Since Peter asked I'll spread this around …

**GTM / LTM design**

Contact is Mani Dayal.  He was more than willing to do a spontaneous 1/2hr call for me and a few folks.

The topic in particular was the type of monitoring that happens at GTM/LTM to control things like availability/failover.

As of 2013-09 the NW design is still using GSS to LTM.

GTM is currently only providing DNS service.

* DNS is round robin, not monitoring/heartbeat
* Global Site Load Balancer function is currently not enabled in the GTM.  GSS is doing LB still.
* First project to do GSLB is still TBD.
  + No one wants to be first.

GSS currently doing the load balancing.

* Directs based on DNS (rrobin'ed from GTM)
* GSS failover happens in two cases:
  + When VIP on LTM fails to respond
  + when done manually.

Any "monitoring" is done at the LTM layer (to keep the VIP alive):

* Standards are to keep the monitoring configuration very simple (operationally) and to not have it introduce any load on servers (deep requests run too often).
* "80%" of monitoring today is port based SYN test
  + Technically the application could be down but if the IHS port is still open for requests the VIP / server / site remains active.
* Remainder is using just basic HTTP(S) GET requests.
  + No content checks - looking for HTTP 200 replies
* No multi-step logins, no deep penetration into the application functions.
* Although possible using IRULES functionality but the NW team is not staffed / skilled to support that yet.
  + i.e. *there is little to no intelligence in our availability monitoring / automation*.

DDoS and other security/functional modules for the F5's are not installed.

Relying on Prolexic/Akamai for protection and caching etc.

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