

RoboMon NT/2000 - Windows® Load Balancing Intelligent Solution Set

Automated management for Microsoft's Load Balancing Service

Manage Any Windows Load Balancing Environment Better

RoboMon's Windows Load Balancing Intelligent Solution Set provides easily configurable proactive monitoring and problem solving for any size enterprise using Microsoft's Windows NT Load Balancing Service (WLBS) and Windows 2000 Network Load Balancing (NLB) to deliver TCP/IP services, such as Web, proxy, Virtual Private Networking (VPN), and streaming media. This adds another layer of reliability and efficiency to the clustering services crucial to eBusiness. RoboMon's automated, out-of-the-box Windows Load Balancing Intelligent Solution Set operates through an integrated set of rules that detect and correct problems before your users experience failures or slowdowns. It monitors all aspects of Windows Load Balancing reliability and performance, including:

- Cluster configuration and communication between cluster members, and
- Clustering operations and cluster membership.

RoboMon NT/2000 Event Monitor

The screenshot shows the RoboMon Event Monitor interface. The main window title is "Robomon Event Monitor - All Events for RoboMon Event Database on \\ BASE". The interface includes a menu bar (File, Monitor, View, Event, Detail, Tools, Help) and a toolbar with various icons. A table displays a list of events:

EventDate	Time	Class	SubClass	Computer	Severity	RuleName
09/02/00	04:15:01 PM	WLBS	COMMUNICATIO...	WEBFAR...	2	COMMUNICATION_FAILURE
09/02/00	04:00:10 PM	AUTOMATION	NETWORK	GLOBAL	2	UNREACHABLE_COMPU
09/02/00	04:00:10 PM	AUTOMATION	NETWORK	GLOBAL	2	UNREACHABLE_COMPU
09/02/00	03:55:01 PM	IIS	INTERNET SECUR...	GLOBAL	2	LOGON_FAILURE_ALERT
09/02/00	03:55:01 PM	IIS	INTERNET	STAGING	2	URL_UNREACHABLE

The detailed view of the selected event shows the following text:

```
Updated severity 2 problem for computer WEBFARM3 at 9/2/00 04:15:01 PM.
Generated by rule COMMUNICATION_FAILURE of type COMMUNICATION_FAILURE in WLBS.

Acknowledged by KAB at 9/2/00 04:26:39 PM.

Host WEBFARM3 is the only remaining host
in WLBS cluster WEBFARM, and is configured as the default
host. While all other cluster members could be down for routine maintenance,
a host believing itself to be the only member of the cluster frequently
indicates a communication problem with other members of the cluster.
Check the condition of host WEBFARM3's network connection, as well
as the state of other members of the cluster.
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Ready", "5 events", and the time "09/02/00 4:28:41 PM".

RoboMon can diagnose and correct problems on the spot and email IT staff, or bring them to your attention at a central monitoring location.

Key Benefits

- Works out of the box, with no setup time
- Detects problems automatically, focuses your staff's time on the issues you target
- Allows centralized monitoring of remote systems
- May be precisely customized for each environment
- Provides intuitive, graphical interface for management and customization
- Integrates with RoboMon's enterprise-wide total eBusiness infrastructure management solution (see below)

What RoboMon's Windows Load Balancing Intelligent Solution Set Monitors

RoboMon's Windows NT/2000 monitoring solution provides comprehensive monitoring and management of running NT/2000 systems using Windows Load Balancing. Specific rules are designed to:

- Raise an alert at potential communication and convergence failures between members of the cluster
- Optionally close all existing connections and stop cluster operations
- Optionally re-start cluster operations
- Maintain a count of cluster members and send a notification when any member leaves or is added to the cluster
- Warn when cluster configuration changes, and optionally reload the original configuration
- Send notification when default host changes, identify new default host and check for problems on the original default host

What Rules Mean to You

RoboMon rules work out-of-the-box, with no tweaking, for any size Windows NT/2000 configuration. In addition, each RoboMon rule may be completely customized, allowing precise control over threshold settings through the Solutions Manager, as well as actions to be taken, required notifications and alerts. RoboMon's intuitive, graphical Rule Designer allows you to tailor rules and create new rules without writing a single line of code. Customized rules may be deployed to individual machines, domains or throughout the enterprise, via simple, efficient, drag & drop operations in the RoboMon Enterprise Manager.

The Total RoboMon Solution

RoboMon for Windows NT/2000 is automated eBusiness infrastructure management software that detects and corrects complex application, system and network problems to ensure the highest levels of availability and performance.

RoboMon includes a suite of pre-defined rules, called Intelligent Solution Sets, that work out of the box to detect and correct problems with applications, systems and networks, including Windows NT/2000, Microsoft BackOffice, and SNMP-based network components.

RoboMon may be configured to notify staff of problems in real time, or to take corrective action independently and monitor the results for success. RoboMon's many notification options include paging, e-mail, SNMP trap, net send messages, and centralized event reporting through the Event Monitor, enabling it to integrate with and supplement your current staff notification practices.

Where RoboMon's Windows Load Balancing Intelligent Solution Set Gets Its Data

- Win32 API

RoboMon's Windows Load Balancing Rules

Cluster_Drainstop

When fired, finishes all existing connections and stops cluster operations.

Cluster_Member_Alert

Monitors the membership of the cluster, raising an alert if any members are added or leave the cluster. This rule only executes on the default host in order to prevent alert duplication.

Cluster_Reload

Reloads WLBS configuration based on current parameter values stored in the registry.

Cluster_Resume

When fired, resumes control of cluster operations.

Cluster_Start

When fired, starts cluster operations.

Cluster_Stop

When fired, stops cluster operations on the local host.

Communication_Failure

Detects potential communication failure with other members of the WLBS cluster.

Configuration_Change

Checks for changes in the WLBS cluster configuration and optionally reloads the original configuration.

Control_Suspended

Raises an alert if cluster control operations (including status queries) are suspended. Most WLBS rules are also disabled, because RoboMon requires that control operations be available in order to determine the status of the host. When control is resumed, the rules will be enabled.

Default_Host

Monitors for changes of the WLBS cluster's default host.

Failed_Convergence

Monitors the local WLBS host for non-convergence with the WLBS cluster.

Host_Count

Maintains a count of the number of hosts participating in the cluster.

Reload_Configuration

Reloads WLBS configuration based on current parameter values stored in the registry.



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