ICM to the responsible ABAP dispatcher (or a Java server node). In other words, the ICM distributes HTTP requests within an application server to the ABAP (or Java) runtime environment.

- Finally, the SAP Web Dispatcher (or a non-SAP, commercial web switch) – in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) before the SAP system – distributes incoming HTTP requests to the individual application servers of the SAP system according to specified rules.

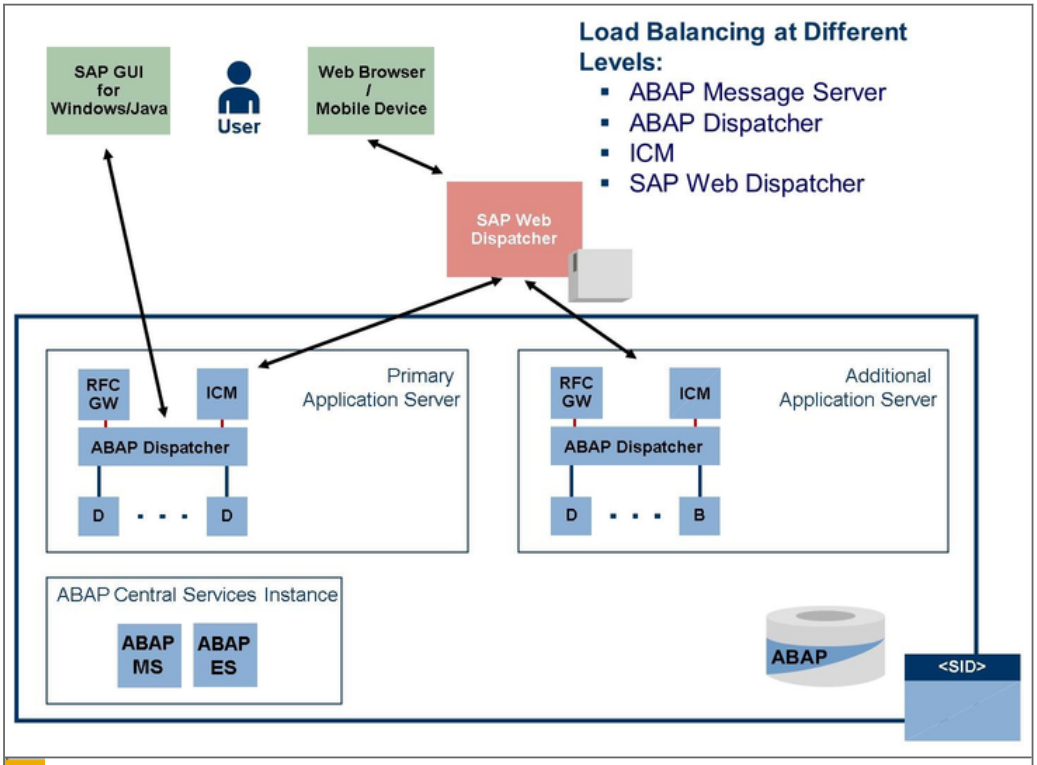

Figure 10: Load Balancing

High Availability

In many cases – especially in the area of intercompany processes – the availability of production systems is crucially important.

SAP provides a proven, scalable, multi-tier architecture. The individual elements of this architecture can be protected either by horizontal scalability – that is, the use of multiple components that tolerate the failure of individual components – or by cluster and switchover solutions. All SAP hardware partners provide proven solutions that, together with other hardware and software products, ensure high availability for SAP applications.

The following figure emphasizes the single points of failure (SPOF) for an SAP system based on AS ABAP. These are:

- ABAP message server (or Java message server in systems based on AS Java)
- ABAP or Java enqueue (work) process
- Database
- SAP Web Dispatcher (if used)