CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Open Up! Recent Upgrades to the NERSP Complex

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Open Up! Recent Upgrades to the NERSP Complex

We are always looking for ways to improve the underlying structure of services hosted on the NERSP computer complex. We have had two recent opportunities to make changes that improve our ability to provide services to our customers.

We have reconfigured our mail system to send LISTSERV messages to the SMTP virus scanner before the message is sent to the LISTSERV server for delivery to list members. This change allows a virus to be detected before a message is prepared for delivery to each list member.

During the past year, we deployed virus scanning on e-mail messages for GatorLink and then NERSP mail. When a virus-laden message was sent to the LISTSERV server on NERSP, the LISTSERV server would send out the message to each list member—resulting in multiple virus-laden messages (instead of just one) being sent to the SMTP (outgoing mail) server for scanning. The resultant error messages caused some list members to be incorrectly removed from the list. Our configuration change has prevented this from happening.

In the February 2002 /Update Open Up! column, we talked about our new IBM Websphere Edge Server in which the Network Dispatcher accepts incoming network traffic and redistributes it to a cluster of application servers. We told you that the advisor component of the Network Dispatcher continually checks the health of each of the servers in the cluster. If one of them stops responding for the "advised" service, no new traffic is routed to that server until it again responds.

We have improved our Websphere Edge Server configuration by implementing two dispatcher hardware components that monitor each other. If one dispatcher fails, the other immediately assumes its workload of checking the cluster servers and routing network traffic. This provides failsafe redundancy at the cluster server and the dispatcher levels, doubly safeguarding the dispatched services such as Web and e-mail services. The failover capability -- one dispatcher taking over for another -- is tested and verified periodically.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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