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F5 BIG-IP Administration Data Plane Concepts (F5CAB2) Sample Questions (Q21-Q26):

NEW QUESTION # 21

A BIG-IP Administrator makes a configuration change to a Virtual Server on the Standby device of an HA pair. The HA pair is currently configured with Auto-Sync enabled. What effect will the change have on the HA pair configuration? (Choose one answer)

- A. The change will be undone when Auto-Sync propagates the config to the Standby device.
- B. The change will take effect when Auto-Sync propagates the config to the HA pair.
- C. The change will be propagated next time a configuration change is made on the Active device.
- D. The change will be undone next time a configuration change is made on the Active device.

Answer: A

Explanation:

In a BIG-IP high availability (HA) configuration, Auto-Sync is a device trust feature that automatically synchronizes configuration changes from the Active device to the Standby device within a Sync-Failover device group.

Key principles from BIG-IP Administration Data Plane Concepts:

- * The Active device is always the authoritative source of configuration
- * Configuration changes are intended to be made only on the Active device

- * With Auto-Sync enabled, any time the Active device configuration changes, the system automatically pushes the configuration to all Standby members of the device group
- * Configuration changes made directly on a Standby device are not preserved In this scenario:
- * The administrator modifies a Virtual Server on the Standby device
- * That change is local only and does not alter the device group's synchronized configuration
- * When Auto-Sync next runs (triggered by a change on the Active device or an internal sync event), the Active device configuration overwrites the Standby configuration As a result, the configuration change made on the Standby device is undone.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

- * A - The change is not undone only when another change is made; it is undone during the next Auto- Sync operation
- * B - Changes made on the Standby device are never propagated to the Active device
- * D - Auto-Sync does not merge or promote Standby changes into the HA pair configuration

Best Practice Reinforced:
Always perform configuration changes on the Active BIG-IP device when Auto-Sync is enabled to ensure consistent and predictable HA behavior.

NEW QUESTION # 22

A BIG-IP Administrator assigns the default http health monitor to a pool that has three members listening on port 80. When the administrator connects to each pool member via the CURL utility, two of the members respond with a status of 404 Not Found while the third responds with 200 OK. What will the pool show for member availability?

- A. Two members online and one member offline
- B. Two members offline and one member online
- C. All members online
- D. All members offline

Answer: C

Explanation:

The behavior of a health monitor is determined by its Send String and Receive String.

* Default HTTP Monitor: The pre-configured default HTTP monitor on a BIG-IP system has an empty Receive String.

* Success Criteria: When the Receive String is blank, the BIG-IP system considers the health check successful if it receives any valid HTTP response from the server.

* Status Code Interpretation: Because a 404 Not Found is a valid HTTP status code (it is a properly formatted response from a running web server process), the BIG-IP interprets this as the application being "alive".

* Result: All three members (including the two returning 404s and the one returning 200) will be marked as UP/Available (Green).

NEW QUESTION # 23

The BIG-IP Administrator wants to provide quick failover between the F5 LTM devices that are configured as an HA pair with a single Self IP using the MAC Masquerade feature. The administrator configures MAC masquerade for traffic-group-1 using the following command:

```
`tmsh modify /cm traffic-group traffic-group-1 mac 02:12:34:56:00:00`
```

However, the Network Operations team identifies an issue with using the same MAC address across multiple VLANs. As a result, the administrator enables Per-VLAN MAC Masquerade to ensure a unique MAC address per VLAN by running:

```
`tmsh modify /sys db tm.macmasqaddr_per_vlan value true`
```

What would be the resulting MAC address on a tagged VLAN with ID 1501? (Choose one answer)

- A. 02:12:34:56:05:dd
- B. 02:12:34:56:15:01
- C. 02:12:34:56:dd:05
- D. 02:12:34:56:01:15

Answer: A

Explanation:

In BIG-IP high availability (HA) configurations, MAC Masquerade is used to speed up failover by allowing traffic-group-associated Self IPs to retain the same MAC address when moving between devices. This prevents upstream switches and routers from having to relearn ARP entries during a failover event, resulting in near-instant traffic recovery.

By default, MAC masquerade applies one MAC address per traffic group, regardless of how many VLANs the traffic group spans. This can create problems in some network designs because the same MAC address appearing on multiple VLANs may violate network policies or confuse switching infrastructure.

To address this, BIG-IP provides Per-VLAN MAC Masquerade, enabled by the database variable:

```
`tm.macmasqaddr_per_vlan = true`
```

When this feature is enabled:

BIG-IP derives a unique MAC address per VLAN

The base MAC address configured on the traffic group remains the first four octets. The last two octets are replaced with the VLAN ID expressed in hexadecimal. The VLAN ID is encoded in network byte order (high byte first, low byte second).

VLAN ID Conversion:

VLAN ID: 1501 (decimal)

Convert to hexadecimal:

1501₁₀ = 0x05DD

High byte: 05

Low byte: DD

Resulting MAC Address:

Base MAC: `02:12:34:56:00:00`

Per-VLAN substitution # last two bytes = `05:DD`

Final MAC address:

`02:12:34:56:05:dd`

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

A (01:15) - Incorrect hexadecimal conversion of 1501

B (dd:05) - Byte order reversed (little-endian, not used by BIG-IP)

D (15:01) - Uses decimal values instead of hexadecimal

Key BIG-IP HA Concept Reinforced:

Per-VLAN MAC Masquerade ensures Layer 2 uniqueness per VLAN while preserving the fast failover benefits of traffic groups, making it the recommended best practice in multi-VLAN HA deployments.

NEW QUESTION # 24

Refer to the exhibit.

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The BIG-IP Administrator needs to avoid overloading any of the pool members with connections when they become active. What should the BIG-IP Administrator configure to meet this requirement? (Choose one answer)

- A. Different Ratio for each member
- B. Same Priority Group to each member
- C. Action On Service Down to Reselect
- **D. Slow Ramp Time to the Pool**

Answer: D

Explanation:

This question focuses on connection behavior when pool members transition from down to up, which is a classic data plane consideration in BIG-IP environments.

What problem is being solved?

When a pool member:

- * Recovers from a failure
- * Is enabled after maintenance
- * Transitions from inactive to active

...it can suddenly receive a large burst of new connections, especially when using load-balancing methods such as Least Connections.

This sudden surge can overload the server.

Why Slow Ramp Time is the correct solution:

Slow Ramp Time is a pool-level setting that:

- * Gradually increases the number of connections sent to a newly available pool member
- * Prevents sudden spikes in traffic
- * Allows the server to warm up (application cache, JVM, DB connections, etc.) From BIG-IP Administration Data Plane Concepts:
- * Slow Ramp Time controls the rate at which BIG-IP increases load to a pool member that has just become available
- * During the ramp period, BIG-IP artificially increases the member's connection count, making it appear

"busier" and therefore less attractive for new connections

This directly satisfies the requirement to avoid overloading pool members when they become active.

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

- * B. Different Ratio for each member
- * Ratios control relative distribution under normal operation

- * They do not prevent a sudden surge when a member becomes active
- * C. Action On Service Down to Reselect
- * Controls persistence behavior when a member goes down
- * Has no impact on connection ramp-up when a member comes back online
- * D. Same Priority Group to each member
- * Affects failover logic between priority groups
- * Does not control connection rate or ramp-up behavior

Key Data Plane Concept Reinforced:

To protect backend servers during recovery events, BIG-IP provides Slow Ramp Time, ensuring graceful reintroduction of traffic and preventing connection storms that can occur during high-load scenarios.

NEW QUESTION # 25

What should a BIG-IP Administrator configure to minimize impact during a failover? (Choose one answer)

- A. OneConnect profile
- **B. MAC masquerading**
- C. Clone pool
- D. External monitors

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From BIG-IP Administration Data Plane Concepts documents:

In BIG-IP high availability (HA) deployments, one of the primary causes of traffic disruption during failover is Layer 2 and Layer 3 relearning by upstream network devices (switches and routers). When traffic groups move from the Active device to the Standby device, the network must quickly associate the IP addresses with the new device.

Why MAC Masquerading Minimizes Failover Impact:

MAC masquerading allows a traffic group to use a floating, shared MAC address for its Self IPs. This MAC address moves with the traffic group during failover.

Key benefits:

The MAC address does not change when failover occurs

Upstream switches do not need to relearn ARP entries

Traffic resumes almost immediately after failover

Dramatically reduces packet loss and connection interruption

From BIG-IP Administration Data Plane Concepts:

MAC masquerade is specifically designed to provide fast failover

It is a best practice for HA pairs, especially in environments sensitive to latency and connection loss

Why the Other Options Are Incorrect:

A . External monitors

Used to check the availability of external resources

Do not reduce network convergence or failover disruption

B . Clone pool

Used for traffic mirroring or security analysis

Has no impact on failover behavior

C . OneConnect profile

Optimizes server-side TCP connections

Does not address ARP or MAC relearning during failover

Key HA Concept Reinforced:

To minimize failover impact on live traffic, BIG-IP administrators should ensure Layer 2 continuity. MAC masquerading is the primary mechanism that enables near-instant failover by preventing ARP and MAC table reconvergence delays.

NEW QUESTION # 26

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