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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TECH NOTE #004

Initiate Cluster Failover on Network Port Failure

The Concept

By default, Data ONTAP assumes network related problems are at the switch level and therefore does not attempt to overcome a loss of network connectivity. In the real world, ports fail and network cables become unplugged or even cut. A storage system which cannot be accessed on the network is no different than one which is turned off. Starting with Data ONTAP 7.2 there are options to initiate a cluster failover during the loss of network connectivity.

Examples

The first step is to enable negotiated failover on interfaces in the `/etc/rc` file:

```
ifconfig e0a 'hostname'-e0a netmask 255.255.255.0 nfo partner 10.10.1.102
```

Next, set the options in ONTAP:

```
fas> options cf.takeover.on_network_interface_failure on  
fas> options cf.takeover.on_network_interface_failure.policy [ any_nic | all_nics ]
```

What It Means To You

If you have a clustered system with limited network ports or you do not have a redundant network infrastructure these options may increase fault tolerance.

NOTE: If both cluster partners are connected to a single network switch and the switch goes down the cluster may go into a failover loop as both systems attempt to failover over to its partner.

More Information

See the Manual Pages for more information on **ifconfig** and the **options** commands.

http://now.netapp.com/NOW/knowledge/docs/ontap/rel731/html/ontap/cmdref/man1/na_ifconfig.1.htm

http://now.netapp.com/NOW/knowledge/docs/ontap/rel731/html/ontap/cmdref/man1/na_options.1.htm

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Send comments, corrections & suggestion to Michael Cope at mcope@netapp.com