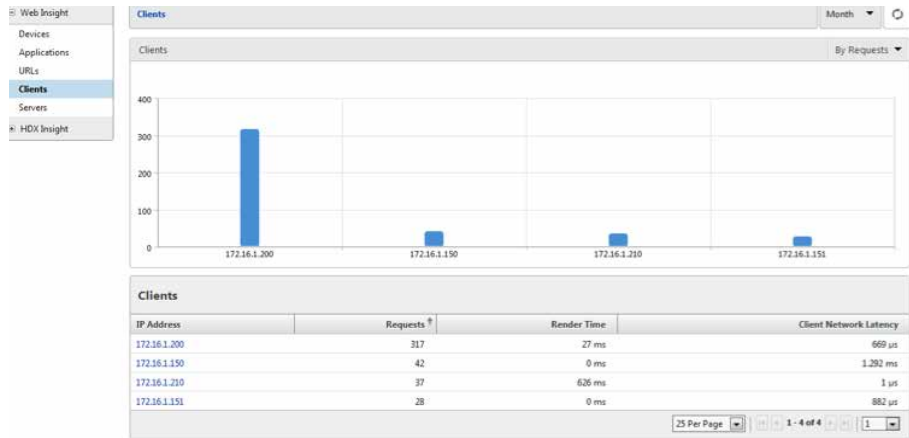
URLs



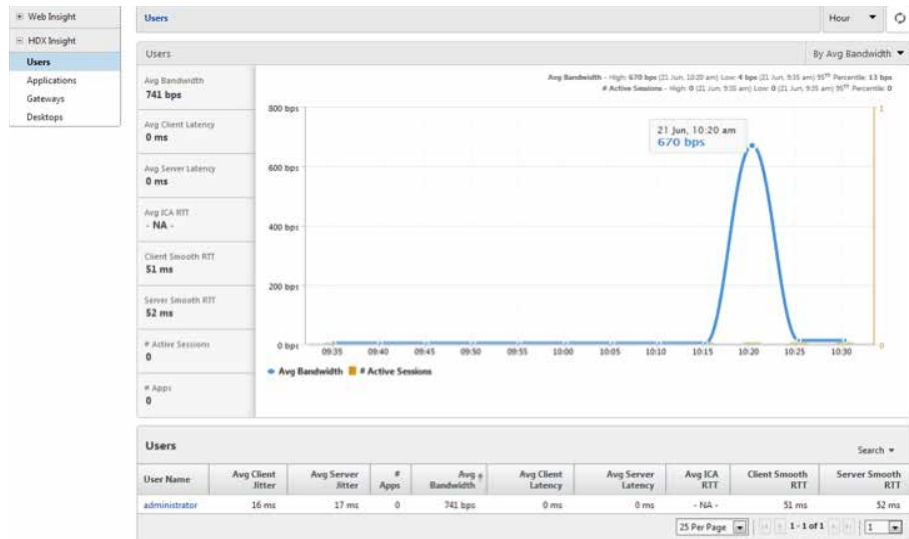
Devices (the NetScaler instances that are in use, by number of hits)



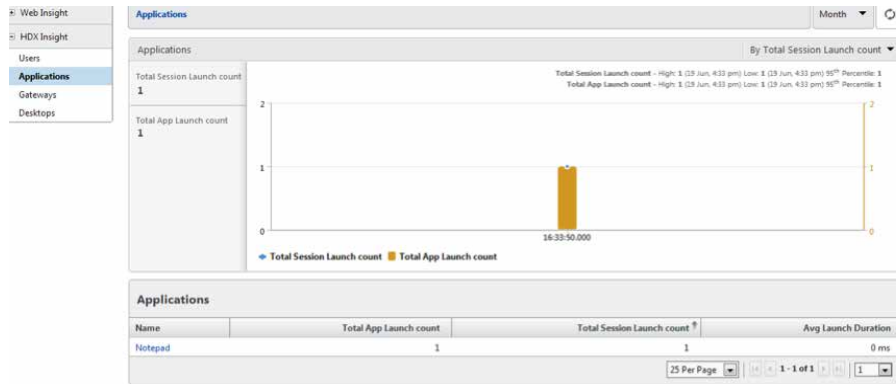
Clients (Infrastructure servers that NetScaler is contacting. 150,151 are StoreFront servers, 200 is DNS resolutions, etc.)



The HDX Insight portion of NetScaler Insight Center keeps detailed information about user ICA sessions. The following chart shows the average bandwidth, latency, RTT, etc., for a specific user.



Application launch history



Desktop performance and bandwidth



6. Considerations and troubleshooting

- The StoreFront servers on SSL are particularly sensitive to the persistence settings on the load balancer.
- In this deployment, modifications have been made to the host's file on the StoreFront servers to resolve the FQDN of Access Gateway. These machines also had NetScaler Access Gateway set as their default to reach the IP on the external subnet.



7. Tables and references

7.1 Design decisions – overview

The best practice architecture uses two StoreFront servers and two DDCs for scale and availability. The two StoreFront servers are then configured behind a VIP on the load balancer. Users access the StoreFront service via the VIP. This provides increased availability to the control plane.

Decision point	Design decision	Justification
Management Servers		
Number of management servers	1 (1 for virtual desktop infrastructure, 0 for storage, 0 for monitoring, 1 for load balancer management software)	High availability
Deployment location		You can easily add another set of management servers to the cluster without reconfiguring the entire infrastructure.
Deployment hypervisor	XenServer 6.0.2	
Management server VM properties	CPU: 2 x vCPURAM: 40 GB RAM NIC: 2 1gbE NIC (Vlan 100) HDD: 100GB	



Decision point	Design decision	Justification
Monitoring VM	NetScaler Insight Center 10.1. Storage: 120GB CPU: 2x vCPU RAM: 4GB	
Operating system	RHEL 6 (64-bit)	
Management servers – load balancing		
Load balancing used	Yes	
Load balancer	NetScaler SDX 11500, w/ 1 VPX instance	
VIP (FQDN)		
SSL encryption	Yes	
MySQL database		
Number of MySQL servers (VM)	1	
Deployment hypervisor	XenServer 6.0.2	
Management server VM properties	CPU: 2 x vCPU RAM: 6 GB RAM NIC: 1 x NIC (vLAN 100) HDD: 100GB	
Operating system	RHEL 6 (64-bit)	
MySQL version	MySQL 5.6	
Replication	No Master: Slave:	



7.1. Design – zone architecture (Phoenix)

We've labeled this deployment the Phoenix zone and it has 3 VLAN's: Internal, DMZ, and Client. There's also an L3 router and a couple L2 switches, all completely virtualized. This deployment highlights only one zone but each zone can be replicated using different IP subnets. Each zone can be clustered. The isolation between tenants is provided by switch-based security zones.

Availability zone(s) – 1 (it is always recommended to go with two availability zones)

Phoenix		
Deployment location	Phoenix, AZ	
Network mode	Basic (L3 network model)	The L3 network model is simple to manage and does not restrict the number of accounts. It also reduces the complexity of network management.
External DNS server(s)		
Internal DNS server(s)		
vLAN range		
Guest CIDR		
Public		
Domain		

7.2. Design decisions - networking

Decision point	Design decision	Justification
Distribution switch	Cisco Nexus 7000	

8. Conclusion

To conclude, it is quite apparent from this guide that the NetScaler ADC best optimizes your XenApp/XenDesktop deployment, as follows:

- Best end-user experience with the NetScaler ADC
- End-to-end application visibility with NetScaler Insight Center
- Enhanced security with the NetScaler ADC built-in firewall
- End-to-end support from a single vendor





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