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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TECH NOTE #006

Hardware-Assisted Takeover

The Concept

The FAS3000, FAS3100 and FAS6000 models have a dedicated Remote LAN Management port (RLM) which can be used to manage the storage controller even when the controller is turned off or halted. A new feature in Data ONTAP 7.3 known as Hardware Assisted Takeover enables the RLM to initiate a cluster takeover when a system panics or loses power.

Examples

To enable Hardware-Assisted Takeover, type:

```
fas> options cf.hw_assist.enable on
```

To change the partner's address to receive failure notifications (default is IP address of port e0a), type:

```
fas > options cf.hw_assist.partner.address <IP or hostname>
```

What It Means To You

Clustered systems continuously communicate with each other over their cluster interconnect cables preparing for trouble. Unfortunately, it may take 15 seconds or more for a cluster node to realize its partner has ceased functioning rather than just become extremely idle. Using a configured RLM, the Hardware-Assisted Takeover options can initiate an immediate cluster failover. This may not seem like a lot of time, but it could make the difference between a CIFS, NFS or iSCSI client connection pausing or terminating ungracefully.

More Information

For more information, see the Data ONTAP 7.3 Active-Active Configuration Guide:

http://now.netapp.com/NOW/knowledge/docs/ontap/rel731/html/ontap/aaconfig/failing_over/concept/c_oc_fo_mng-to-hwassist.html#c_oc_fo_mng-to-hwassist

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