WHITE PAPER

NEVERFAIL
CONTINUOUS AVAILABILITY

PATCH MANAGEMENT
How to Minimize Maintenance Windows

Neverfail Continuity Engine has for more than 20 years provided Continuous Availability for Window application servers. With its application-aware failover Continuity Engine has long provided exceptionally low RPO/RTO with complete recovery measured in seconds to minutes.

However, many customers want to fully achieve 99.999% uptime in their business continuity strategy. Maintenance windows seem to always threaten achieving this goal. In many cases, Windows security update processes can take up to several hours to complete which can be stressful and frustrating for the IT staff. Neverfail customers have many times requested a feature that could cut these maintenance windows but still ensuring they can failover quickly and easily.

Cozen Passive Node Management

Introduced in Continuity Engine 8.5, Neverfail now allows administrators to now manage passive nodes using its patented “TRUE” cloned-based architecture. This new technology allows passive nodes to assume an alias while in passive mode while still maintaining its original identity which makes Neverfail recovery so quick and efficient.

Cozen is a latin word that literally means to trick. Continuity Engine tricks third party instrumentation into seeing these passive clones as standalone servers. It can then manage them individually and keep their identities and as such their configurations separately managed.

Advantages

1. **ZERO IMPACT PATCHING**: Continuity Engine enables real-time patching of passive nodes without impacting user access to the production servers.
2. **UPDATES PROVEN TO WORK**: Many administrators worry about receiving a bad patch that could, in effect, blue screen their production server and create lengthy and stressful downtime for mission critical applications. Since Continuity Engine is a “true” cloned architecture, patching the passive nodes first ensures that when the production server (PRIMARY) is patched, the update process will be successful. If the SECONDARY patch is not successful, Engine can quickly recover the broken passive node with another Neverfail feature called “auto-reclone”. This recreates the broken passive (SECONDARY) node from the existing PRIMARY without impacting the users and restores the cluster configuration.
3. **DOWNTIME FROM HOURS to SECONDS**: When the passive (SECONDARY) is successfully patched and rebooted, Continuity Engine automatically synchronizes the passive node. Then you perform a “Switchover” which moves users from the PRIMARY to the SECONDARY in seconds. Then you run a full patching cycle on your PRIMARY.

This allows IT administrators to achieve five nines with little impact on the end users or delivery of the business services. How? By reducing downtime to seconds and maintenance windows are very short. It also ensures all patches are proven to work as they are first installed on a clone copy of the production primary. This dramatically brings down the stress of having to run through these essential procedures while still maintaining your critical BC/DR strategy.

For more information on the benefits of using Continuity Engine, please read the KB article entitled “Neverfail Continuity Engine Features and Benefits” on the support.neverfail.com website.

About Neverfail

Neverfail enables businesses to achieve 100% uptime through the world’s most resilient business continuity and secondary storage solutions. Made for mission-critical businesses, Neverfail solutions mitigate the risk of downtime in the face of any potential outage. By delivering seamless business continuity, we empower our partners and clients to realize their full potential without the risk of downtime.

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