Elastic Load Balancing

Network Load Balancers
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What Is a Network Load Balancer?

Elastic Load Balancing supports the following types of load balancers: Application Load Balancers, Network Load Balancers, and Classic Load Balancers. This guide discusses Network Load Balancers. For more information about the other load balancers, see the User Guide for Application Load Balancers and the User Guide for Classic Load Balancers.

Network Load Balancer Components

A load balancer serves as the single point of contact for clients. The load balancer distributes incoming traffic across multiple targets, such as Amazon EC2 instances. This increases the availability of your application. You add one or more listeners to your load balancer.

A listener checks for connection requests from clients, using the protocol and port that you configure, and forwards requests to a target group.

Each target group routes requests to one or more registered targets, such as EC2 instances, using the TCP protocol and the port number that you specify. You can register a target with multiple target groups. You can configure health checks on a per target group basis. Health checks are performed on all targets registered to a target group that is specified in a listener rule for your load balancer.

For more information, see the following documentation:

- Load Balancers (p. 9)
- Listeners (p. 15)
- Target Groups (p. 18)

Network Load Balancer Overview

A Network Load Balancer functions at the fourth layer of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model. It can handle millions of requests per second. After the load balancer receives a connection request, it selects a target from the target group for the default rule. It attempts to open a TCP connection to the selected target on the port specified in the listener configuration.

When you enable an Availability Zone for the load balancer, Elastic Load Balancing creates a load balancer node in the Availability Zone. Each load balancer node for your Network Load Balancer distributes traffic across the registered targets in its Availability Zone only. If you enable multiple Availability Zones for your load balancer and ensure that each target group has at least one target in each enabled Availability Zone, this increases the fault tolerance of your applications. For example, if one or more target groups does not have a healthy target in an Availability Zone, we remove the IP address for the corresponding subnet from DNS, but the load balancer nodes in the other Availability Zones are still available to route traffic. If a client doesn't honor the time-to-live (TTL) and sends requests to the IP address after it is removed from DNS, the requests fail.

A load balancer node selects a target using a flow hash algorithm, based on the protocol, source IP address, source port, destination IP address, destination port, and TCP sequence number. The TCP connections from a client have different source ports and sequence numbers, and can be routed to different targets. Each individual TCP connection is routed to a single target for the life of the connection.
Elastic Load Balancing Network Load Balancers
Benefits of Migrating from a Classic Load Balancer

Elastic Load Balancing creates a network interface for each Availability Zone you enable. Each load balancer node in the Availability Zone uses this network interface to get a static IP address. When you create an Internet-facing load balancer, you can optionally associate one Elastic IP address per subnet.

You can configure a target group so that you register targets by instance ID or IP address. If you specify targets using an instance ID, the source IP addresses of the clients are preserved and provided to your applications. If you specify targets by IP address, the source IP addresses are the private IP addresses of the load balancer nodes.

You can add and remove targets from your load balancer as your needs change, without disrupting the overall flow of requests to your application. Elastic Load Balancing scales your load balancer as traffic to your application changes over time. Elastic Load Balancing can scale to the vast majority of workloads automatically.

You can configure health checks, which are used to monitor the health of the registered targets so that the load balancer can send requests only to the healthy targets.

For more information, see How Elastic Load Balancing Works in the Elastic Load Balancing User Guide.

Benefits of Migrating from a Classic Load Balancer

Using a Network Load Balancer instead of a Classic Load Balancer has the following benefits:

- Ability to handle volatile workloads and scale to millions of requests per second.
- Support for static IP addresses for the load balancer. You can also assign one Elastic IP address per subnet enabled for the load balancer.
- Support for registering targets by IP address, including targets outside the VPC for the load balancer.
- Support for routing requests to multiple applications on a single EC2 instance. You can register each instance or IP address with the same target group using multiple ports.
- Support for containerized applications. Amazon Elastic Container Service (Amazon ECS) can select an unused port when scheduling a task and register the task with a target group using this port. This enables you to make efficient use of your clusters.
- Support for monitoring the health of each service independently, as health checks are defined at the target group level and many Amazon CloudWatch metrics are reported at the target group level. Attaching a target group to an Auto Scaling group enables you to scale each service dynamically based on demand.

For more information about the features supported by each load balancer type, see Comparison of Elastic Load Balancing Products.

How to Get Started

To create a Network Load Balancer, try one of the following tutorials:

- Getting Started with Network Load Balancers (p. 3)
- Tutorial: Create a Network Load Balancer Using the AWS CLI (p. 6)

Pricing

For more information, see Network Load Balancer Pricing.
Getting Started with Network Load Balancers

This tutorial provides a hands-on introduction to Network Load Balancers through the AWS Management Console, a web-based interface. To create your first Network Load Balancer, complete the following steps.

**Tasks**
- Before You Begin (p. 3)
- Step 1: Choose a Load Balancer Type (p. 3)
- Step 2: Configure Your Load Balancer and Listener (p. 4)
- Step 3: Configure Your Target Group (p. 4)
- Step 4: Register Targets with Your Target Group (p. 4)
- Step 5: Create and Test Your Load Balancer (p. 4)
- Step 6: Delete Your Load Balancer (Optional) (p. 5)

Alternatively, to create an Application Load Balancer, see Getting Started with Application Load Balancers in the User Guide for Application Load Balancers. To create a Classic Load Balancer, see Create a Classic Load Balancer in the User Guide for Classic Load Balancers.

**Before You Begin**

- Decide which Availability Zones you will use for your EC2 instances. Configure your virtual private cloud (VPC) with at least one public subnet in each of these Availability Zones.
- Launch at least one EC2 instance in each Availability Zone. Ensure that the security groups for these instances allow TCP access from clients on the listener port and health check requests from your VPC. For more information, see Target Security Groups (p. 26).

**Step 1: Choose a Load Balancer Type**

Elastic Load Balancing supports three types of load balancers. For this tutorial, you create a Network Load Balancer.

**To create a Network Load Balancer**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. On the navigation bar, choose a region for your load balancer. Be sure to choose the same region that you used for your EC2 instances.
3. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
4. Choose Create Load Balancer.
5. For Network Load Balancer, choose Create.
Step 2: Configure Your Load Balancer and Listener

On the Configure Load Balancer page, complete the following procedure.

To configure your load balancer and listener

1. For Name, type a name for your load balancer.
   The name of your Network Load Balancer must be unique within your set of Application Load Balancers and Network Load Balancers for the region, can have a maximum of 32 characters, can contain only alphanumeric characters and hyphens, and must not begin or end with a hyphen.
2. For Scheme, keep the default value, internet-facing.
3. For Listeners, keep the default, which is a listener that accepts TCP traffic on port 80.
4. For Availability Zones, select the VPC that you used for your EC2 instances. For each Availability Zone that you used to launch your EC2 instances, select the Availability Zone and then select the public subnet for that Availability Zone.
   When you create an internet-facing load balancer, you can optionally select an Elastic IP address from Elastic IP. This provides your load balancer node with a static IPv4 address.
5. Choose Next: Configure Routing.

Step 3: Configure Your Target Group

Create a target group, which is used in request routing. The rule for your listener routes requests to the registered targets in this target group. The load balancer checks the health of targets in this target group using the health check settings defined for the target group. On the Configure Routing page, complete the following procedure.

To configure your target group

1. For Target group, keep the default, New target group.
2. For Name, type a name for the new target group.
3. Keep Protocol as TCP, Port as 80, and Target type as instance.
4. For Health checks, keep the default protocol.
5. Choose Next: Register Targets.

Step 4: Register Targets with Your Target Group

On the Register Targets page, complete the following procedure.

To register targets with the target group

1. For Instances, select one or more instances.
2. Keep the default port, 80, and choose Add to registered.
3. When you have finished selecting instances, choose Next: Review.

Step 5: Create and Test Your Load Balancer

Before creating the load balancer, review your settings. After creating the load balancer, verify that it's sending traffic to your EC2 instances.
To create and test your load balancer

2. After you are notified that your load balancer was created successfully, choose Close.
3. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
4. Select the newly created target group.
5. Choose Targets and verify that your instances are ready. If the status of an instance is initial, it’s probably because the instance is still in the process of being registered, or it has not passed the minimum number of health checks to be considered healthy. After the status of at least one instance is healthy, you can test your load balancer.
6. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
7. Select the newly created load balancer.
8. Choose Description and copy the DNS name of the load balancer (for example, my-load-balancer-1234567890.us-west-2.elb.amazonaws.com). Paste the DNS name into the address field of an internet-connected web browser. If everything is working, the browser displays the default page of your server.

Step 6: Delete Your Load Balancer (Optional)

As soon as your load balancer becomes available, you are billed for each hour or partial hour that you keep it running. When you no longer need a load balancer, you can delete it. As soon as the load balancer is deleted, you stop incurring charges for it. Note that deleting a load balancer does not affect the targets registered with the load balancer. For example, your EC2 instances continue to run.

To delete your load balancer

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer and choose Actions, Delete.
4. When prompted for confirmation, choose Yes, Delete.
Tutorial: Create a Network Load Balancer Using the AWS CLI

This tutorial provides a hands-on introduction to Network Load Balancers through the AWS CLI.

Before You Begin

- Install the AWS CLI or update to the current version of the AWS CLI if you are using a version that does not support Network Load Balancers. For more information, see Installing the AWS Command Line Interface in the AWS Command Line Interface User Guide.
- Decide which Availability Zones you will use for your EC2 instances. Configure your virtual private cloud (VPC) with at least one public subnet in each of these Availability Zones.
- Launch at least one EC2 instance in each Availability Zone. Ensure that the security groups for these instances allow TCP access from clients on the listener port and health check requests from your VPC. For more information, see Target Security Groups (p. 26).

Create Your Load Balancer

To create your first load balancer, complete the following steps.

To create a load balancer

1. Use the `create-load-balancer` command to create a load balancer, specifying a public subnet for each Availability Zone in which you launched instances. You can specify only one subnet per Availability Zone.

   ```bash
   aws elbv2 create-load-balancer --name my-load-balancer --type network --subnets subnet-12345678
   ```

   The output includes the Amazon Resource Name (ARN) of the load balancer, with the following format:

   ```
   ```

2. Use the `create-target-group` command to create a target group, specifying the same VPC that you used for your EC2 instances:

   ```bash
   aws elbv2 create-target-group --name my-targets --protocol TCP --port 80 --vpc-id vpc-12345678
   ```

   The output includes the ARN of the target group, with this format:

   ```
   arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:us-east-2:123456789012:targetgroup/my-targets/1234567890123456
   ```

3. Use the `register-targets` command to register your instances with your target group:
Specify an Elastic IP Address for Your Load Balancer

When you create a Network Load Balancer, you can specify one Elastic IP address per subnet using a subnet mapping.

```
aws elbv2 create-load-balancer --name my-load-balancer --type network \ 
 --subnet-mappings SubnetId= subnet-12345678, AllocationId= eipalloc-12345678
```

Add Targets Using Port Overrides

If you have a microservices architecture with multiple services on a single instance, each service accepts connections on a different port. You can register the instance with the target group multiple times, each time with a different port.

**To add targets using port overrides**

1. Use the `create-target-group` command to create a target group:

   ```
   aws elbv2 create-target-group --name my-targets --protocol TCP --port 80 \ 
   --vpc-id vpc-12345678
   ```

2. Use the `register-targets` command to register your instances with your target group. Notice that the instance IDs are the same for each container, but the ports are different.

   ```
   aws elbv2 register-targets --target-group-arn targetgroup-arn \ 
   --targets Id=i-12345678, Port=80 Id=i-12345678, Port=766
   ```

3. Use the `create-listener` command to create a listener for your load balancer with a default rule that forwards requests to your target group:

   ```
   aws elbv2 create-listener --load-balancer-arn loadbalancer-arn --protocol TCP --port 80 \ 
   --default-actions Type=forward, TargetGroupArn= targetgroup-arn
   ```

The output contains the ARN of the listener, with the following format:

```
```
Delete Your Load Balancer

When you no longer need your load balancer and target group, you can delete them as follows:

```bash
aws elbv2 create-listener --load-balancer-arn loadbalancer-arn \ 
--protocol TCP --port 80  \ 
--default-actions Type=forward,TargetGroupArn=targetgroup-arn

aws elbv2 delete-load-balancer --load-balancer-arn loadbalancer-arn
aws elbv2 delete-target-group --target-group-arn targetgroup-arn
```
Network Load Balancers

A load balancer serves as the single point of contact for clients. Clients send requests to the load balancer, and the load balancer sends them to targets, such as EC2 instances, in one or more Availability Zones.

To configure your load balancer, you create target groups (p. 18), and then register targets with your target groups. Your load balancer is most effective if you ensure that each enabled Availability Zone has at least one registered target. You also create listeners (p. 15) to check for connection requests from clients and route requests from clients to the targets in your target groups.

Connectivity to your load balancer is not supported over VPN connections or VPC peering connections.

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- Availability Zones (p. 9)
- Deletion Protection (p. 10)
- Connection Idle Timeout (p. 10)
- Create a Network Load Balancer (p. 11)
- Tags for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 13)
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Load Balancer State

A load balancer can be in one of the following states:

- **provisioning**
  The load balancer is being set up.
- **active**
  The load balancer is fully set up and ready to route traffic.
- **failed**
  The load balancer could not be set up.

Load Balancer Attributes

The following are the load balancer attributes:

- **deletion_protection.enabled**
  Indicates whether deletion protection is enabled.

Availability Zones

You enable one or more Availability Zones for your load balancer when you create it. You cannot enable or disable Availability Zones for a Network Load Balancer after you create it.
When you enable an Availability Zone, you specify one subnet from that Availability Zone. The subnet must have at least 8 available IP addresses. Elastic Load Balancing creates a load balancer node in the Availability Zone and a network interface for the subnet (the description starts with "ELB net" and includes the name of the load balancer). Each load balancer node in the Availability Zone uses this network interface to get a static IP address. Note that you can view this network interface but you cannot modify it.

When you create an Internet-facing load balancer, you can optionally associate one Elastic IP address per subnet. You cannot add or change Elastic IP addresses for your subnets after you create the load balancer.

Each load balancer node distributes traffic across the registered targets in its Availability Zone only. If you enable multiple Availability Zones for your load balancer, this increases the fault tolerance of your applications.

Deletion Protection

To prevent your load balancer from being deleted accidentally, you can enable deletion protection. By default, deletion protection is disabled for your load balancer.

If you enable deletion protection for your load balancer, you must disable it before you can delete the load balancer.

To enable deletion protection using the console
1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer.
4. Choose Description, Edit attributes.
5. On the Edit load balancer attributes page, select Enable delete protection and choose Save.

To disable deletion protection using the console
1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer.
4. Choose Description, Edit attributes.
5. On the Edit load balancer attributes page, clear Enable delete protection and choose Save.

To enable or disable deletion protection using the AWS CLI

Use the modify-load-balancer-attributes command.

Connection Idle Timeout

For each request that a client makes through a Network Load Balancer, the state of that connection is tracked. The connection is terminated by the target. If no data is sent through the connection by either the client or target for longer than the idle timeout, the connection is closed. If a client sends data after the idle timeout period elapses, it receives a TCP RST packet to indicate that the connection is no longer valid.
Elastic Load Balancing sets the idle timeout value to 350 seconds. You cannot modify this value. Your targets can use TCP keepalive packets to reset the idle timeout.

Create a Network Load Balancer

A load balancer takes requests from clients and distributes them across targets in a target group, such as EC2 instances.

Before you begin, launch EC2 instances in at least one Availability Zone. Ensure that the virtual private cloud (VPC) has at least one public subnet in each of these Availability Zones.

To create a load balancer using the AWS CLI, see Tutorial: Create a Network Load Balancer Using the AWS CLI (p. 6).

To create a load balancer using the AWS Management Console, complete the following tasks.

Tasks

- Step 1: Configure a Load Balancer and a Listener (p. 4)
- Step 2: Configure a Target Group (p. 4)
- Step 3: Register Targets with the Target Group (p. 12)
- Step 4: Create the Load Balancer (p. 12)

Step 1: Configure a Load Balancer and a Listener

First, provide some basic configuration information for your load balancer, such as a name, a network, and one or more listeners. A listener is a process that checks for connection requests. It is configured with a protocol and a port for connections from clients to the load balancer. For more information about supported protocols and ports, see Listener Configuration (p. 15).

To configure your load balancer and listener

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. On the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Choose Create Load Balancer.
4. For Network Load Balancer, choose Create.
5. For Name, type a name for your load balancer. For example, my-mlb.
6. For Scheme, an internet-facing load balancer routes requests from clients over the internet to targets. An internal load balancer routes requests to targets using private IP addresses.
7. For Listeners, the default is a listener that accepts TCP traffic on port 80. You can keep the default listener settings, modify the protocol, or modify the port. Choose Add to add another listener.
8. For Availability Zones, select the VPC that you used for your EC2 instances. For each Availability Zone that you used to launch your EC2 instances, select an Availability Zone and then select the public subnet for that Availability Zone. To associate an Elastic IP address with the subnet, select it from Elastic IP.

Step 2: Configure a Target Group

You register targets, such as EC2 instances, with a target group. The target group that you configure in this step is used as the target group in the listener rule, which forwards requests to the target group. For more information, see Target Groups for Your Network Load Balancers (p. 18).
To configure your target group

1. For Target group, keep the default, New target group.
2. For Name, type a name for the target group.
3. Set Protocol and Port as needed.
4. For Target type, select instance to specify targets by instance ID or ip to specify targets by IP address.
5. For Health checks, keep the default health check settings.
6. Choose Next: Register Targets.

Step 3: Register Targets with the Target Group

You can register EC2 instances as targets in a target group.

To register targets by instance ID

1. For Instances, select one or more instances.
2. Keep the default instance listener port or type a new one and choose Add to registered.
3. When you have finished registering instances, choose Next: Review.

To register targets by IP address

1. For each IP address to register, do the following:
   a. For Network, if the IP address is from a subnet of the target group VPC, select the VPC. Otherwise, select Other private IP address.
   b. For Availability Zone, select an Availability Zone or all. This determines whether the target receives traffic from the load balancer nodes in the specified Availability Zone only or from all enabled Availability Zones. This field is not displayed if you are registering IP addresses from the VPC. In this case, the Availability Zone is automatically detected.
   c. For IP, type the address.
   d. For Port, type the port.
   e. Choose Add to list.
2. When you have finished adding IP addresses to the list, choose Next: Review.

Step 4: Create the Load Balancer

After creating your load balancer, you can verify that your EC2 instances have passed the initial health check and then test that the load balancer is sending traffic to your EC2 instances. When you are finished with your load balancer, you can delete it. For more information, see Delete a Network Load Balancer (p. 13).

To create the load balancer

2. After the load balancer is created, choose Close.
3. On the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
4. Select the newly created target group.
5. Choose Targets and verify that your instances are ready. If the status of an instance is initial, it's probably because the instance is still in the process of being registered, or it has not passed the
minimum number of health checks to be considered healthy. After the status of at least one instance is healthy, you can test your load balancer.

Tags for Your Network Load Balancer

Tags help you to categorize your load balancers in different ways, for example, by purpose, owner, or environment.

You can add multiple tags to each load balancer. Tag keys must be unique for each load balancer. If you add a tag with a key that is already associated with the load balancer, it updates the value of that tag.

When you are finished with a tag, you can remove it from your load balancer.

Restrictions

- Maximum number of tags per resource—50
- Maximum key length—127 Unicode characters
- Maximum value length—255 Unicode characters
- Tag keys and values are case-sensitive. Allowed characters are letters, spaces, and numbers representable in UTF-8, plus the following special characters: + - = . _ : / @. Do not use leading or trailing spaces.
- Do not use the aws: prefix in your tag names or values because it is reserved for AWS use. You can’t edit or delete tag names or values with this prefix. Tags with this prefix do not count against your tags per resource limit.

To update the tags for a load balancer using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer.
4. Choose Tags, Add/Edit Tags, and then do one or more of the following:
   a. To update a tag, edit the values of Key and Value.
   b. To add a new tag, choose Create Tag. For Key and Value, type values.
   c. To delete a tag, choose the delete icon (X) next to the tag.
5. When you have finished updating tags, choose Save.

To update the tags for a load balancer using the AWS CLI

Use the add-tags and remove-tags commands.

Delete a Network Load Balancer

As soon as your load balancer becomes available, you are billed for each hour or partial hour that you keep it running. When you no longer need the load balancer, you can delete it. As soon as the load balancer is deleted, you stop incurring charges for it.

You can’t delete a load balancer if deletion protection is enabled. For more information, see Deletion Protection (p. 10).
Note that deleting a load balancer does not affect its registered targets. For example, your EC2 instances continue to run and are still registered to their target groups. To delete your target groups, see Delete a Target Group (p. 28).

To delete a load balancer using the console
1. If you have a CNAME record for your domain that points to your load balancer, point it to a new location and wait for the DNS change to take effect before deleting your load balancer.
2. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
3. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
4. Select the load balancer.
5. Choose Actions, Delete.
6. When prompted for confirmation, choose Yes, Delete.

To delete a load balancer using the AWS CLI

Use the `delete-load-balancer` command.
Listeners for Your Network Load Balancers

Before you start using your Network Load Balancer, you must add one or more listeners. A listener is a process that checks for connection requests, using the protocol and port that you configure. The rules that you define for a listener determine how the load balancer routes requests to the targets in one or more target groups.

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- Listener Rules (p. 15)
- Create a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 15)
- Update a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 16)
- Delete a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 16)

Listener Configuration

Listeners support the following protocols and ports:

- ** Protocols: TCP
- ** Ports: 1-65535

You can use WebSockets with your TCP listeners.

Listener Rules

When you create a listener, you specify a rule for routing requests. This rule forwards requests to the specified target group. To update this rule, see Update a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 16).

Create a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer

A listener is a process that checks for connection requests. You define a listener when you create your load balancer, and you can add listeners to your load balancer at any time.

Prerequisites

- You must specify a target group for the listener rule. For more information, see Create a Target Group for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 22).

Add a Listener

You configure a listener with a protocol and a port for connections from clients to the load balancer, and a target group for the default listener rule. For more information, see Listener Configuration (p. 15).
To add a listener using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer.
4. Choose Listener, Add listener.
5. For Protocol, keep TCP.
6. For Port, type the listener port.
7. For Default target group, select an available target group with the TCP protocol.
8. Choose Create.

To add a listener using the AWS CLI

Use the create-listener command to create the listener.

Update a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer

You can update the listener port and the listener rule. Rules determine how your TCP listeners route requests to your target groups. You initially define the rule for a listener when you create the listener. For more information, see Listener Rules (p. 15).

To update your listener using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers.
3. Select the load balancer.
4. Choose Listener, select the check box for the listener, and then choose Actions, Edit.
5. (Optional) Change the specified value for Port.
6. (Optional) Select a different target group from Default target group.
7. Choose Save.

To update the default rule for your listener using the AWS CLI

Use the modify-rule command.

Delete a Listener for Your Network Load Balancer

You can delete a listener at any time. When you delete a load balancer, its listeners are deleted.

To delete a listener using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Load Balancers and select the load balancer.
3. Choose Listener, select the check box for the listener, and then choose Actions, Delete.
4. When prompted for confirmation, choose Yes, Delete.

To delete a listener using the AWS CLI
Use the `delete-listener` command.
Target Groups for Your Network Load Balancers

Each target group is used to route requests to one or more registered targets. When you create each listener rule, you specify a target group and conditions. When a rule condition is met, traffic is forwarded to the corresponding target group. You can create different target groups for different types of requests. For example, create one target group for general requests and other target groups for requests to the microservices for your application. For more information, see Network Load Balancer Components (p. 1).

You define health check settings for your load balancer on a per target group basis. Each target group uses the default health check settings, unless you override them when you create the target group or modify them later on. After you specify a target group in a rule for a listener, the load balancer continually monitors the health of all targets registered with the target group that are in an Availability Zone enabled for the load balancer. The load balancer routes requests to the registered targets that are healthy.

Contents

- Routing Configuration (p. 18)
- Target Type (p. 18)
- Registered Targets (p. 19)
- Target Group Attributes (p. 20)
- Deregistration Delay (p. 20)
- Proxy Protocol (p. 20)
- Create a Target Group for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 22)
- Health Checks for Your Target Groups (p. 22)
- Register Targets with Your Target Group (p. 25)
- Tags for Your Target Group (p. 28)
- Delete a Target Group (p. 28)

Routing Configuration

By default, a load balancer routes requests to its targets using the protocol and port number that you specified when you created the target group. Alternatively, you can override the port used for routing traffic to a target when you register it with the target group.

Target groups for Network Load Balancers support the following protocols and ports:

- **Protocols**: TCP
- **Ports**: 1-65535

Target Type

When you create a target group, you specify its target type, which determines how you specify its targets. After you create a target group, you cannot change its target type.
The following are the possible target types:

**instance**

The targets are specified by instance ID.

**ip**

The targets are specified by IP address.

When the target type is **ip**, you can specify IP addresses from one of the following CIDR blocks:

- The subnets of the VPC for the target group
- 10.0.0.0/8 (RFC 1918)
- 100.64.0.0/10 (RFC 6598)
- 172.16.0.0/12 (RFC 1918)
- 192.168.0.0/16 (RFC 1918)

These supported CIDR blocks enable you to register the following with a target group: ClassicLink instances, AWS resources that are addressable by IP address and port (for example, databases), and on-premises resources linked to AWS through AWS Direct Connect or a software VPN connection.

**Important**

You can't specify publicly routable IP addresses.

If you specify targets using an instance ID, traffic is routed to instances using the primary private IP address specified in the primary network interface for the instance. If you specify targets using IP addresses, you can route traffic to an instance using any private IP address from one or more network interfaces. This enables multiple applications on an instance to use the same port. Note that each network interface can have its own security group.

If you specify targets using an instance ID, the source IP addresses of the clients are preserved and provided to your applications. If you specify targets by IP address, the source IP addresses are the private IP addresses of the load balancer nodes.

## Registered Targets

Your load balancer serves as a single point of contact for clients and distributes incoming traffic across its healthy registered targets. Each target group must have at least one registered target in each Availability Zone that is enabled for the load balancer. You can register each target with one or more target groups. You can register each EC2 instance or IP address with the same target group multiple times using different ports, which enables the load balancer to route requests to microservices.

If demand on your application increases, you can register additional targets with one or more target groups in order to handle the demand. The load balancer starts routing traffic to a newly registered target as soon as the registration process completes and the target passes the initial health checks.

If demand on your application decreases, or you need to service your targets, you can deregister targets from your target groups. Deregistering a target removes it from your target group, but does not affect the target otherwise. The load balancer stops routing traffic to a target as soon as it is deregistered. The target enters the **draining** state until in-flight requests have completed. You can register the target with the target group again when you are ready for it to resume receiving traffic.

If you are registering targets by instance ID, you can use your load balancer with an Auto Scaling group. After you attach a target group to an Auto Scaling group, Auto Scaling registers your targets with the
target group for you when it launches them. For more information, see Attaching a Load Balancer to Your Auto Scaling Group in the Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling User Guide.

**Limits**

- You cannot register instances by instance ID if they have the following instance types: C1, CC1, CC2, CG1, CG2, CR1, G1, G2, HI1, HS1, M1, M2, M3, and T1. You can register instances of these types by IP address.
- You cannot register targets in a peered VPC or linked through an AWS managed VPN.

**Target Group Attributes**

The following are the target group attributes:

- `deregistration_delay.timeout_seconds`
  The amount of time for Elastic Load Balancing to wait before changing the state of a deregistering target from draining to unused. The range is 0-3600 seconds. The default value is 300 seconds.
- `proxy_protocol_v2.enabled`
  Indicates whether Proxy Protocol version 2 is enabled. By default, Proxy Protocol is disabled.

**Deregistration Delay**

Elastic Load Balancing stops sending requests to instances that are deregistering. Connection draining ensures that in-flight requests complete before existing connections are closed. The initial state of a deregistering target is draining. By default, the state of a deregistering target changes to unused after 300 seconds. To change the amount of time that Elastic Load Balancing waits before changing the state to unused, update the deregistration delay value.

**To update the deregistration delay value using the console**

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. On the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
4. Choose Description, Edit attributes.
5. Change the value of Deregistration delay as needed, and then choose Save.

**To update the deregistration delay value using the AWS CLI**

Use the `modify-target-group-attributes` command.

**Proxy Protocol**

Network Load Balancers use Proxy Protocol version 2 to send additional connection information such as the source and destination. Proxy Protocol version 2 provides a binary encoding of the Proxy Protocol header.
If you specify targets by IP address, the source IP addresses provided to your applications are the private IP addresses of the load balancer nodes. If your applications need the IP addresses of the clients, enable Proxy Protocol and get the client IP addresses from the Proxy Protocol header.

If you specify targets by instance ID, the source IP addresses provided to your applications are the client IP addresses. However, if you prefer, you can enable Proxy Protocol and get the client IP addresses from the Proxy Protocol header.

### Health Check Connections

After you enable Proxy Protocol, the Proxy Protocol header is also included in health check connections from the load balancer. However, with health check connections, the client connection information is not sent in the Proxy Protocol header.

### VPC Endpoint Services

For traffic coming from service consumers through a VPC endpoint service, the source IP addresses provided to your applications are the private IP addresses of the load balancer nodes. If your applications need the IP addresses of the service consumers, enable Proxy Protocol and get them from the Proxy Protocol header.

The Proxy Protocol header also includes the ID of the endpoint. This information is encoded using a custom Type-Length-Value (TLV) vector as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Length (in octets)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PP2_TYPE_AWS (0xEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>The length of value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>PP2_SUBTYPE_AWS_VPCE_ID (0x01)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>variable</td>
<td>value length minus 1</td>
<td>The ID of the endpoint</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For an example that parses TLV type 0xEA, see https://github.com/aws/elastic-load-balancing-tools/tree/master/proprot.

### Enable Proxy Protocol

Before you enable Proxy Protocol on a target group, make sure that your applications expect and can parse the Proxy Protocol v2 header, otherwise, they might fail. For more information, see PROXY protocol versions 1 and 2.

To enable Proxy Protocol using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. On the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
4. Choose Description, Edit attributes.
5. Select Enable proxy protocol v2, and then choose Save.

To enable Proxy Protocol using the AWS CLI

Use the modify-target-group-attributes command.
Create a Target Group for Your Network Load Balancer

You register targets for your Network Load Balancer with a target group. By default, the load balancer sends requests to registered targets using the port and protocol that you specified for the target group. You can override this port when you register each target with the target group.

After you create a target group, you can add tags.

To route traffic to the targets in a target group, create a TCP listener and specify the target group in the default action for the listener. For more information, see Listener Rules (p. 15).

You can add or remove targets from your target group at any time. For more information, see Register Targets with Your Target Group (p. 25). You can also modify the health check settings for your target group. For more information, see Modify the Health Check Settings of a Target Group (p. 25).

To create a target group using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Choose Create target group.
4. For Target group name, type a name for the target group.
5. For Protocol, select TCP.
6. (Optional) For Port, modify the default value as needed.
7. For Target type, select instance to specify targets by instance ID or ip to specify targets by IP address.
8. For VPC, select a virtual private cloud (VPC).
9. (Optional) For Health check settings and Advanced health check settings, modify the default settings as needed. Choose Create.
10. (Optional) Add one or more tags as follows:
   a. Select the newly created target group.
   b. Choose Tags, Add/Edit Tags.
   c. On the Add/Edit Tags page, for each tag that you add, choose Create Tag and then specify the tag key and tag value. When you have finished adding tags, choose Save.
11. (Optional) To add targets to the target group, see Register Targets with Your Target Group (p. 25).

To create a target group using the AWS CLI

Use the create-target-group command to create the target group, the add-tags command to tag your target group, and the register-targets command to add targets.

Health Checks for Your Target Groups

Your Network Load Balancer periodically sends requests to its registered targets to test their status. These tests are called health checks.

Each load balancer node routes requests only to the healthy targets in its Availability Zone. Each load balancer node checks the health of each target, using the health check settings for the target group.
with which the target is registered. After your target is registered, it must pass one health check to be considered healthy. After each health check is completed, the load balancer node closes the connection that was established for the health check.

If one or more target groups does not have a healthy target in an enabled Availability Zone, we remove the IP address for the corresponding subnet from DNS so that requests cannot be routed to targets in that Availability Zone. If there are no enabled Availability Zones with a healthy target in each target group, requests are routed to targets in all enabled Availability Zones.

**Health Check Settings**

You configure health checks for the targets in a target group using the following settings. The load balancer sends a health check request to each registered target every **HealthCheckIntervalSeconds** seconds, using the specified port, protocol, and ping path. It waits for the target to respond within the response timeout period. If the health checks exceed the threshold for consecutive failed responses, the load balancer takes the target out of service. When the health checks exceed the threshold for consecutive successful responses, the load balancer puts the target back in service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HealthCheckProtocol</td>
<td>The protocol the load balancer uses when performing health checks on targets. The possible protocols are HTTP, HTTPS, and TCP. The default is the TCP protocol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCheckPort</td>
<td>The port the load balancer uses when performing health checks on targets. The default is to use the port on which each target receives traffic from the load balancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCheckPath</td>
<td>[HTTP/HTTPS health checks] The ping path that is the destination on the targets for health checks. The default is /.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCheckTimeoutSeconds</td>
<td>The amount of time, in seconds, during which no response from a target means a failed health check. This is 10 seconds for TCP and HTTPS health checks and 6 seconds for HTTP health checks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthCheckIntervalSeconds</td>
<td>The approximate amount of time, in seconds, between health checks of an individual target. This value can be 10 seconds or 30 seconds. The default is 30 seconds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthyThresholdCount</td>
<td>The number of consecutive successful health checks required before considering an unhealthy target healthy. The range is 2 to 10. The default is 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UnhealthyThresholdCount</td>
<td>The number of consecutive failed health checks required before considering a target unhealthy. This value must be the same as the healthy threshold count.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matcher</td>
<td>[HTTP/HTTPS health checks] The HTTP codes to use when checking for a successful response from a target. This value must be 200 to 399.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Target Health Status**

Before the load balancer sends a health check request to a target, you must register it with a target group, specify its target group in a listener rule, and ensure that the Availability Zone of the target is enabled for the load balancer. Before a target can receive requests from the load balancer, it must pass the initial health checks. After a target passes the initial health checks, its status is `Healthy`.

The following table describes the possible values for the health status of a registered target.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>initial</td>
<td>The load balancer is in the process of registering the target or performing the initial health checks on the target.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>healthy</td>
<td>The target is healthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unhealthy</td>
<td>The target did not respond to a health check or failed the health check.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unused</td>
<td>The target is not registered with a target group, the target group is not used in a listener rule for the load balancer, or the target is in an Availability Zone that is not enabled for the load balancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draining</td>
<td>The target is deregistering and connection draining is in process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health Check Reason Codes**

If the status of a target is any value other than `Healthy`, the API returns a reason code and a description of the issue, and the console displays the same description in a tooltip. Note that reason codes that begin with `Elb` originate on the load balancer side and reason codes that begin with `Target` originate on the target side.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elb.InitialHealthChecking</td>
<td>Initial health checks in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elb.InternalError</td>
<td>Health checks failed due to an internal error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elb.RegistrationInProgress</td>
<td>Target registration is in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target.DeregistrationInProgress</td>
<td>Target deregistration is in progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target.FailedHealthChecks</td>
<td>Health checks failed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target.InvalidState</td>
<td>Target is in the stopped state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target is in the terminated state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target is in the terminated or stopped state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target is in an invalid state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target.NotInUse</td>
<td>Target group is not configured to receive traffic from the load balancer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Check the Health of Your Targets

You can check the health status of the targets registered with your target groups.

To check the health of your targets using the console
1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
4. Choose Targets, and view the status of each target in the Status column. If the status is any value other than Healthy, view the tooltip for more information.

To check the health of your targets using the AWS CLI

Use the describe-target-health command. The output of this command contains the target health state. It includes a reason code if the status is any value other than Healthy.

Modify the Health Check Settings of a Target Group

You can modify the health check settings for your target group at any time.

To modify the health check settings of a target group using the console
1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
4. Choose Health checks, Edit.
5. On the Edit target group page, modify the settings as needed, and then choose Save.

To modify the health check settings of a target group using the AWS CLI

Use the modify-target-group command.

Register Targets with Your Target Group

You register your targets with one or more target groups. Each target group must have at least one registered target in each Availability Zone that is enabled for the load balancer. You can register targets by instance ID or by IP address. For more information, see Target Groups for Your Network Load Balancers (p. 18).
If demand on your currently registered targets increases, you can register additional targets in order to handle the demand. When your target is ready to handle requests, register it with your target group. The load balancer starts routing requests to the target as soon as the registration process completes and the target passes the initial health checks.

If demand on your registered targets decreases, or you need to service a target, you can deregister it from your target group. The load balancer stops routing requests to a target as soon as you deregister it. When the target is ready to receive requests, you can register it with the target group again.

When you deregister a target, Elastic Load Balancing waits until in-flight requests have completed. This is known as connection draining. The status of a target is draining while connection draining is in progress.

If you are registering targets by instance ID, you can use your load balancer with an Auto Scaling group. After you attach a target group to an Auto Scaling group and the group scales out, the instances launched by the Auto Scaling group are automatically registered with the target group. If you detach the load balancer from the Auto Scaling group, the instances are automatically deregistered from the target group. For more information, see Attaching a Load Balancer to Your Auto Scaling Group in the Amazon EC2 Auto Scaling User Guide.

Target Security Groups

When you register EC2 instances as targets, you must ensure that the security groups for these instances allow traffic on both the listener port and the health check port.

Limits

- Network Load Balancers do not have associated security groups. Therefore, the security groups for your targets must use IP addresses to allow traffic from the load balancer.
- You cannot allow traffic from clients to targets through the load balancer using the security groups for the clients in the security groups for the targets.

Recommended Rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inbound</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Port Range</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Client IP addresses</td>
<td>instance listener</td>
<td>Allow traffic from clients on the instance listener port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VPC CIDR</td>
<td>health check</td>
<td>Allow traffic from the load balancer on the health check port</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you do not want to grant access to the entire VPC CIDR, you can grant access to the private IP addresses used by the load balancer nodes. There is one IP address per load balancer subnet. To find these addresses, use the following procedure.

To find the private IP addresses to whitelist

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, choose Network Interfaces.
3. In the search field, type the name of your Network Load Balancer. There is one network interface per load balancer subnet.
4. On the Details tab for each network interface, copy the address from Primary private IPv4 IP.
Elastic Load Balancing Network Load Balancers
Targets and Internet-facing Load Balancers

With an Internet-facing load balancer, targets in a private subnet must have a route to the Internet to provide connectivity. For example, the route table for the private subnet should have a route to a NAT gateway or a bastion host.

Register or Deregister Targets

When you create a target group, you specify whether you must register targets by instance ID or IP address.

Limits

- You cannot register instances by instance ID if they have the following instance types: C1, CC1, CC2, CG1, CG2, CR1, G1, G2, HI1, HS1, M1, M2, M3, and T1. You can register instances of these types by IP address.
- You cannot register targets in a peered VPC or linked through an AWS managed VPN.

Register or Deregister Targets by Instance ID

The instance must be in the running state when you register it.

To register or deregister targets by instance ID

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
5. (Optional) For Registered instances, select any instances to be deregistered and choose Remove.
6. (Optional) For Instances, select any running instances to be registered, modify the default instance port as needed, and then choose Add to registered.
7. Choose Save.

Register or Deregister Targets by IP Address

The IP addresses that you register must be from the subnets of the VPC for the target group, the RFC 1918 range (10.0.0.0/8, 172.16.0.0/12, and 192.168.0.0/16), and the RFC 6598 range (100.64.0.0/10). You cannot register publicly routable IP addresses.

To register or deregister targets by IP address

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group and choose Targets, Edit.
4. To register IP addresses, choose the Register targets icon (the plus sign) in the menu bar. For each IP address, specify the network, Availability Zone, IP address, and port, and then choose Add to list. When you are finished specifying addresses, choose Register.
5. To deregister IP addresses, choose the Deregister targets icon (the minus sign) in the menu bar. If you have many registered IP addresses, you might find it helpful to add a filter or change the sort order. Select the IP addresses and choose Deregister.
6. To leave this screen, choose the Back to target group icon (the back button) in the menu bar.

To register or deregister targets using the AWS CLI

Use the register-targets command to add targets and the deregister-targets command to remove targets.

Tags for Your Target Group

Tags help you to categorize your target groups in different ways, for example, by purpose, owner, or environment.

You can add multiple tags to each target group. Tag keys must be unique for each target group. If you add a tag with a key that is already associated with the target group, it updates the value of that tag.

When you are finished with a tag, you can remove it.

Restrictions

- Maximum number of tags per resource—50
- Maximum key length—127 Unicode characters
- Maximum value length—255 Unicode characters
- Tag keys and values are case sensitive. Allowed characters are letters, spaces, and numbers representable in UTF-8, plus the following special characters: + - = . _ : / @. Do not use leading or trailing spaces.
- Do not use the aws: prefix in your tag names or values because it is reserved for AWS use. You can’t edit or delete tag names or values with this prefix. Tags with this prefix do not count against your tags per resource limit.

To update the tags for a target group using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. On the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group.
4. On the Tags tab, choose Add/Edit Tags, and then do one or more of the following:
   a. To update a tag, edit the values of Key and Value.
   b. To add a new tag, choose Create Tag and then type values for Key and Value.
   c. To delete a tag, choose the delete icon (X) next to the tag.
5. When you have finished updating tags, choose Save.

To update the tags for a target group using the AWS CLI

Use the add-tags and remove-tags commands.

Delete a Target Group

You can delete a target group if it is not referenced by any actions. Deleting a target group does not affect the targets registered with the target group. If you no longer need the EC2 instances, you can stop or terminate them.
To delete a target group using the console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. In the navigation pane, under LOAD BALANCING, choose Target Groups.
3. Select the target group and choose Actions, Delete.
4. When prompted for confirmation, choose Yes.

To delete a target group using the AWS CLI

Use the delete-target-group command.
Monitor Your Network Load Balancers

You can use the following features to monitor your load balancers, analyze traffic patterns, and troubleshoot issues with your load balancers and targets.

CloudWatch metrics

You can use Amazon CloudWatch to retrieve statistics about data points for your load balancers and targets as an ordered set of time-series data, known as metrics. You can use these metrics to verify that your system is performing as expected. For more information, see CloudWatch Metrics for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 30).

VPC Flow Logs

You can use Amazon VPC to capture detailed information about the traffic going to and from your Network Load Balancer. For more information, see VPC Flow Logs in the Amazon VPC User Guide.

CloudTrail logs

You can use AWS CloudTrail to capture detailed information about the calls made to the Elastic Load Balancing API and store them as log files in Amazon S3. You can use these CloudTrail logs to determine which calls were made, the source IP address where the call came from, who made the call, when the call was made, and so on. For more information, see AWS CloudTrail Logging for Your Network Load Balancer (p. 33).

CloudWatch Metrics for Your Network Load Balancer

Elastic Load Balancing publishes data points to Amazon CloudWatch for your load balancers and your targets. CloudWatch enables you to retrieve statistics about those data points as an ordered set of time-series data, known as metrics. Think of a metric as a variable to monitor, and the data points as the values of that variable over time. For example, you can monitor the total number of healthy targets for a load balancer over a specified time period. Each data point has an associated time stamp and an optional unit of measurement.

You can use metrics to verify that your system is performing as expected. For example, you can create a CloudWatch alarm to monitor a specified metric and initiate an action (such as sending a notification to an email address) if the metric goes outside what you consider an acceptable range.

Elastic Load Balancing reports metrics to CloudWatch only when requests are flowing through the load balancer. If there are requests flowing through the load balancer, Elastic Load Balancing measures and sends its metrics in 60-second intervals. If there are no requests flowing through the load balancer or no data for a metric, the metric is not reported.

For more information, see the Amazon CloudWatch User Guide.

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- Network Load Balancer Metrics (p. 31)
- Metric Dimensions for Network Load Balancers (p. 31)
- Statistics for Network Load Balancer Metrics (p. 32)
- View CloudWatch Metrics for Your Load Balancer (p. 32)
# Network Load Balancer Metrics

The AWS/NetworkELB namespace includes the following metrics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ActiveFlowCount</td>
<td>The total number of concurrent TCP flows (or connections) from clients to targets. This metric includes connections in the SYN_SENT and ESTABLISHED states. TCP connections are not terminated at the load balancer, so a client opening a TCP connection to a target counts as a single flow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistics are Average, Maximum, and Minimum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ConsumedLCUs</td>
<td>The number of load balancer capacity units (LCU) used by your load balancer. You pay for the number of LCUs that you use per hour. For more information, see Elastic Load Balancing Pricing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HealthyHostCount</td>
<td>The number of targets that are considered healthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistics are Average, Maximum, and Minimum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NewFlowCount</td>
<td>The total number of new TCP flows (or connections) established from clients to targets in the time period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistic is Sum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ProcessedBytes</td>
<td>The total number of bytes processed by the load balancer, including TCP/IP headers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistic is Sum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP_Client_Reset_Count</td>
<td>The total number of reset (RST) packets sent from a client to a target. These resets are generated by the client and forwarded by the load balancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistic is Sum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP_ELB_Reset_Count</td>
<td>The total number of reset (RST) packets generated by the load balancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistic is Sum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP_Target_Reset_Count</td>
<td>The total number of reset (RST) packets sent from a target to a client. These resets are generated by the target and forwarded by the load balancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistic is Sum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UnHealthyHostCount</td>
<td>The number of targets that are considered unhealthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>The most useful statistics are Average, Maximum, and Minimum.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Metric Dimensions for Network Load Balancers

To filter the metrics for your load balancer, use the following dimensions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AvailabilityZone</td>
<td>Filter the metric data by Availability Zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LoadBalancer</td>
<td>Filter the metric data by load balancer. Specify the load balancer as follows: net/load-balancer-name/1234567890123456 (the final portion of the load balancer ARN).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TargetGroup</td>
<td>Filter the metric data by target group. Specify the target group as follows: targetgroup/target-group-name/1234567890123456 (the final portion of the target group ARN).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics for Network Load Balancer Metrics

CloudWatch provides statistics based on the metric data points published by Elastic Load Balancing. Statistics are metric data aggregations over specified period of time. When you request statistics, the returned data stream is identified by the metric name and dimension. A dimension is a name/value pair that uniquely identifies a metric. For example, you can request statistics for all the healthy EC2 instances behind a load balancer launched in a specific Availability Zone.

The Minimum and Maximum statistics reflect the minimum and maximum reported by the individual load balancer nodes. For example, suppose there are 2 load balancer nodes. One node has HealthyHostCount with a Minimum of 2, a Maximum of 10, and an Average of 6, while the other node has HealthyHostCount with a Minimum of 1, a Maximum of 5, and an Average of 3. Therefore, the load balancer has a Minimum of 1, a Maximum of 10, and an Average of about 4.

The Sum statistic is the aggregate value across all load balancer nodes. Because metrics include multiple reports per period, Sum is only applicable to metrics that are aggregated across all load balancer nodes.

The SampleCount statistic is the number of samples measured. Because metrics are gathered based on sampling intervals and events, this statistic is typically not useful. For example, with HealthyHostCount, SampleCount is based on the number of samples that each load balancer node reports, not the number of healthy hosts.

View CloudWatch Metrics for Your Load Balancer

You can view the CloudWatch metrics for your load balancers using the Amazon EC2 console. These metrics are displayed as monitoring graphs. The monitoring graphs show data points if the load balancer is active and receiving requests.

Alternatively, you can view metrics for your load balancer using the CloudWatch console.

To view metrics using the Amazon EC2 console

1. Open the Amazon EC2 console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/ec2/.
2. To view metrics filtered by target group, do the following:
   a. In the navigation pane, choose Target Groups.
   b. Select your target group and choose Monitoring.
   c. (Optional) To filter the results by time, select a time range from Showing data for.
   d. To get a larger view of a single metric, select its graph.
3. To view metrics filtered by load balancer, do the following:
   a. In the navigation pane, choose Load Balancers.
   b. Select your load balancer and choose Monitoring.
c. (Optional) To filter the results by time, select a time range from **Showing data for**.
d. To get a larger view of a single metric, select its graph.

**To view metrics using the CloudWatch console**

2. In the navigation pane, choose **Metrics**.
3. Select the **NetworkELB** namespace.
4. (Optional) To view a metric across all dimensions, type its name in the search field.

**To view metrics using the AWS CLI**

Use the following **list-metrics** command to list the available metrics:

```bash
aws cloudwatch list-metrics --namespace AWS/NetworkELB
```

**To get the statistics for a metric using the AWS CLI**

Use the following **get-metric-statistics** command get statistics for the specified metric and dimension. Note that CloudWatch treats each unique combination of dimensions as a separate metric. You can't retrieve statistics using combinations of dimensions that were not specially published. You must specify the same dimensions that were used when the metrics were created.

```bash
aws cloudwatch get-metric-statistics --namespace AWS/NetworkELB \
--metric-name UnHealthyHostCount --statistics Average --period 3600 \ 
--dimensions Name=LoadBalancer,Value=net/my-load-balancer/50dc6c495c0c9188 \ 
Name=TargetGroup,Value=targetgroup/my-targets/73e2d6bc24d8a067 \ 
--start-time 2017-04-18T00:00:00Z --end-time 2017-04-21T00:00:00Z
```

The following is example output:

```javascript
{
  "Datapoints": [
    {
      "Timestamp": "2017-04-18T22:00:00Z",
      "Average": 0.0,
      "Unit": "Count"
    },
    {
      "Timestamp": "2017-04-18T04:00:00Z",
      "Average": 0.0,
      "Unit": "Count"
    },
    ...
  ],
  "Label": "UnHealthyHostCount"
}
```

**AWS CloudWatch Logging for Your Network Load Balancer**

Elastic Load Balancing is integrated with AWS CloudTrail, which captures API calls to AWS made by or on behalf of your AWS account, and delivers log files to an Amazon S3 bucket that you specify. There is no cost to use CloudTrail. However, the standard rates for Amazon S3 apply.
CloudTrail logs calls to the AWS APIs, including the Elastic Load Balancing API, whether you use them directly or indirectly through the AWS Management Console. You can use the information collected by CloudTrail to determine what API call was made, what source IP address was used, who made the call, when it was made, and so on.

To learn more about CloudTrail, including how to configure and enable it, see the AWS CloudTrail User Guide. For the complete list of Elastic Load Balancing API actions, see the Elastic Load Balancing API Reference version 2015-12-01.

Contents
- Enable CloudTrail Event Logging (p. 34)
- Elastic Load Balancing Event Records in CloudTrail Log Files (p. 34)

Enable CloudTrail Event Logging

If you haven't done so already, use the following steps to enable CloudTrail event logging for your account.

To enable CloudTrail event logging
1. Open the CloudTrail console at https://console.aws.amazon.com/cloudtrail/.
2. Choose Get Started Now.
3. For Trail name, type a name for your trail.
4. Leave Apply trail to all regions as Yes.
5. Choose an existing S3 bucket for your CloudTrail log files, or create a new one. To create a new bucket, type a unique name for S3 bucket. To use an existing bucket, change Create a new S3 bucket to No and then select your bucket from S3 bucket.
6. Choose Turn on.

The log files are written to your S3 bucket in the following location:

```
my-bucket/AWSLogs/123456789012/CloudTrail/region/yyyy/mm/dd/
```

For more information, see the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

Elastic Load Balancing Event Records in CloudTrail Log Files

The log files from CloudTrail contain event information in JSON format. An event record represents a single AWS API call and includes information about the requested action, such as the user that requested the action, the date and the time of the request, the request parameter, and the response elements.

The log files include events for all AWS API calls for your AWS account, not just Elastic Load Balancing API calls. However, you can read the log files and locate calls to the Elastic Load Balancing API by checking for eventSource elements with the value elasticloadbalancing.amazonaws.com. To view information about a specific action, such as CreateLoadBalancer, check for eventName elements with the action name.

The following example shows CloudTrail log records for a user who created a load balancer and then deleted it using the AWS CLI. You can identify the CLI using the userAgent elements. You can identify
Elastic Load Balancing Network Load Balancers
Elastic Load Balancing Event Records in CloudTrail Log Files

the requested API calls using the eventName elements. Information about the user (Alice) can be found in the userIdentity element. For more information about the different elements and values in a CloudTrail log file, see CloudTrail Event Reference in the AWS CloudTrail User Guide.

```json
{
  "Records": [
    ...
    {
      "eventVersion": "1.03",
      "userIdentity": {
        "type": "IAMUser",
        "principalId": "123456789012",
        "arn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:user/Alice",
        "accountId": "123456789012",
        "accessKeyId": "AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE",
        "userName": "Alice"
      },
      "eventTime": "2016-04-01T15:31:48Z",
      "eventSource": "elasticloadbalancing.amazonaws.com",
      "eventName": "CreateLoadBalancer",
      "awsRegion": "us-west-2",
      "sourceIPAddress": "198.51.100.1",
      "userAgent": "aws-cli/1.10.10 Python/2.7.9 Windows/7 botocore/1.4.1",
      "requestParameters": {
        "subnets": ["subnet-8360a9e7","subnet-b7d581c0"],
        "securityGroups": ["sg-5943793c"],
        "name": "my-load-balancer",
        "scheme": "internet-facing"
      },
      "responseElements": {
        "loadBalancers": [
          {"type": "application",
           "loadBalancerName": "my-load-balancer",
           "vpcId": "vpc-3ac0fb5f",
           "securityGroups": ["sg-5943793c"],
           "state": {"code": "provisioning"},
           "availabilityZones": [
             {"subnetId": "subnet-8360a9e7","zoneName": "us-west-2a"},
             {"subnetId": "subnet-b7d581c0","zoneName": "us-west-2b"}
           ],
           "DNSName": "my-load-balancer-1836718677.us-west-2.elb.amazonaws.com",
           "canonicalHostedZoneId": "Z2P7OJHTTIPPLU",
           "createdTime": "Apr 11, 2016 5:23:50 PM",
           "scheme": "internet-facing"
         }
        ]
      },
      "requestID": "b9960276-b9b2-11e3-8a13-f1ef1EXAMPLE",
      "eventID": "6f4a85bd-2daa-4d00-be14-d92efEXAMPLE",
      "eventType": "AwsApiCall",
      "apiVersion": "2015-12-01",
      "recipientAccountId": "123456789012"
    }
  ...
  {
    "eventVersion": "1.03",
    "userIdentity": {
      "type": "IAMUser",
      "principalId": "123456789012",
      "arn": "arn:aws:iam::123456789012:user/Alice",
      "accountId": "123456789012",
      "accessKeyId": "AKIAIOSFODNN7EXAMPLE",
      "userName": "Alice"
    }
  }
```
Elastic Load Balancing Network Load Balancers
Elastic Load Balancing Event Records in CloudTrail Log Files

"eventTime": "2016-04-01T15:31:48Z",
"eventSource": "elasticloadbalancing.amazonaws.com",
"eventName": "DeleteLoadBalancer",
"awsRegion": "us-west-2",
"sourceIPAddress": "198.51.100.1",
"userAgent": "aws-cli/1.10.10 Python/2.7.9 Windows/7 botocore/1.4.1",
"requestParameters": {
  "loadBalancerArn": "arn:aws:elasticloadbalancing:us-west-2:123456789012:loadbalancer/app/my-load-balancer/ffcddace1759e1d0"
},
"responseElements": null,
"requestID": "349598b3-000e-11e6-a82b-298133eEXAMPLE",
"eventID": "75e81c95-4012-421f-a0cf-babdaEXAMPLE",
"eventType": "AwsApiCall",
"apiVersion": "2015-12-01",
"recipientAccountId": "123456789012"
}}

You can also use one of the AWS partner solutions that integrate with CloudTrail to read and analyze your CloudTrail log files. For more information, see the AWS CloudTrail Partners page.
Limits for Your Network Load Balancers

To view the current limits for your Network Load Balancers, use the Limits page of the Amazon EC2 console, or the describe-account-limits (AWS CLI) command. To request a limit increase, use the Elastic Load Balancing Limits form.

Your AWS account has the following limits related to Network Load Balancers.

Regional Limits

- Network Load Balancers per region: 20
- Target groups per region: 3000 *

Load Balancer Limits

- Listeners per load balancer: 50
- Subnets per Availability Zone per load balancer: 1
- Targets per Availability Zone per load balancer: 200
- Load balancers per target group: 1

* This limit is shared by target groups for your Application Load Balancers and Network Load Balancers.
Document History for Network Load Balancers

The following table describes the documentation for this release of Network Load Balancers.

- **API version:** 2015-12-01

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proxy Protocol</td>
<td>This release adds support for enabling Proxy Protocol. For more information, see Proxy Protocol (p. 20).</td>
<td>November 17, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP addresses as targets</td>
<td>This release adds support for registering IP addresses as targets. For more information, see Target Type (p. 18).</td>
<td>September 21, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New load balancer type</td>
<td>This release of Elastic Load Balancing introduces Network Load Balancers.</td>
<td>September 7, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>