CrunchTime! Xchange

Technical Configuration Guide

Document Details

Document #: 160_CTXIG001_201218

Overview

This document describes the necessary steps to configure and establish a connection between the CrunchTime! Xchange (CTX) and a client hosted local installation of the CrunchTime Software Suite (i.e. Enterprise Manager).

System Requirements

- Be sure to grab the latest version of this document here: https://links.crunchtime.com/IG-ConfigureCTX

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Configure CT Xchange

Overview

Prerequisite

The Net-Chef Virtual Appliance must have been previously installed and if necessary upgraded to the proper release version to continue configuring the application to communicate with the CTX site.

Architecture

At a high level the CTX and the CrunchTime Suite communicate over HTTPS protocol via posts. The communication is synchronous and can be initiated by either the CTX (i.e. confirming an order) or the CrunchTime Suite (i.e. submitting an order).

Within the CrunchTime Suite only the Net-Chef application communicates directly with the CTX application, meaning that the Net-Chef must be installed, operational, and the client network properly configured for communication to/from CTX to be successful. The other applications within the CrunchTime Suite, such as Enterprise Manager communicate indirectly with CTX by modifying tables in the database and are transmitted to CTX via the Net-Chef application.

The Net-Chef application also has unidirectional communication with a Messaging server located within the CrunchTime network.

In a distributed deployment model (i.e. Cruise Company), only the corporate environment communicates with CTX. The local Ship environments do not connect directly with CTX. The Ship environments move data via the standard replication process and the corporate database will transmit the data to CTX. Data replicated from the ships is detected by Net-Chef and transmitted to the CTX.

Subsequent sections of this document will describe each case in more detail.



Warning: Once client side networking changes have been made and the connection verified any future changes to that configuration can cause interruptions in the communication between the client Net-Chef installation and the CTX site. Specifically changes to the network hardware including but not limited to firewalls, load balancers, and proxy servers. Any such changes should be communicated to the CrunchTime IT department so that they can monitor the traffic between the applications after these types of changes have been deployed.

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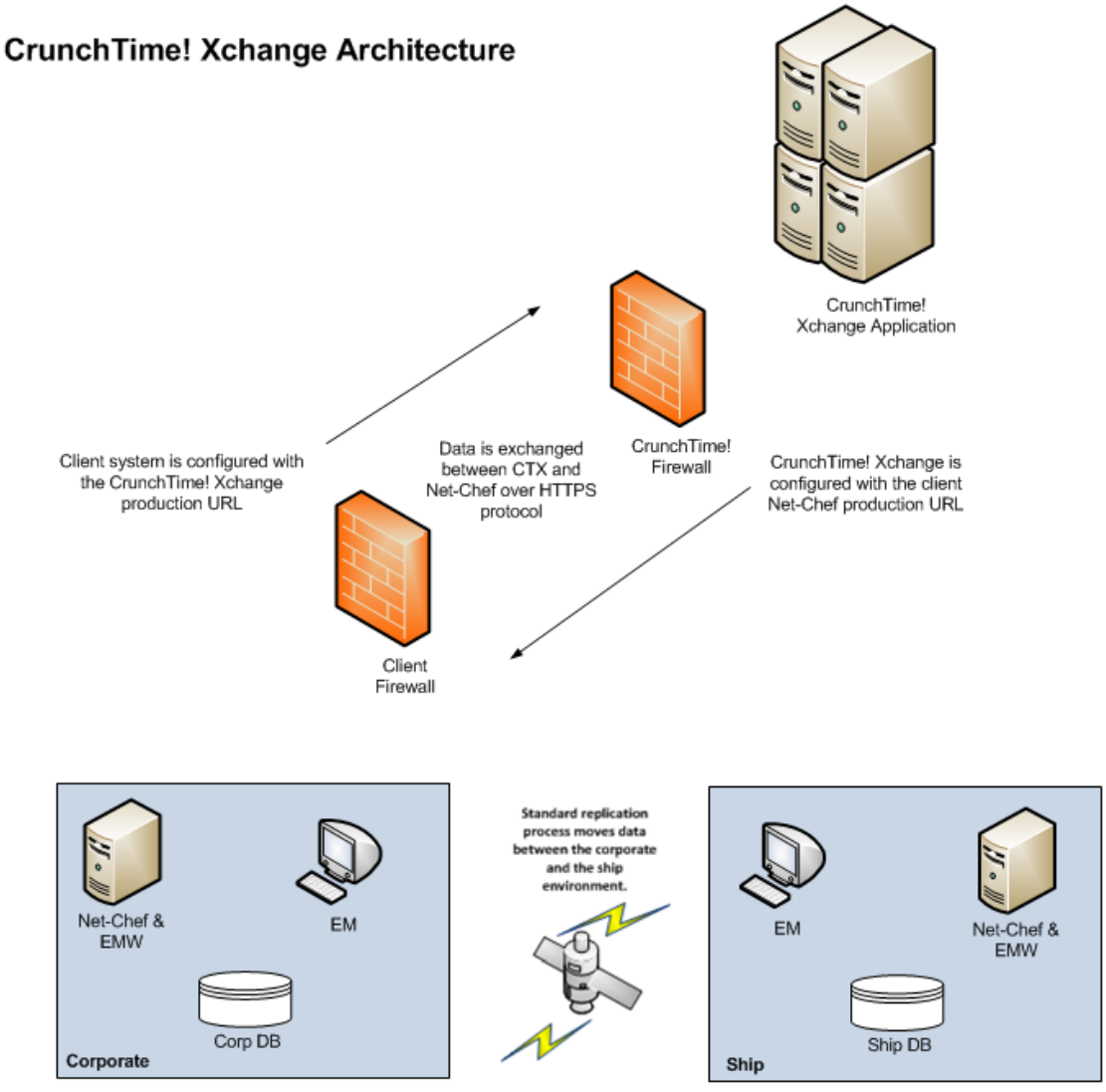
Configure CT Xchange

Overview (Continued)



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Configure CT Xchange

HTTPS Communications

Client Net-Chef Communication to CTX

The following items need to be completed in order to allow Net-Chef to communicate with the CTX site.

1. Allow outbound access from Net-Chef application to following IP and Port on Client Firewall.

Test Environment Settings	Production Environment Settings
IP: 66.151.178.82 Port: 80	IP: 66.151.178.83 Port: 80

2. Update /etc/crunchtime/shared-messaging.properties on Net-Chef VM appliance with:

Test Environment Settings	Production Environment Settings
mongodb-server=66.151.178.11 mongodb-port=80 mongodb-username=crunchtime mongodb-password=admin	mongodb-server=66.151.178.248 mongodb-port=80 mongodb-username=crunchtime mongodb-password=admin

3. Enable CTX Message Polling

The Net-Chef application does not attempt to communicate with CTX on installation. A setting needs to be changed manually to enable the internal Net-Chef processes to begin communicating and to specify the target CTX environment.

a. Using SQL Plus establish a connection to the Corporate database environment.

b. Execute the following command:

Test Environment Settings:

```
update t_vp_configuration
set vp_connection_url = 'https://beta.ctvendorportal.com',
    vp_host_header = 'beta.ctvendorportal.com',
    vp_is_messaging_disabled = 'N';
```

Production Environment Settings:

```
update t_vp_configuration
set vp_connection_url = 'https://www.ct-xchange.com',
    vp_host_header = 'www.ct-xchange.com',
    vp_is_messaging_disabled = 'N';
```

c. Commit the transaction:

```
Commit;
```

d. Restart the VM.

**When completed the Net-Chef application will be ready to communicate with CTX.

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Configure CT Xchange

HTTPS Communications (Continued)

4. Verify Connectivity from Net-Chef to CTX

The client I.T. Department must make the appropriate changes necessary to allow HTTPS communication from the Net-Chef server to the internet. Specifically the Net-Chef server must be able to reach and receive a response from the appropriate CTX site.

Test URL	Production URL
https://beta.ctvendorportal.com	https://www.ct-xchange.com

Using a web browser opened on the Net-Chef server, paste the above URL into the browser and hit the site. A response should be received if all the necessary changes were made.

CrunchTime cannot instruct how the network changes should be configured as the network topology is proprietary to the client's network. Once necessary changes have been made and future changes to the routing rules or network infrastructure should be communicated to CrunchTime as any of these changes can cause fatal errors in the communication between the clients NC and the CTX site.

CTX Communication to the Client Net-Chef

The following items needs to be completed in order to allow CTX to communicate with Net-Chef.

1. Expose Net-Chef to the Internet

   The CTX site is located in the CrunchTime Data Center. When vendors make changes to data, the changes are sent to the Net-Chef application via HTTPS protocol.

   The client I.T. Department must make the necessary firewall and network changes to allow HTTPS traffic to reach Net-Chef from the internet. CrunchTime cannot indicate how the network changes should be made as the network topology is proprietary to the client's network.

2. SSL Certificate

   CTX and Net-Chef will communicate over HTTPS, which requires an SSL certificate to be registered on the web server hosting Net-Chef. **Self-signed certificates may not be used.**

3. IP or DNS for Net-Chef

   The CTX will need to be configured with URL and Host Header of the target Net-Chef application. The client I.T. Department will need to provide a URL referencing a registered DNS name or an explicit IP address that the CTX will use to communicate with Net-Chef.

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