Progress®
Kemp® LoadMaster®

Deployment Guide NGINX

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction 4

Chapter 2: Configure the LoadMaster 6

Enable Subnet Originating Requests Globally 6

Create the HTTP/HTTPS Virtual Services 7

Create the NGINX HTTP Virtual Service 7

Create the NGINX HTTPS Virtual Service 9

Create the NGINX HTTPS Offloaded Virtual Service 10

Create the NGINX HTTPS Re-encrypt Virtual Service 12

Create the Mail Virtual Services 14

Create the NGINX IMAP Virtual Service 14

Create the NGINX IMAP with STARTTLS Virtual Service 15

Create the NGINX IMAPS Virtual Service 17

Create the NGINX IMAPS Offloaded Virtual Service 18

Create the NGINX POP Virtual Service 19

Create the NGINX POP with STARTTLS Virtual Service 20

Create the NGINX POPS Virtual Service 20

Create the NGINX POPS Offloaded Virtual Service 21

Create the NGINX SMTP Virtual Service 22

Create the NGINX SMTP with STARTTLS Virtual Service 23

Create the NGINX SMTPS Virtual Service 24

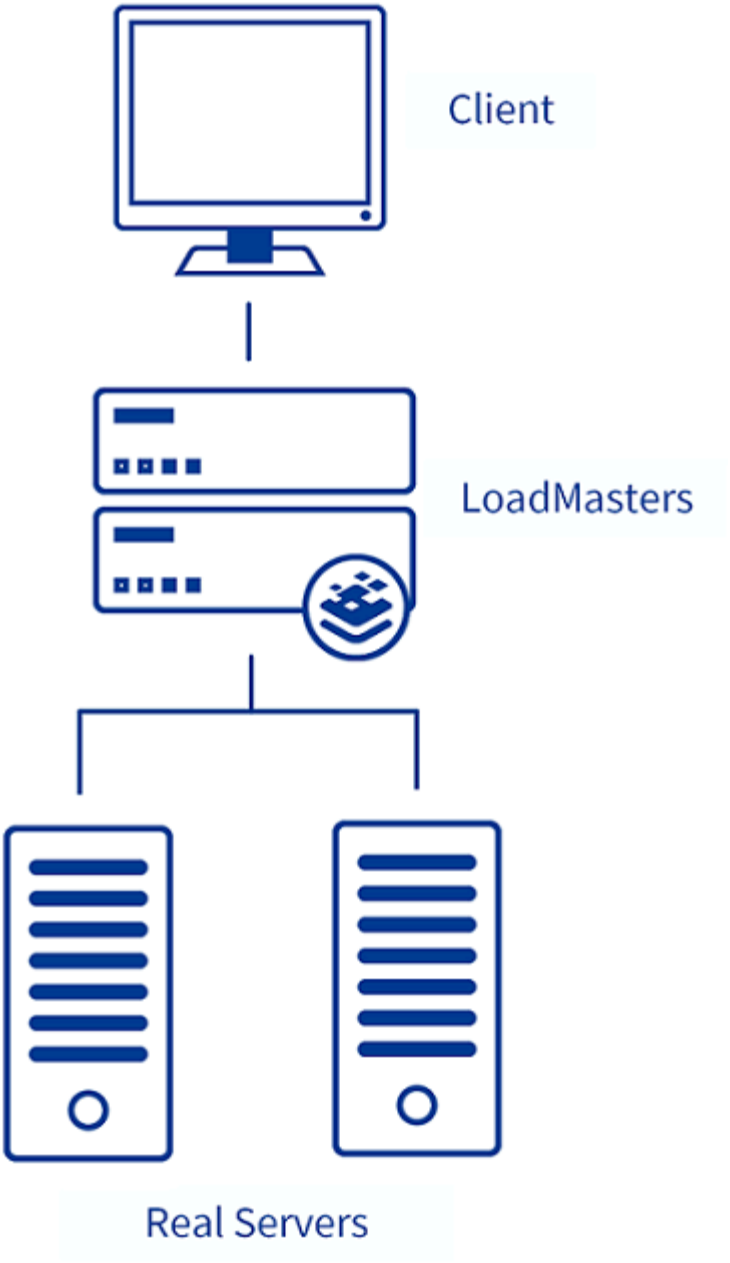
Create the NGINX SMTPS Offloaded Virtual Service 25

1

Introduction

NGINX is a free, open-source, high-performance HTTP server and reverse proxy, as well as an IMAP/POP3 proxy server. NGINX is known for its high performance, stability, rich feature set, simple configuration, and low resource consumption.

NGINX is one of a handful of servers written to address the C10K problem. Unlike traditional servers, NGINX does not rely on threads to handle requests. Instead it uses a much more scalable event-driven (asynchronous) architecture. This architecture uses small, but more importantly, predictable amounts of memory under load. Even if you do not expect to handle thousands of simultaneous requests, you can still benefit from NGINX's high-performance and small memory footprint. NGINX scales in all directions: from the smallest Virtual Private Server (VPS) all the way up to large clusters of servers.



The LoadMaster offers advanced Layer 4 and Layer 7 server load balancing, SSL Acceleration and a multitude of other advanced Application Delivery and Optimization (ADC) features. The LoadMaster can load balance the NGINX workload. The LoadMaster intelligently and efficiently distributes user traffic among the servers so that users get the best experience possible.

This document provides guidance and recommended settings on how to load balance NGINX with a LoadMaster. The Progress Kemp Support Team is available to provide solutions for scenarios not explicitly defined. For further details, refer to the: LoadMaster Support and Learning Hub.

2

Configure the LoadMaster

Follow the steps in the sections below to configure the LoadMaster with the recommended settings to load balance the NGINX workload.

Related Links

For details, see the following topics:

- Enable Subnet Originating Requests Globally
- Create the HTTP/HTTPS Virtual Services
- Create the Mail Virtual Services

Enable Subnet Originating Requests Globally

It is best practice to enable the **Subnet Originating Requests** option globally.

In a one-armed setup (where the Virtual Service and Real Servers are on the same network/subnet) **Subnet Originating Requests** is usually not needed. However, enabling **Subnet Originating Requests** should not affect the routing in a one-armed setup.

In a two-armed setup where the Virtual Service is on network/subnet A, for example, and the Real Servers are on network B, **Subnet Originating Requests** should be enabled on LoadMasters with firmware version 7.1-16 and above.



When **Subnet Originating Requests** is enabled, the Real Server sees traffic originating from 10.20.20.21 (LoadMaster eth1 address) and responds correctly in most scenarios.

With **Subnet Originating Requests** disabled, the Real Server sees traffic originating from 10.0.0.15 (LoadMaster Virtual Service address on **eth0**) and responds to **eth0** which could cause asymmetric routing.

When **Subnet Originating Requests** is enabled globally, it is automatically enabled on all Virtual Services. If the **Subnet Originating Requests** option is disabled globally, you can choose whether to enable **Subnet Originating Requests** on a per-Virtual Service basis.

To enable **Subnet Originating Requests** globally, follow the steps below:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster User Interface (UI), go to **System Configuration > Miscellaneous Options > Network Options**.
2. Select the **Subnet Originating Requests** check box.

Create the HTTP/HTTPS Virtual Services

Refer to the sections below for recommended settings for the HTTP/HTTPS Virtual Services.

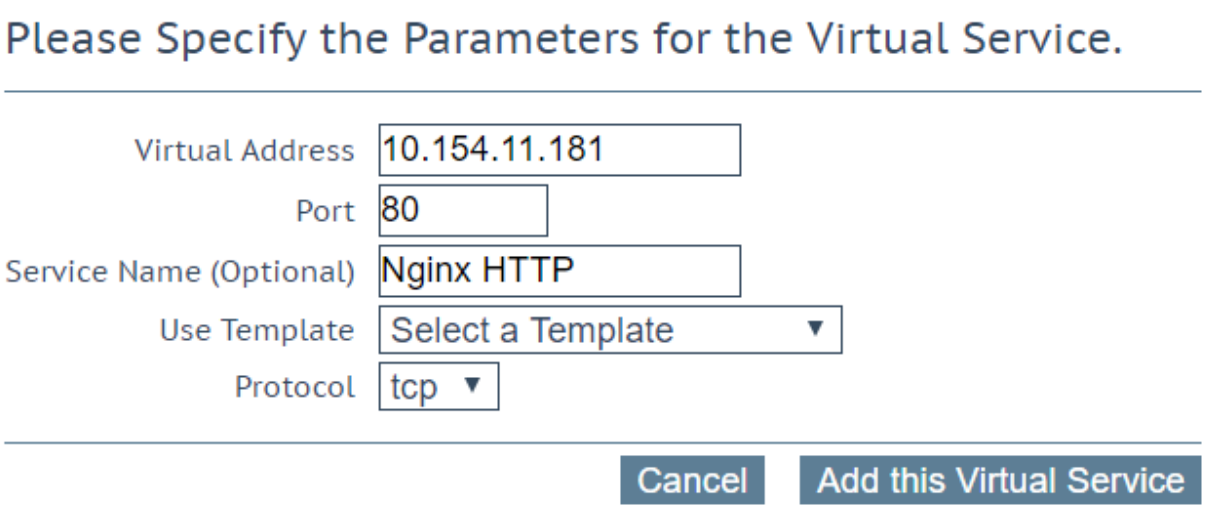
Note: It is not possible to load balance HTTP and HTTPS traffic on the same Virtual Service. Using additional ports is not a solution because these are different protocols. To load balance HTTP and HTTPS traffic, you must create two Virtual Services:

- One for HTTP traffic (normally port 80)
- One for HTTPS traffic (normally port 443)

Create the NGINX HTTP Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the NGINX HTTP Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **80** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**, for example **Nginx HTTP**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Persistence Mode	Active Cookie
	Cookie name	JSESSIONID
	Timeout	1 Hour
	Scheduling Method	least connection
	Idle Connection Timeout	900
Real Servers	URL	/

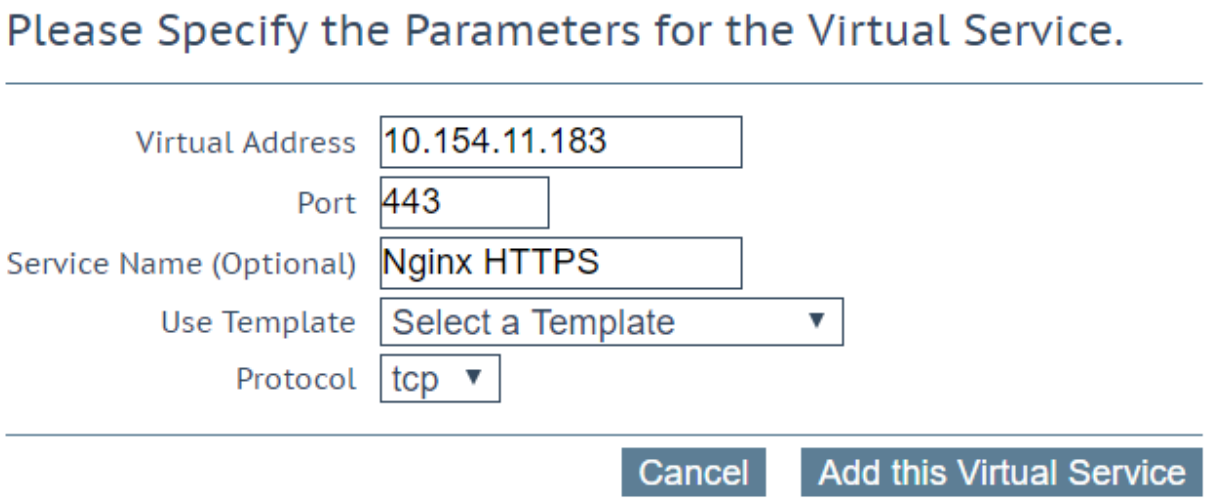
8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **80** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.

6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX HTTPS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the NGINX HTTPS Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **443** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**, for example **Nginx HTTPS**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Persistence Mode	Source IP Address	
	Timeout	1 Hour	
	Scheduling Method	least connection	
	Idle Connection	900	

Section	Option	Value	Comments
	Timeout		
Advanced Properties	Add a Port 80 Redirector VS	https://%h%s	Click **Add HTTP Redirector**. This automatically creates a redirect on port 80. **Note:** This field disappears after it is clicked.
Real Servers	URL	/	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **443** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

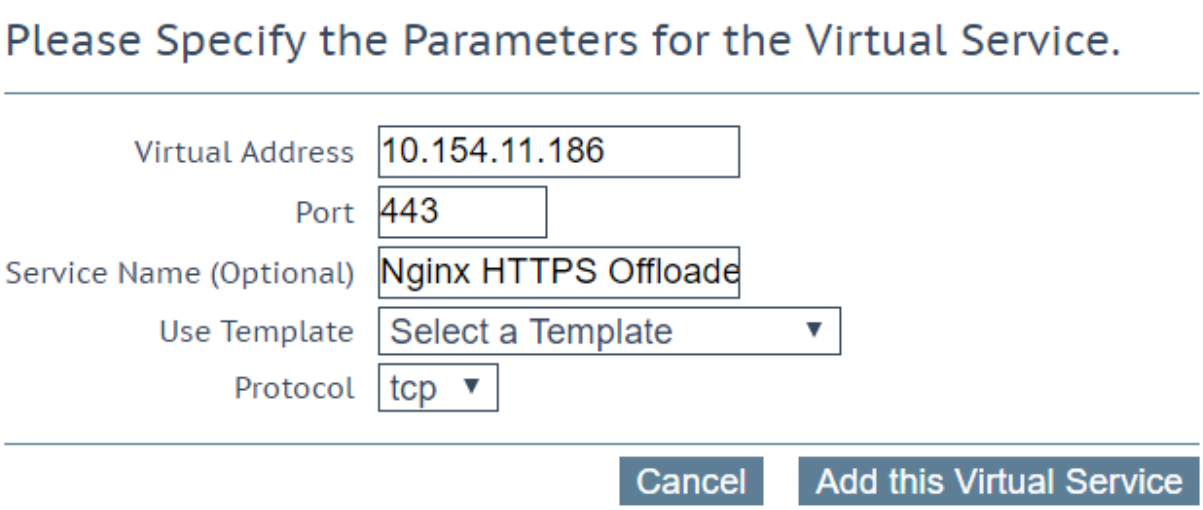
Configure the NGINX HTTPS HTTP Redirect Virtual Service

Clicking the **Add HTTP Redirector** button automatically creates a port 80 redirect Virtual Service. This is optional, but the purpose of this Virtual Service is to redirect any clients who have connected using HTTP to the HTTPS Virtual Service. We also recommend changing the **Real Server Check Method** and **Persistence Mode** to **None**.

Create the NGINX HTTPS Offloaded Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the NGINX HTTPS Offloaded Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **443** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**, for example **Nginx HTTPS Offloaded**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Persistence Mode	Active Cookie	You need to enable **SSL Acceleration** before you can select **Active Cookie** as the **Persistence Mode**.
	Timeout	1 Hour	
	Cookie name	JSESSIONID	
	Scheduling Method	least connection	
	Idle Connection Timeout	900	
SSL Properties	SSL Acceleration	Enabled	
	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Advanced Properties	Add a Port 80 Redirector VS	https://%h%s	Click **Add HTTP Redirector**. This automatically creates a redirect on port 80. **Note:** This field disappears after it is clicked.
Real Servers	URL	/	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **443** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

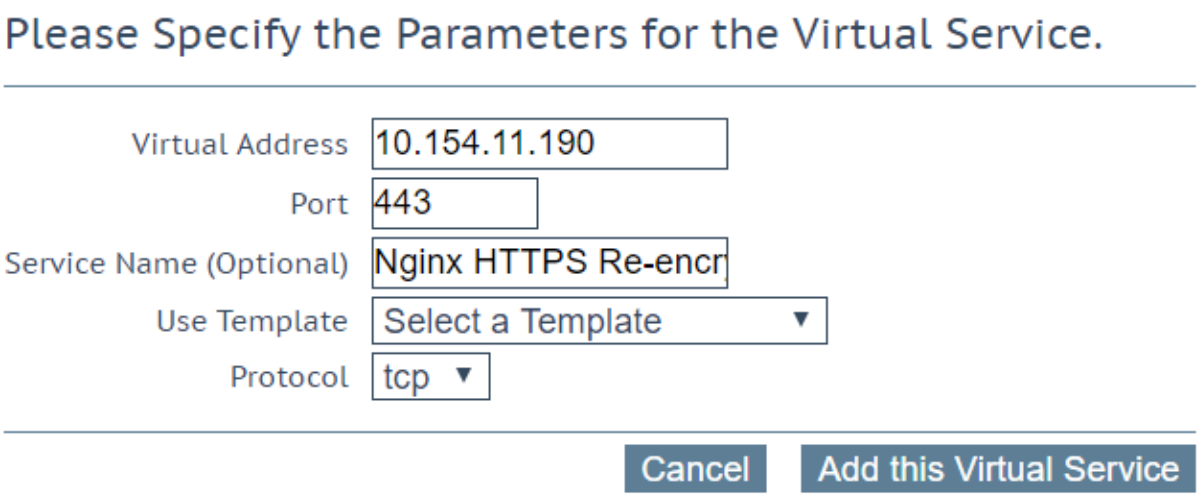
Configure the NGINX HTTPS Offloaded HTTP Redirect Virtual Service

Clicking the **Add HTTP Redirector** button automatically creates a port 80 redirect Virtual Service. This is optional, but the purpose of this Virtual Service is to redirect any clients who have connected using HTTP to the HTTPS Virtual Service. We also recommend changing the **Real Server Check Method** and **Persistence Mode** to **None**.

Create the NGINX HTTPS Re-encrypt Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the NGINX HTTPS Re-encrypt Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **443** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**, for example **Nginx HTTPS Re-encrypt**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Persistence Mode	Active Cookie	You need to enable **SSL Acceleration** before you can select **Active Cookie** as the **Persistence Mode**.
	Timeout	1 Hour	
	Cookie name	JSESSIONID	
	Scheduling Method	least connection	
	Idle Connection Timeout	900	
SSL Properties	SSL Acceleration	Enabled	
	Reencrypt	Enabled	
	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.

Section	Option	Value	Comments
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	
Advanced Properties	Add a Port 80 Redirector VS	https://%h%s	Click **Add HTTP Redirector**. This automatically creates a redirect on port 80. **Note:** This field disappears after it is clicked.
Real Servers	URL	/	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **443** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Configure the NGINX HTTPS Re-encrypt HTTP Redirect Virtual Service

Clicking the **Add HTTP Redirector** button automatically creates a port 80 redirect Virtual Service. This is optional, but the purpose of this Virtual Service is to redirect any clients who have connected using HTTP to the HTTPS Virtual Service. We also recommend changing the **Real Server Check Method** and **Persistence Mode** to **None**.

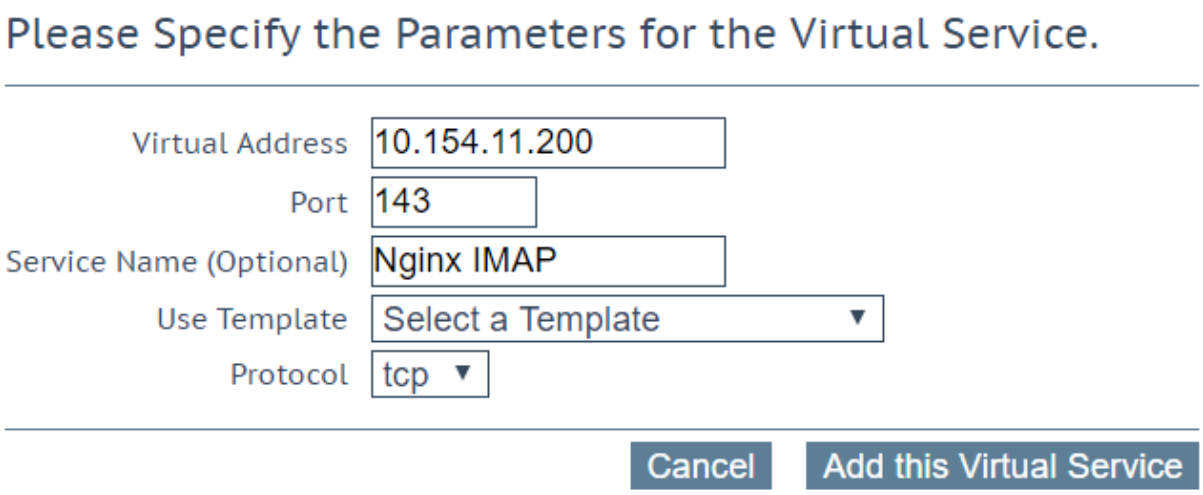
Create the Mail Virtual Services

Refer to the sections below for recommended settings for the mail Virtual Services.

Create the NGINX IMAP Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster WUI, go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **143** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

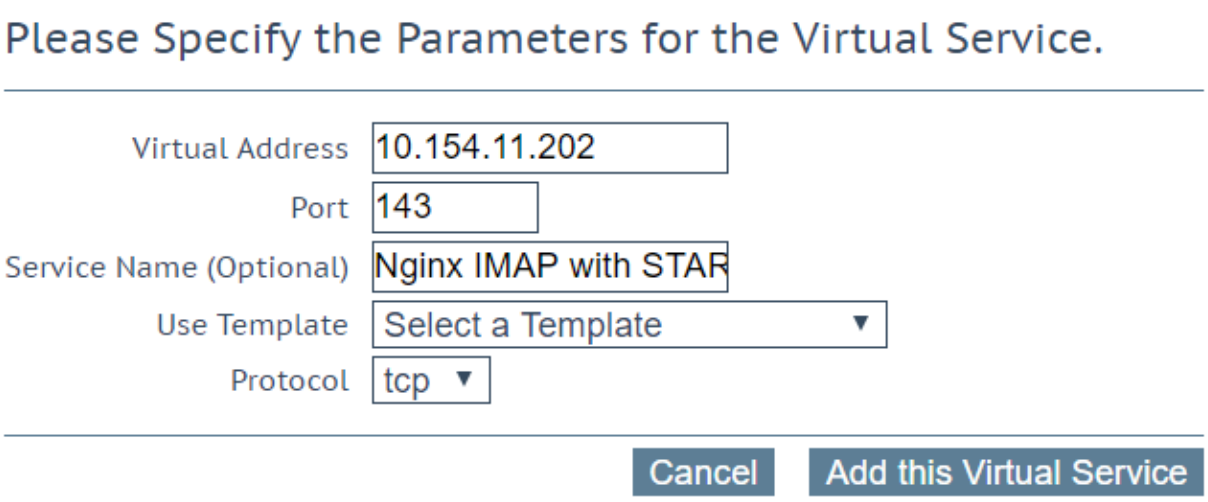
Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Idle Connection Timeout	3600
Real Servers	Checked Port	143

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **143** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX IMAP with STARTTLS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster WUI, go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **143** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

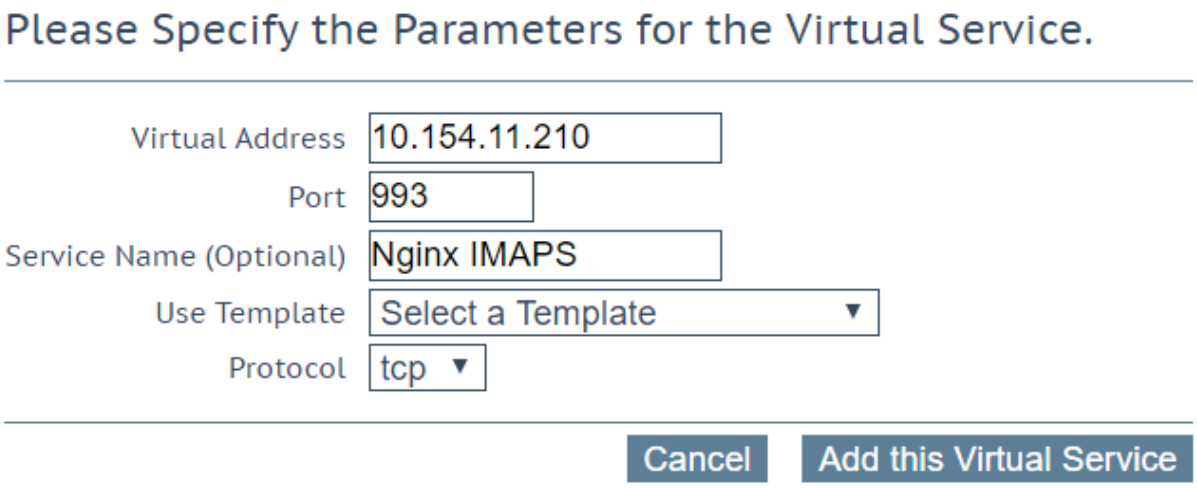
Section	Option	Value	Comments
Basic Properties	Service Type	STARTTLS protocols	
Standard Options	Idle Connection Timeout	3600	
SSL Properties	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	
Real Servers	Checked Port	143	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **143** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX IMAPS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster WUI, go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
    1. Type **993** as the **Port**.
3. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
4. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
5. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
6. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

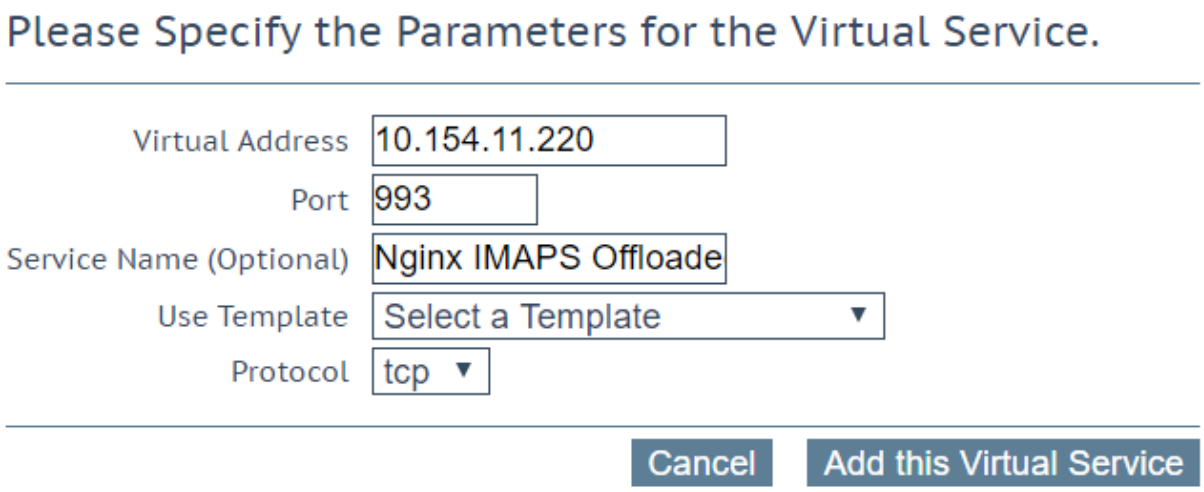
Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocol	IMAP4
	Idle Connection Timeout	3600
Real Servers	Checked Port	993

7. Add the Real Servers:
    1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
    2. Click **Add New**.
    3. Type the address of the Real Server.
    4. Type **993** as the **Port**.
    5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
    6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX IMAPS Offloaded Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster WUI, go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.



2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **993** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocol	IMAP4	
	Idle Connection Timeout	3600	
SSL Properties	SSL Acceleration	Enabled	
	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Real Servers	Checked Port	143	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **993** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX POP Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **110** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Idle Connection Timeout	3600
Real Servers	Checked Port	110

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **110** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX POP with STARTTLS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **110** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Basic Properties	Service Type	STARTTLS protocols	
Standard Options	Idle Connection Timeout	3600	
SSL Properties	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Cet	BestPractices	
Real Servers	Checked Port	110	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **110** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX POPS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **995** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.

5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocols	POP3
	Idle Connection Timeout	3600
Real Servers	Checked Port	995

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **995** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX POPS Offloaded Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **995** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocols	POP3	
	Idle Connection Timeout	3600	

Section	Option	Value	Comments
SSL Properties	SSL Acceleration	Enabled	
	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	
Real Servers	Real Server Check Method	Mailbox (POP3) Protocol	
	Checked Port	110	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **995** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX SMTP Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **587** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocols	SMTP
	Persistence Mode	Source IP Address
	Persistence Timeout	1 Hour

Section	Option	Value
	Idle Connection Timeout	120
Real Servers	Checked Port	587

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **587** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX SMTP with STARTTLS Virtual Service

Create the NGINX SMTP with STARTTLS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **25** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Basic Properties	Service Type	STARTTLS protocols	
Standard Options	Persistence Mode	Source IP Address	
	Persistence Timeout	1 Hour	
	Idle Connection Timeout	120	

Section	Option	Value	Comments
SSL Properties	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS 1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	
Real Servers	Checked Port	25	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **25** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX SMTPS Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **587** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocols	SMTP
	Persistence Mode	Source IP Address
	Persistence Timeout	1 Hour
	Idle Connection Timeout	120

Section	Option	Value
Real Servers	TCP Connection Only	587

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **587** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.

Create the NGINX SMTPS Offloaded Virtual Service

Follow the steps below to create and configure the recommended settings for the Virtual Service:

1. In the main menu of the LoadMaster Web User Interface (WUI), go to **Virtual Services > Add New**.
2. Type a valid IP address in the **Virtual Address** text box.
3. Type **587** in the **Port** text box.
4. Enter a recognizable **Service Name**.
5. Ensure **tcp** is selected as the **Protocol**.
6. Click **Add this Virtual Service**.
7. Configure the settings as shown in the following table:

Section	Option	Value	Comments
Standard Options	Server Initiating Protocols	SMTP	
	Persistence Mode	Source IP Address	
	Persistence Timeout	1 Hour	
	Idle Connection Timeout	120	
SSL Properties	SSL Acceleration	Enabled	
	Supported Protocols	TLS1.0, TLS1.1, TLS1.2, TLS1.3	While this workload may not support TLS1.3 yet, we recommend enabling it for future proofing.

Section	Option	Value	Comments
	Cipher Set	BestPractices	
Real Servers	Real Server Check Method	Mail (SMTP) Protocol	
	Checked Port	25	

8. Add the Real Servers:
   1. Expand the **Real Servers** section.
   2. Click **Add New**.
   3. Type the address of the Real Server.
   4. Type **587** as the **Port**.
   5. Click **Add This Real Server**.
   6. Repeat the steps above to add more Real Servers as needed, based on the environment.