https://wiki.jenkins-ci.org/display/JENKINS/Gearman+Plugin

Summary

We on Openstack infrastructure team use Jenkins extensively. Our jenkins servers, at peak load, runs 20,000+ jobs per day. At that load we require many jenkins slaves (900+) to process all of those build jobs. We have found that our requirement was pushing Jenkins beyond it's limits therefore we've decided to create the Gearman Plugin to support multiple Jenkins masters. The gearman plugin was designed to support extra slaves, allow load balancing of build jobs, and provide redundancy.

Jenkins core does not support multiple masters. You can setup multiple Jenkins masters but there is no coordination between them. One problem with scheduling builds on Jenkins master (“MasterA”) server is that MasterA only knows about its connected slaves. If all slaves on MasterA are busy then MasterA will just put the next scheduled build on the jenkin server queue. Now MasterA needs to wait for an available slave to run the build. This will be very in-efficient if your builds take a long time to run. So.. what if there is another Jenkins master (“MasterB”) that has free slaves to service the next scheduled build on the server's queue? Your probably saying.. “Then slaves on MasterB should run the build instead of waiting for slaves on MasterA to run them”, then I would say "good thought!". However MasterB will never service the builds on MasterA's queue. The client that schedules the builds must know about MasterB and then schedule builds on MasterB. This is what we mean by lack of coordination between masters. This gearman-plugin attempts to fill the gap.

This plugin integrates Gearman with Jenkins and will make it so that any Jenkins slave on any Jenkins master can service a job in the queue. This plugin will essentially replace the Jenkins (master) build queue with the Gearman job queue. The job will stay in the Gearman queue until there is a Jenkins node (master or slave) that can run that job. The gearman job queue is shared by multiple jenkins masters therefore gearman can hand out jobs to the next available slave on any jenkins master.