



Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Server

Installation Guide

UPDATED: 28 July 2023

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1 Introduction

The Kemp LoadMaster load balancing solution is specifically optimized for the UCS B-series blades, enabling customers to deploy full-feature, high-performance load balancers. This can reduce network design complexity as well as increase performance through the direct access to the virtual networking fabric. Easily deployed on UCS Blades as a bare metal solution, Kemp's LoadMaster for UCS offers unique value. The Kemp solution is designed to handle load balancing for application-to-application connections or at the edge for external/internet based connections to web services.

Depending on the license, the LoadMaster will support 6, 16 or 32 cores. If hyper-threading is present and enabled the number of supported cores is doubled. This document describes the steps required to install the Kemp LoadMaster software on a Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Server.

PXE and USB booting options are also supported by the LoadMaster installation ISO file.

1.1 Pre-requisites

The following pre-requisites are required:

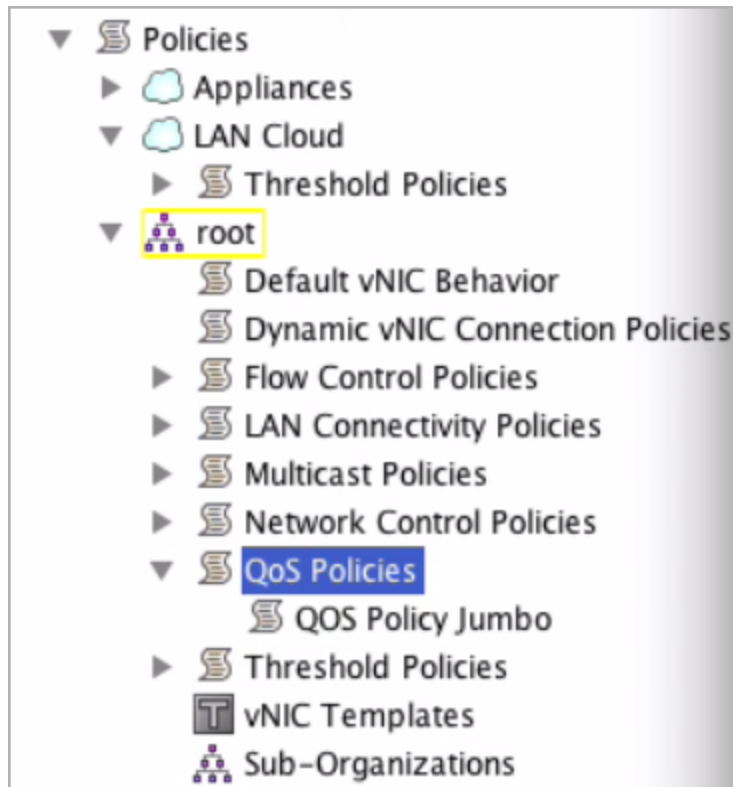
- A Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Server.
- An ISO image with the LoadMaster software.
- For a standalone LoadMaster one IP-address on an untagged LAN is required. Three IP-addresses are required for a HA pair.
- The local disk on the Cisco UCS B-Series Blade Server should be empty as it is re-partitioned during the installation of the LoadMaster software.
- The boot order on the B-Series Blade Server should be configured as follows:
 1. Local Disk
 2. CD_ROM

The boot order can be checked and configured within the **Boot Order Details** section on the **General** tab of the **Cisco Unified Computing Systems (UCS) Manager**.

2 Create Policies

A number of policies can be created in order to optimize LoadMaster performance. The sections below give instructions on how to create these policies in the Cisco Unified Computing System Manager.

2.1 Create a QoS Policy



1. In the menu on the left, go to **Policies > root > QoS Policies**.



2. Click the plus button on the right to create a new policy.

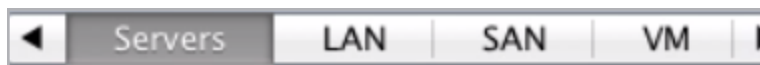


The screenshot shows a configuration window for a policy named **Jumbo_Test**. The **Properties** tab is selected. Under the **Egress** section, the following settings are visible:

- Priority:** A dropdown menu set to **Platinum**.
- Burst(Bytes):** A text box containing the value **65535**.
- Rate(Kbps):** A text box containing the value **40000000**.
- Host Control:** Two radio buttons, **None** (selected) and **Full**.

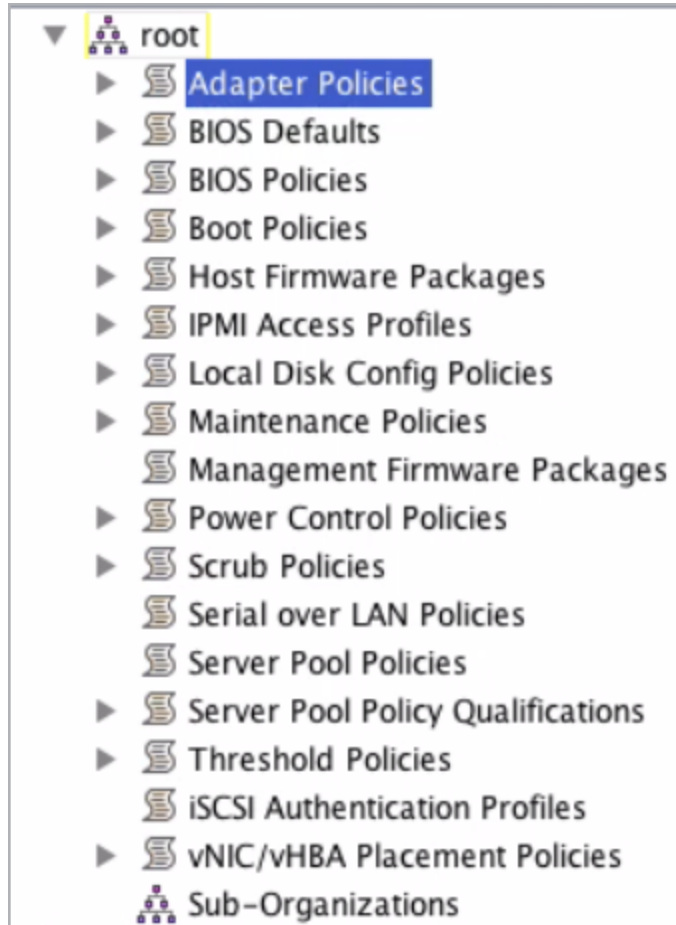
3. Enter a **Name**.
4. Select **Platinum** as the **Priority**.
5. Enter **65535** in the **Burst(Bytes)** text box.
6. Enter **40000000** in the **Rate(Kbps)** text box.
7. Ensure that **Host Control** is set to none.
8. Click **OK**.
9. Click **OK** again.

2.2 Create an Adapter Policy



1. Select the **Servers** tab at the top.
2. Expand **Policies**.

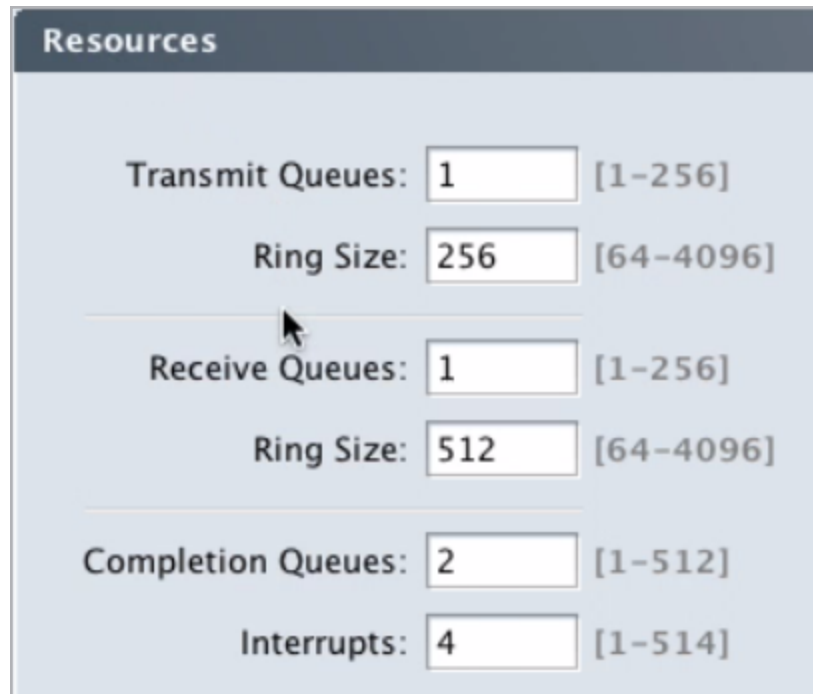
2 Create Policies



3. Expand **root**.
4. Select **Adapter Policies**.



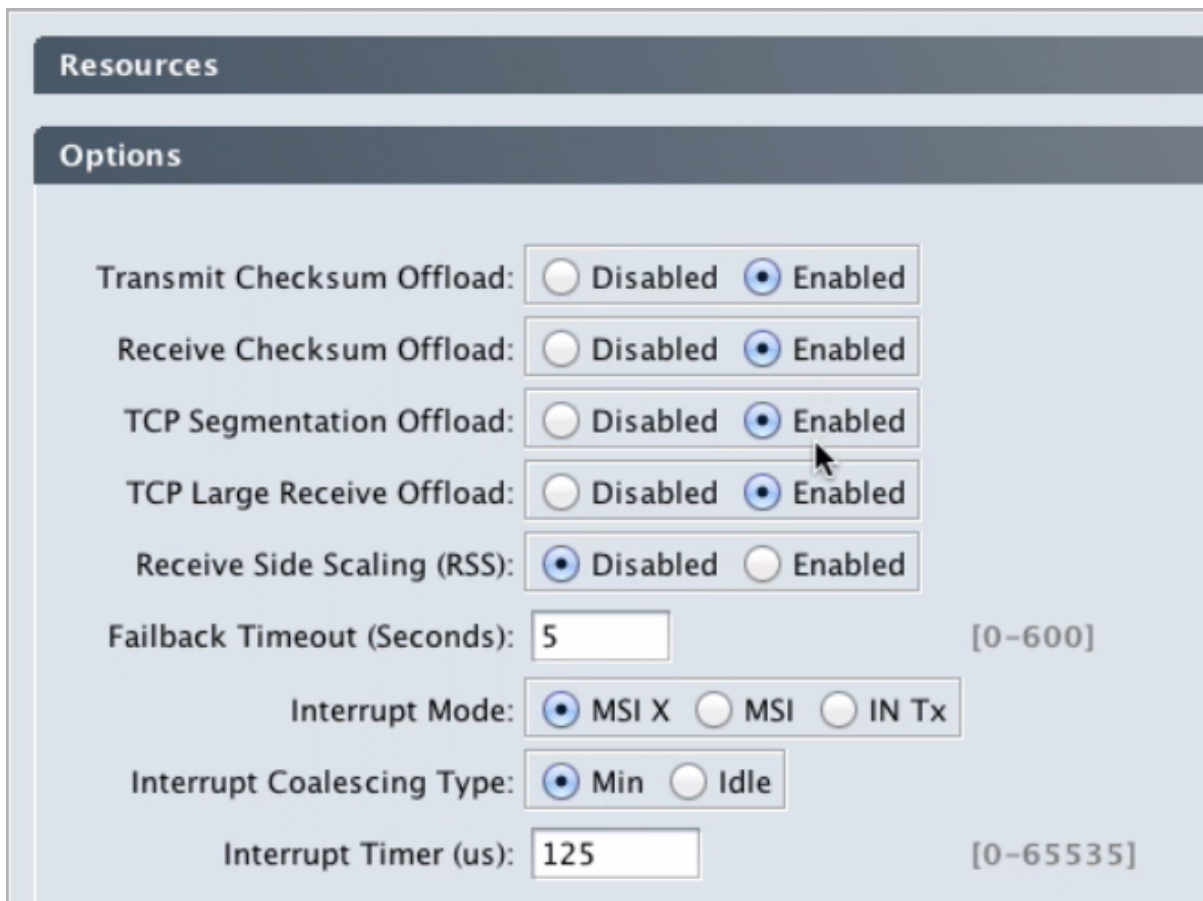
5. Click the plus button on the right.



Resources		
Transmit Queues:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	[1-256]
Ring Size:	<input type="text" value="256"/>	[64-4096]
Receive Queues:	<input type="text" value="1"/>	[1-256]
Ring Size:	<input type="text" value="512"/>	[64-4096]
Completion Queues:	<input type="text" value="2"/>	[1-512]
Interrupts:	<input type="text" value="4"/>	[1-514]

6. In the **Resources** section, set the field values as follows:

- a) Transmit Queues: 1
- b) Ring Size: 256
- c) Receive Queues: 1
- d) Ring Size: 512
- e) Completion Queues: 2
- f) Interrupts: 4



Resources

Options

Transmit Checksum Offload: ☐ Disabled ☒ Enabled

Receive Checksum Offload: ☐ Disabled ☒ Enabled

TCP Segmentation Offload: ☐ Disabled ☒ Enabled

TCP Large Receive Offload: ☐ Disabled ☒ Enabled

Receive Side Scaling (RSS): ☒ Disabled ☐ Enabled

Failback Timeout (Seconds): [0-600]

Interrupt Mode: ☒ MSI X ☐ MSI ☐ IN Tx

Interrupt Coalescing Type: ☒ Min ☐ Idle

Interrupt Timer (us): [0-65535]

7. In the **Options** section, select **Enabled** for the following options:

- a) **Transmit Checksum Offload**
- b) **Receive Checksum Offload**
- c) **TCP Segmentation Offload**
- d) **TCP Large Receive Offload**

8. Select **Disabled** for **Receive Side Scaling (RSS)**.

9. Enter **5** in the **Failback Timeout (Seconds)** text box.

10. Select **MSI X** as the **Interrupt Mode**.

11. **Select** Min as the **Interrupt Coalescing Type**.

12. Enter **125** as the **Interrupt Timer (us)**.

13. Click **OK**.

2.3 Create a LAN Connectivity Policy

If you are planning on having a setup containing 4 arms or more, creating a LAN Connectivity Policy will help to reduce complexity. Follow the steps below to create this policy:

1. Select the **LAN** tab.
2. Expand **Policies**.
3. Expand **root**.
4. Select **LAN Connectivity Policies**.



5. Click the plus button on the right to create a new policy.

Create LAN Connectivity Policy

Name:

Description:

Click **Add** to specify one or more vNICs that the server should use to connect to the LAN.

Name	MAC Address	Native VLAN
------	-------------	-------------

6. Enter a recognizable **Name**, for example **LM_4vNIC**.
7. Enter a **Description**.
8. Click **Add** to specify a vNIC.

2 Create Policies

9. Enter a **Name** for the vNIC, for example **eth 0**.
10. Select the relevant option in the **MAC Address Assignment** drop-down list.
11. Select the relevant clients to be on **Fabric A**.

To maximize input and output it is best to divide the number of client VLANs and server VLANs between **Fabric A** and **Fabric B**. For example, if there are 2 clients VLANs – one should be on **Fabric A** and the other should be on **Fabric B**. Similarly, if there are 2 server VLANs – one should be on **A** and the other on **B**.

12. Select a **Native VLAN**.
13. Set the **MTU** to **9000**.

The MTU must have the same value as it does in the **Priority** of the selected **QoS Policy**.

14. Expand the **Operational Parameters** section.
15. Select the relevant **Adapter Policy**.
16. Select the relevant **QoS Policy**.
17. Click **OK**.
18. Click **OK** again.
19. Add the remaining vNICs needed.

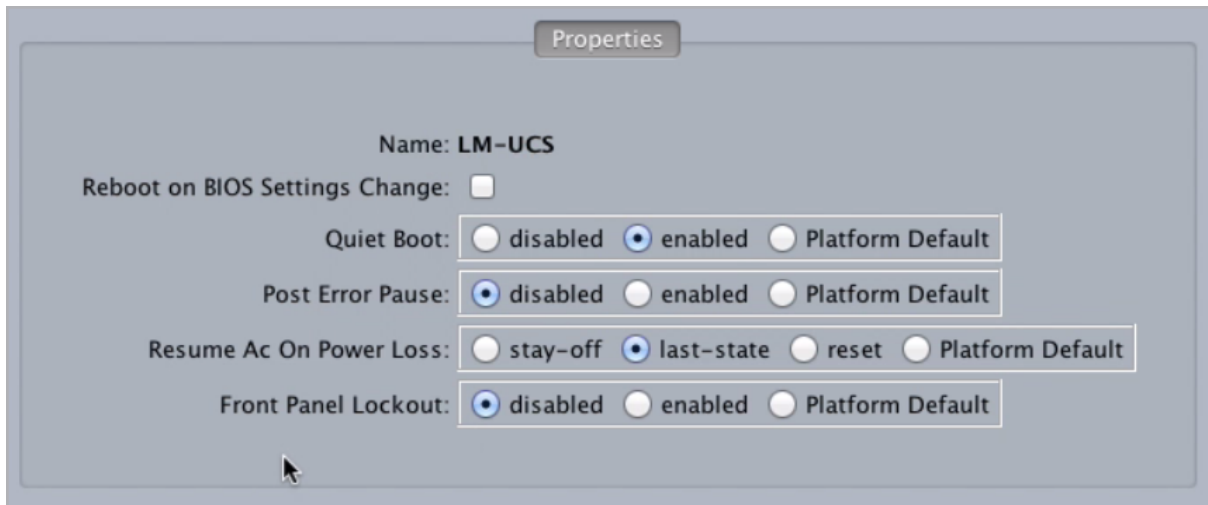
2.4 Create a BIOS Policy

1. To create a BIOS policy:
2. Select the **Servers** tab at the top.
3. Expand **Policies**.
4. Expand **root**.
5. Select **BIOS Policies**.

2 Create Policies



6. Click the plus button to create a new policy.



The screenshot shows a 'Properties' dialog box for a policy named 'LM-UCS'. The dialog has a title bar with the word 'Properties'. Inside, the 'Name' is set to 'LM-UCS'. Below the name, there are five settings, each with a radio button and a text label:

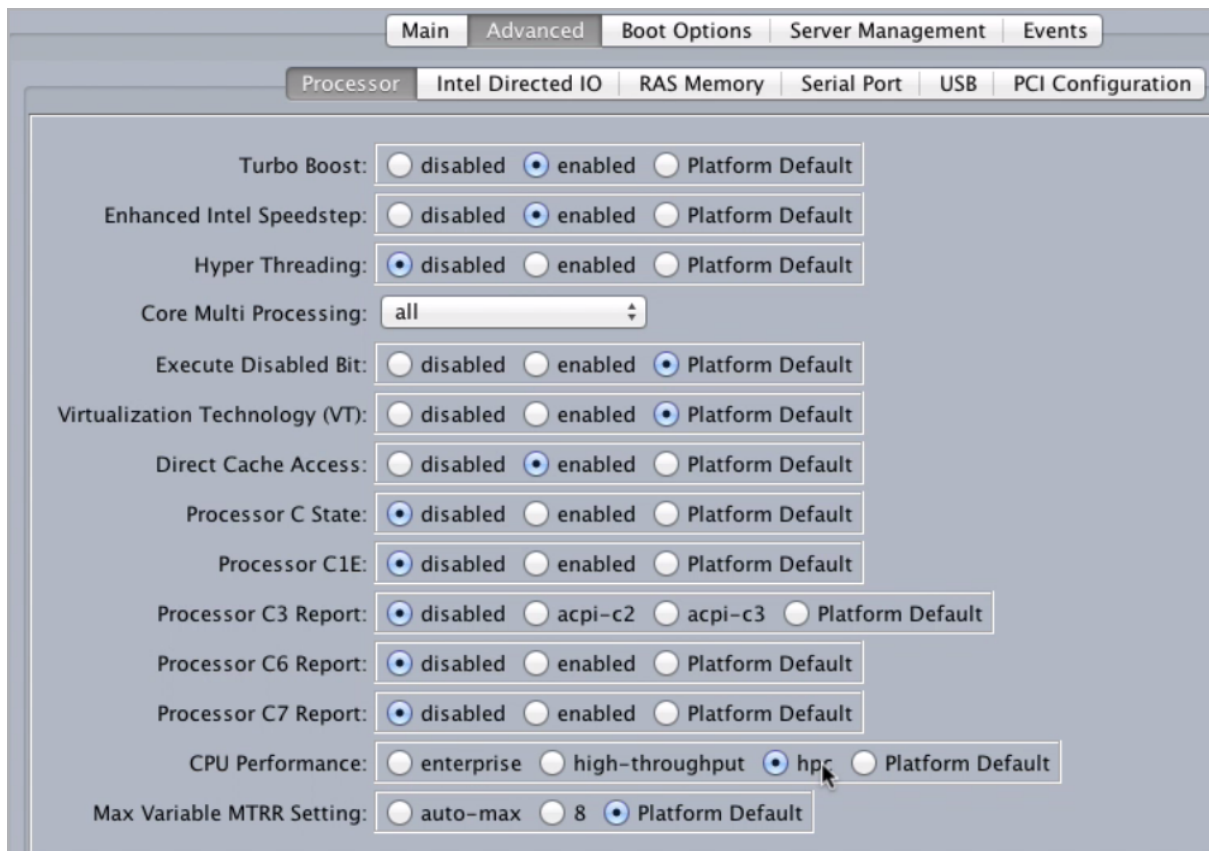
- Reboot on BIOS Settings Change:** ☐ (unchecked)
- Quiet Boot:** ☐ disabled ☒ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Post Error Pause:** ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Resume Ac On Power Loss:** ☐ stay-off ☒ last-state ☐ reset ☐ Platform Default
- Front Panel Lockout:** ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default

7. Enter a **Name**.

8. Set the options as follows:

- **Reboot on BIOS Settings Change: Disabled**
- **Quiet Boot: enabled**
- **Post Error Pause: disabled**
- **Resume Ac On Power Loss: last-state**
- **Front Panel Lockout: disabled**

2 Create Policies



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced > Processor' configuration tab. The settings are as follows:

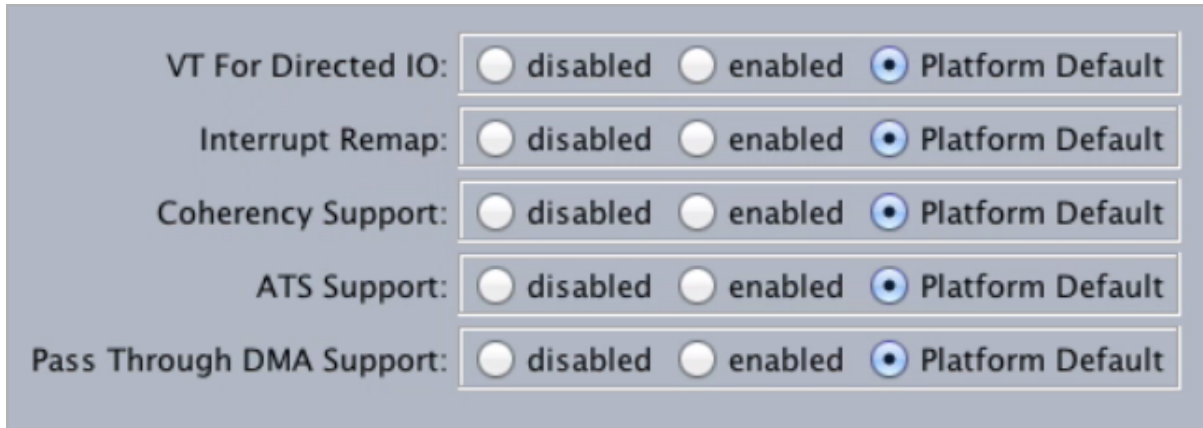
- Turbo Boost: ☒ disabled ☒ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Enhanced Intel Speedstep: ☒ disabled ☒ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Hyper Threading: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Core Multi Processing:
- Execute Disabled Bit: ☐ disabled ☐ enabled ☒ Platform Default
- Virtualization Technology (VT): ☐ disabled ☐ enabled ☒ Platform Default
- Direct Cache Access: ☐ disabled ☒ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Processor C State: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Processor C1E: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Processor C3 Report: ☒ disabled ☐ acpi-c2 ☐ acpi-c3 ☐ Platform Default
- Processor C6 Report: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- Processor C7 Report: ☒ disabled ☐ enabled ☐ Platform Default
- CPU Performance: ☐ enterprise ☐ high-throughput ☒ hpc ☐ Platform Default
- Max Variable MTRR Setting: ☐ auto-max ☐ 8 ☒ Platform Default

9. In the **Advanced > Processor** tab, set the options as follows:

- **Turbo Boost: enabled**
- **Enhanced Intel Speedstep: enabled**
- **Hyper Threading: disabled**
- **Core Multi Processing: all**
- **Execute Disabled Bit: Platform Default**
- **Virtualization Technology (VT): Platform Default**
- **Direct Cache Access: enabled**
- **Processor C State: disabled**
- **Processor C1E: disabled**
- **Processor C3 Report: disabled**
- **Processor C6 Report: disabled**

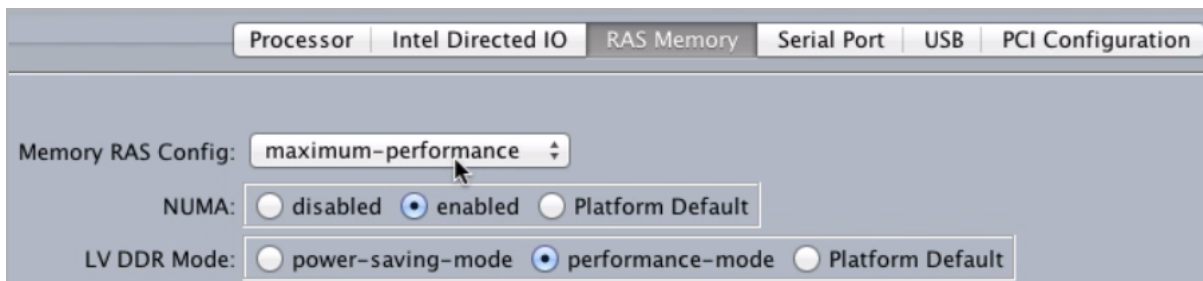
2 Create Policies

- Processor C7 Report: disabled
- CPU Performance: hpc
- Max Variable MTRR Setting: Platform Default



VT For Directed IO:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input type="radio"/> enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Platform Default
Interrupt Remap:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input type="radio"/> enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Platform Default
Coherency Support:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input type="radio"/> enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Platform Default
ATS Support:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input type="radio"/> enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Platform Default
Pass Through DMA Support:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input type="radio"/> enabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Platform Default

10. In the **Advanced > Intel Directed IO** tab, set all of the options to **Platform Default**.



Processor		Intel Directed IO	RAS Memory	Serial Port	USB	PCI Configuration
Memory RAS Config:	maximum-performance					
NUMA:	<input type="radio"/> disabled	<input checked="" type="radio"/> enabled	<input type="radio"/> Platform Default			
LV DDR Mode:	<input type="radio"/> power-saving-mode	<input checked="" type="radio"/> performance-mode	<input type="radio"/> Platform Default			

11. In the **Advanced > RAS Memory** tab, set the options as follows:

- Memory RAS Config: maximum-performance
- NUMA: enabled
- LV DDR Mode: performance-mode

12. Click **OK**.

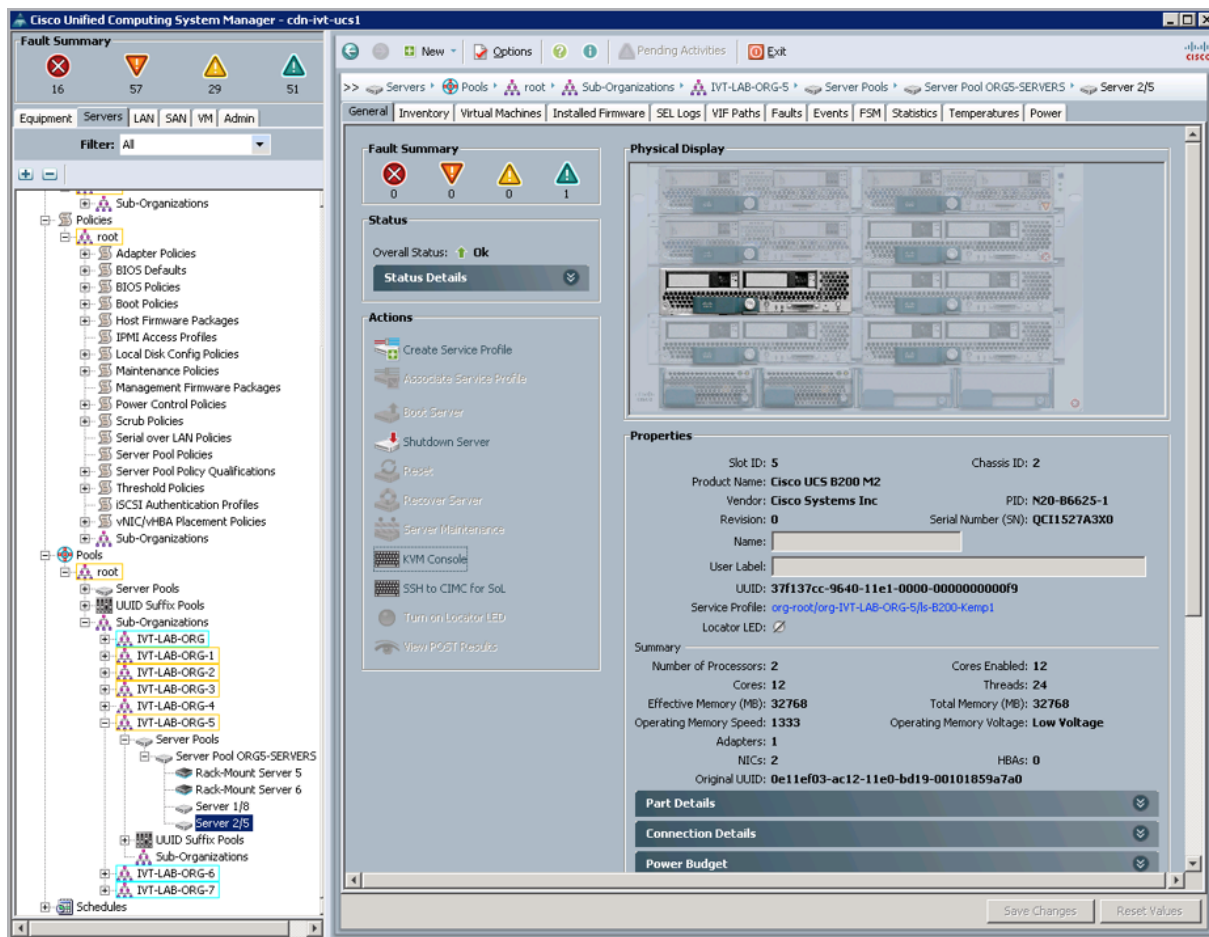
3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade

The following steps must be completed in order to install the LoadMaster software on the Cisco B-Series Blade Server. These steps must be completed on the jump host, where the LoadMaster installation ISO image is located.

3.1 Open the KVM console for the B-series server

1. Select the **Servers** tab in the navigation pane.
2. Within the expandable tree view select the relevant server.
3. Select the **General** tab in the main pane.

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade



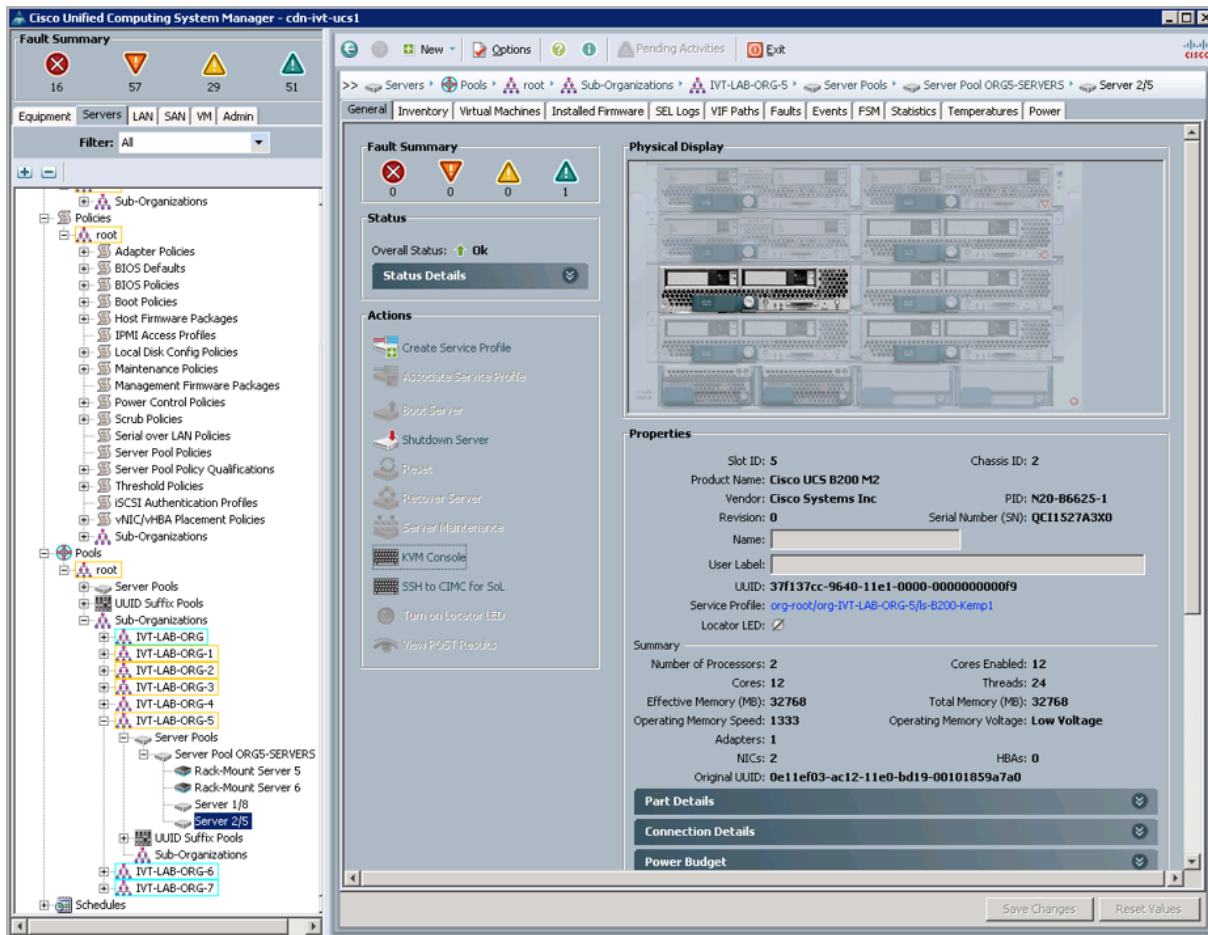
4. Click the **KVM console** option within the **Actions** section.
5. This will open a KVM console window from which the installation can be completed.

3.2 Create a virtual CD-ROM

In the KVM console window complete the following steps:

1. Select the **Virtual Media** tab.
2. Click the **Add Image** button to open a file-selector window.
3. Select the LoadMaster installation image
4. Click the **Open** button.
5. Click the **Mapped** button.

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade



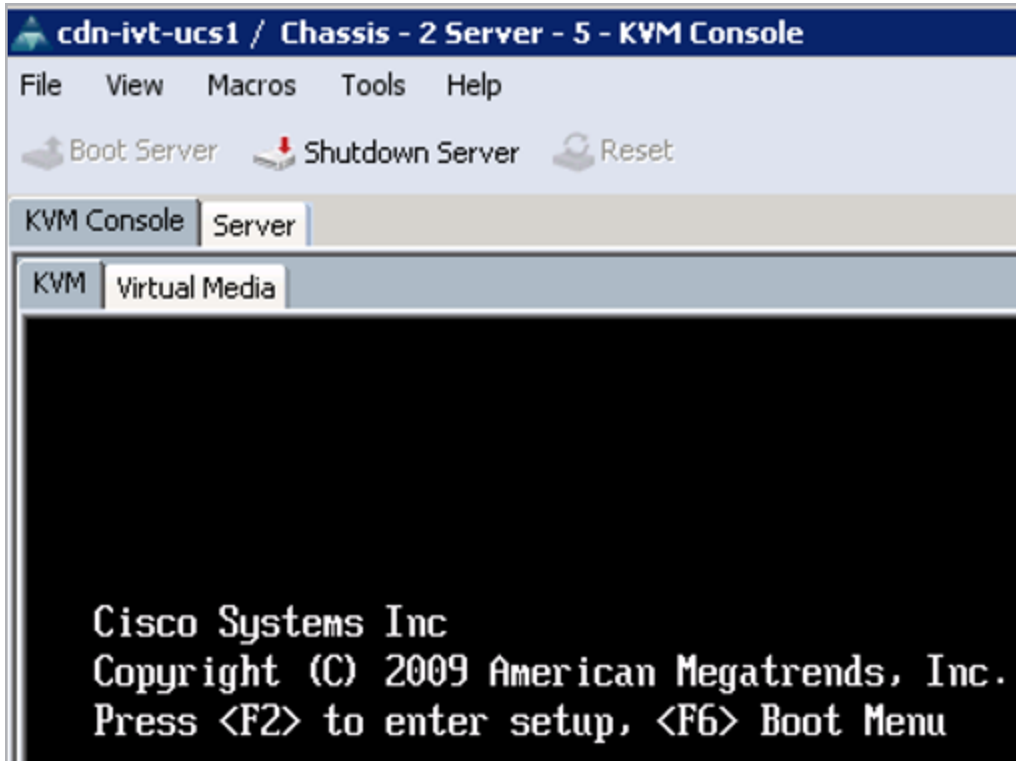
3.3 Boot the Server

The server is now ready to be booted to complete the installation procedure.

If the local disk is empty, that is contains no valid boot partition, simply click the **Boot Server** option on the KVM console. The server is booted from the previously mapped virtual CD.

If the local disk does contain a valid bootable partition you can explicitly select the virtual CD from the servers boot menu by completing the following steps:

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade



Press **F6** when the boot process reaches the point illustrated in the screenshot above.



The Boot Menu Screen, as illustrated by the screenshot above, appears. Select the Cisco Virtual CD/DVD option and press Enter.

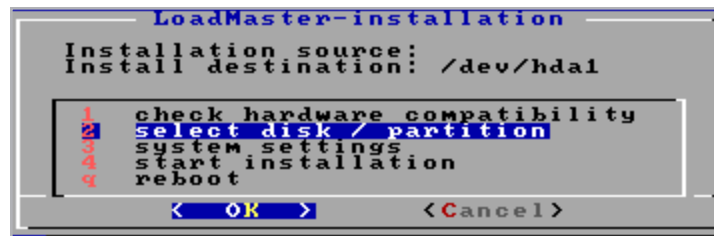
The server should boot from the virtual CD.

3.4 Install the LoadMaster

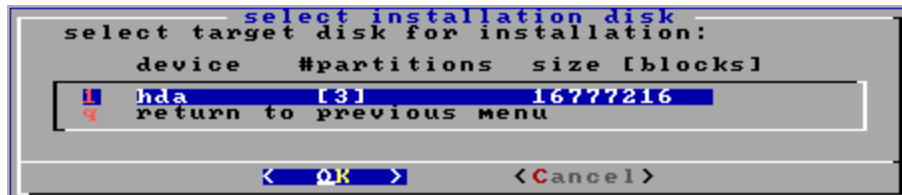
Once the server boots from the virtual CD, as described in the **Boot the Server** section, the LoadMaster installation process automatically begins.

For further information on the different boot options that are available, refer to the [Bare Metal Boot Options, Technical Note](#).

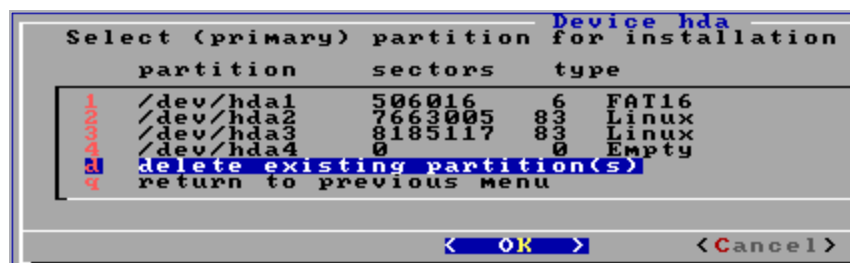
In the vast majority of cases, the serial number should be automatically pulled from the LoadMaster. If it is not, please enter it when prompted. The location of the serial number varies by make and model, but usually there is a pull tab on the front of the device which lists the serial number.



1. Select **select disk/partition** and press **OK**.

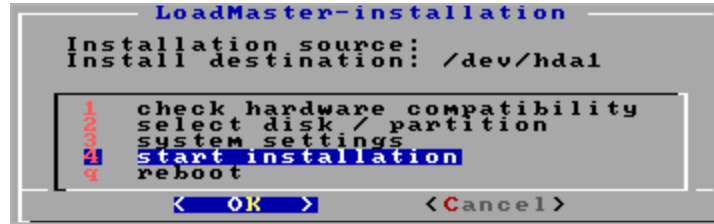


2. Select the target disk for installation and press **OK**.



3. Select **delete existing partition(s)** and press **OK**.

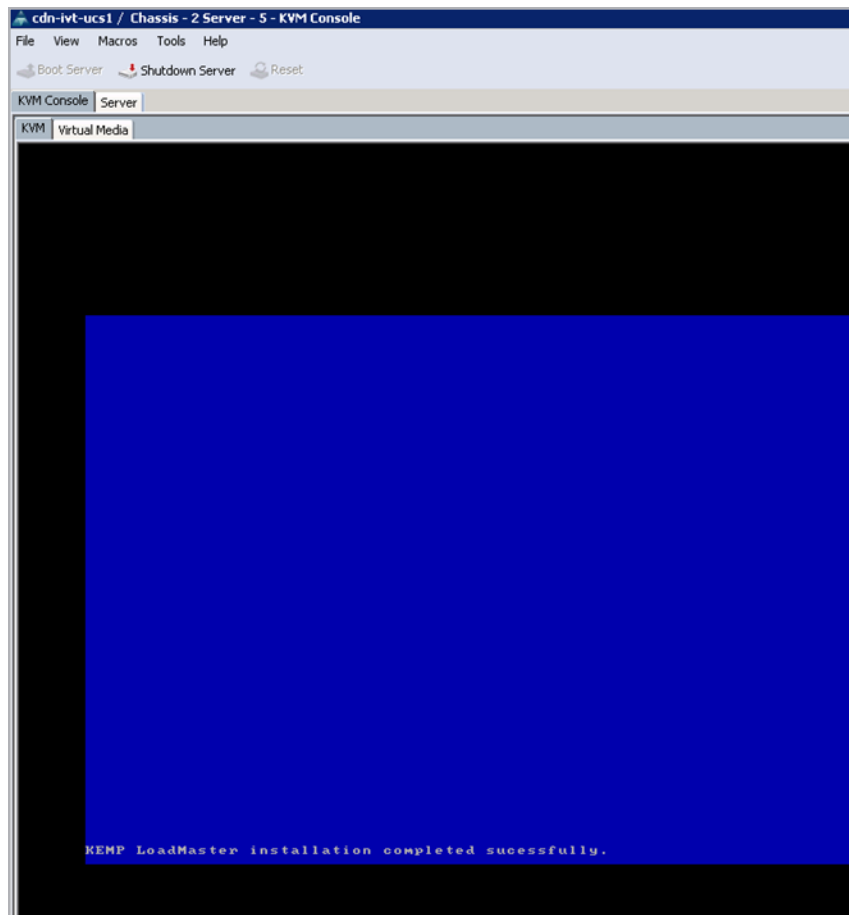
3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade



4. Select start installation and press **OK**.

When prompted, press **OK** to continue.

The installation then completes as shown in the screenshot below.



3.5 Boot the Installed LoadMaster

The server is now ready to be rebooted with the LoadMaster software installed on the local disk. Within the KVM console, select the **Ctrl-Alt-Del** option from the **Macros** drop-down menu.

The server should now begin to boot from the local disk.

```
#####
#
# Your LoadMaster has finished booting.
# UUID: 31159ab6-5da4-4b92-8ee2-b8922cc08dfe
# Serial Number: 446312
# IP address of LoadMaster is 10.154.11.180
#
# Point your browser at https://10.154.11.180 to configure your LoadMaster.
#
#####
```

On initial deployment, DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 both run to attempt to obtain an IP address. If the LoadMaster obtains an IP address using DHCP, take note of it because this is how you will access the LoadMaster.

If the LoadMaster does not obtain an IP address using DHCP the static IP address of **192.168.1.101** is assigned and the LoadMaster must be manually configured using the console.

Please refer to the **Configuring the LoadMaster using the Console** section for further information regarding manually configuring the LoadMaster.

3.6 License and Configure the LoadMaster

The LoadMaster must now be configured to operate within the network configuration.

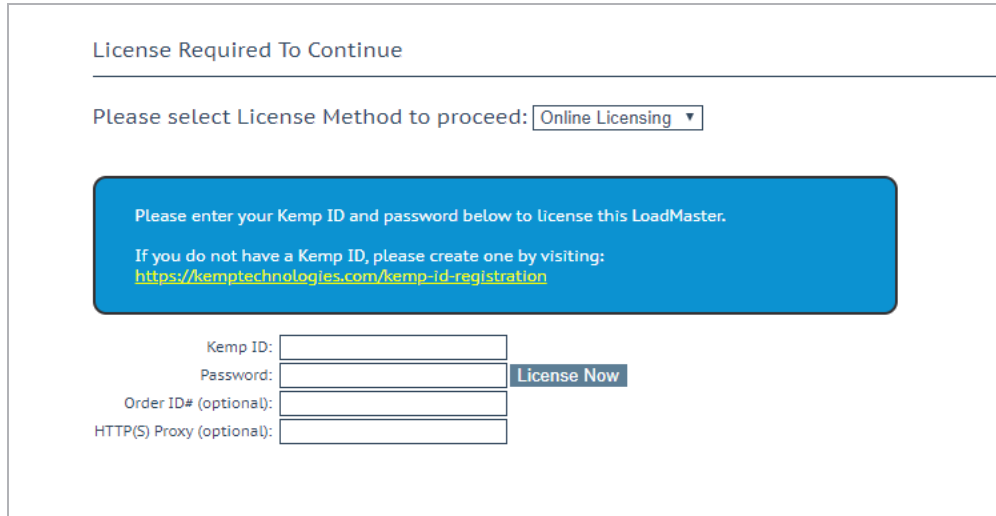
1. In an internet browser, enter the IP address that was previously noted.

Ensure to enter **https://** before the IP address.

2. A warning may appear regarding website security certificates. Please click the continue/ignore option.
3. The LoadMaster End User License Agreement screen appears.

Please read the license agreement and, if you are willing to accept the conditions therein, click on the **Agree** button to proceed.

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License Required To Continue

Please select License Method to proceed: Online Licensing ▼

Please enter your Kemp ID and password below to license this LoadMaster.

If you do not have a Kemp ID, please create one by visiting:
<https://kemptechnologies.com/kemp-id-registration>

Kemp ID:

Password: License Now

Order ID# (optional):

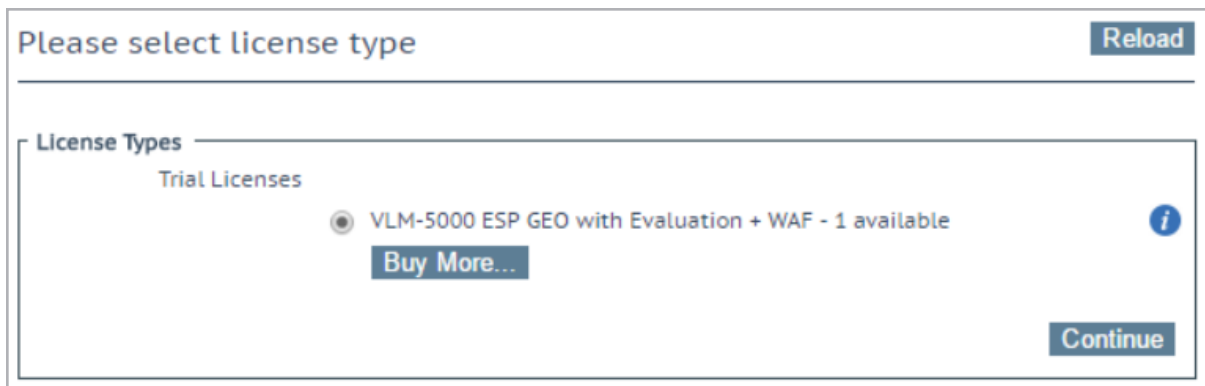
HTTP(S) Proxy (optional):

4. If using the **Online** licensing method, fill out the fields and click **License Now**.

If you are starting with a trial license, there is no need to enter an Order ID. If you are starting with a permanent license, enter the Kemp **Order ID#** if this was provided to you.

If using the **Offline Licensing** method, select **Offline Licensing**, obtain the license text, paste it into the **License** field and click **Apply License**.

For detailed instructions on how to register for a Kemp ID and license the LoadMaster, refer to the **Licensing, Feature Description** on the [Kemp Documentation Page](#).



Please select license type Reload

License Types

Trial Licenses

☒ VLM-5000 ESP GEO with Evaluation + WAF - 1 available i

Buy More...

Continue

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade

5. If you entered an **Order ID**, a screen appears that provides a list of available licenses for that order ID, in addition to any licenses registered for the Kemp ID based on the LoadMaster platform type. Select the license type you want to apply to this LoadMaster.

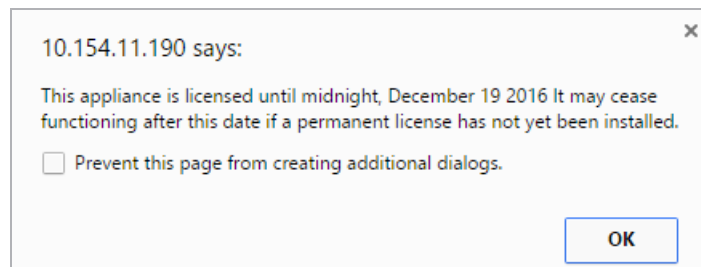
If the license type you want is not displayed, please contact your Kemp representative.

6. Click **Continue**.

7. The login screen appears, enter the **bal** user name and the password.

8. In the screen informing you that the password has changed, press the **Continue** button.

9. If your machine has shipped with a temporary license you should get a warning informing you that a temporary license has been installed on your machine and for how long the license is valid.



10. Click **OK**.

11. You should now connect to the **Home** screen of the LoadMaster.

12. Go to **System Configuration > Network Setup** in the main menu.

13. Click the **eth0** menu option within the **Interfaces** section.

Network Interface 0	
Interface Address (address[/prefix])	<input type="text"/> Set Address
Link Status	Speed: 10000Mb/s, Full Duplex Automatic Force Link
MTU: <input type="text"/>	Set MTU
Additional addresses (address[/prefix])	<input type="text"/> Add Address
VLAN Configuration Interface Bonding	

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade

14. In the **Network Interface 0** screen, enter the IP address of the eth0 interface, the network facing interface of the LoadMaster, in the **Interface Address** input field.

15. Click the **Set Address** button.

16. Click the **eth1** menu option within the **Interfaces** section.

17. In the **Network Interface 1** screen, enter the IP address of the eth1 interface, the farm-side interface of the LoadMaster, in the **Interface Address** input field.

18. Click on the **Set Address** button.

This interface is optional, depending on the network configuration.

19. Click on the **Local DNS Configuration > Hostname Configuration** menu option.

Set Hostname

Hostname

Set Hostname

20. In the **Hostname configuration** screen, enter the hostname into the **Current Hostname** input field.

21. Click the **Set Hostname** button.

22. Click the **Local DNS Configuration > DNS Configuration** menu option.

DNS Servers

DNS NameServer (IP Address)	Operation
10.154.75.25	Delete

Add Nameserver

IP Address

Add

Add Search Domain

Domain

Add

23. In the **DNS configuration** screen, enter the IP address(es) of the DNS Server(s) which is used to resolve names locally on the LoadMaster into the **DNS NameServer** input field.

3 Installing LoadMaster on the Cisco UCS Blade

24. Click the **Add** button.
25. Enter the domain name that is to be prepended to requests to the DNS nameserver into the **DNS NameServer** input field.
26. Click the **Add** button.
27. Click the **System Configuration > Network Setup > Default Gateway** menu option.

The IPv4 default gateway must be on the 10.154.0.0/16 network	
IPv4 Default Gateway Address	<input type="text" value="10.154.0.1"/> <input type="button" value="Set IPv4 Default Gateway"/>

28. In the **DNS configuration** screen, enter the IP address of the default gateway into the **IPv4 Default Gateway Address** input field.

If you have an IPv6 Default Gateway, please enter the value in the **IPv6 Default Gateway Address** input field.

29. Click the **Set IPv4 Default Gateway** button.

The LoadMaster is now fully installed and ready to be used. For further information on how to configure and implement the Virtual LoadMaster, please refer to the LoadMaster documentation which can be downloaded from the <http://kemptechnologies.com/documentation> page.

4 Configuring the LoadMaster using the Console

If the LoadMaster does not automatically obtain an IP address using DHCP, or if the user prefers to configure the LoadMaster using the console, then the following configuration steps must be completed before starting the LoadMaster.

1. Login into the LoadMaster using the console using the settings:

- **lb100 login:** bal

- **Password:** 1fourall

2. If required, change the LoadMaster password (for the **bal** user) when prompted to within the console.

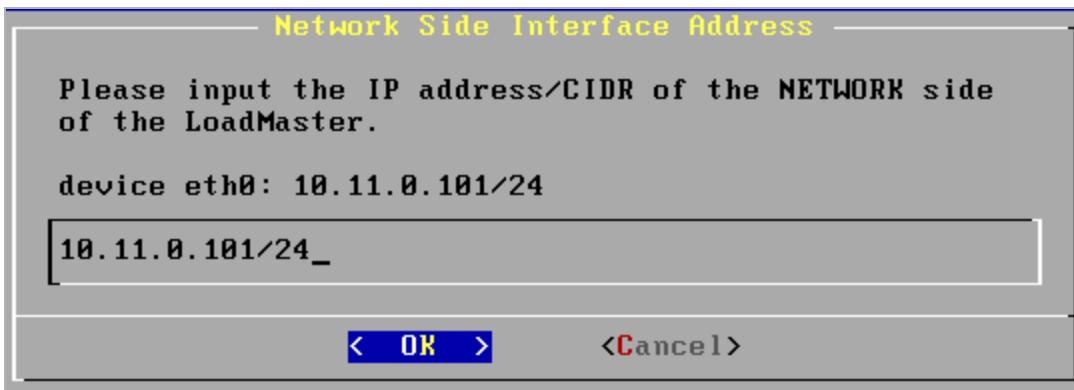
3. If required, click **OK** within the dialog box informing of the password change

4. Click **OK** within **Quick Setup Help** dialog box.

5. Enter the IP address of the eth0 interface, the network facing interface of the LoadMaster, in the input field within the **Network Side Interface Address** dialog box.

This value must be configured from within the console.

6. Click **OK**.



4 Configuring the LoadMaster using the Console

7. Enter the IP address of the eth1 interface in the input field within the **Farm Side Interface Address** dialog box. The eth1 interface is only configured if you have a two-armed configuration.

This interface can be configured at a later date using the LoadMaster WUI if preferred.

8. Click **OK**.

9. Enter the hostname (you can accept the default value of 'Kemp') into the input field of the **LoadMaster Hostname** dialog box.

10. Click **OK**.

11. Enter the IP address(es) of the DNS Server(s) which will be used to resolve names locally on the LoadMaster into the input field of the **Name Server IP Addresses** dialog box.

This interface can be configured at a later date using the LoadMaster WUI if preferred.

12. Click **OK**.

13. Enter the domain name that is to be prepended to requests to the DNS nameserver in the input field of the **Domain List** dialog box.

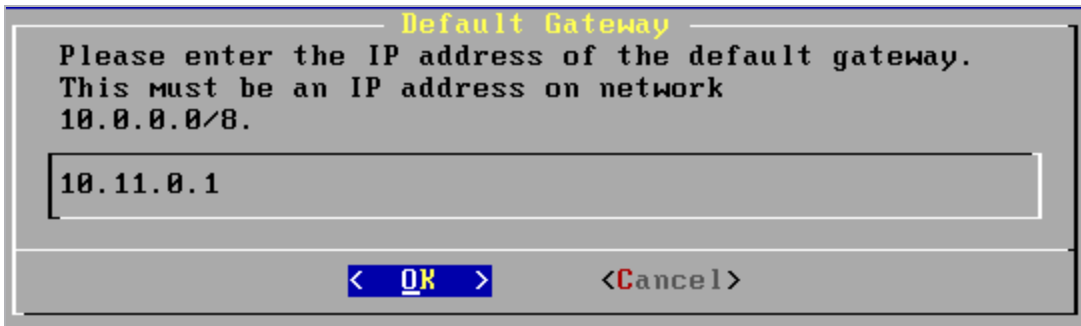
This interface can be configured at a later date using the LoadMaster WUI if preferred.

14. Click **OK**.

15. Enter the IP address of the default gateway in the input field of the **Default Gateway** dialog box.

This value must be configured from within the KVM console.

16. Click **OK**.



The screenshot shows a terminal window with a dialog box titled "Default Gateway" in yellow. The text inside the dialog box reads: "Please enter the IP address of the default gateway. This must be an IP address on network 10.0.0.0/8." Below this text is a text input field containing the IP address "10.11.0.1". At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "< OK >" and "< Cancel >". The "OK" button is highlighted in blue.

17. Click **Yes** within the **Reboot** screen when requested.

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18. In your internet browser enter the IP address of the eth0 inter you entered in Step 6.

Ensure you place 'https://' before the IP address.

19. You may get a warning regarding website security certificates. Please click on the continue/ignore option.

20. The LoadMaster End User License Agreement screen appears.

Please read the license agreement and, if you are willing to accept the conditions therein, click on the **Agree** button to proceed.

21. If your machine has shipped with a temporary license you should get a warning informing you that a temporary license has been installed on your machine and for how long the license is valid.

22. Click **OK**.

23. You should now connect to the **Home** screen of the LoadMaster.

The LoadMaster is now fully installed and ready to be used. For further information on how to configure and implement the Virtual LoadMaster, please refer to the LoadMaster documentation which can be downloaded from the <http://kemptechnologies.com/documentation> page.

References

Unless otherwise specified, the below documents can be found at
<http://kemptechnologies.com/documentation>

Licensing, Feature Description

Bare Metal Boot Options, Technical Note

Last Updated Date

This document was last updated on 28 July 2023.