

# High-Availability (HA) general concepts

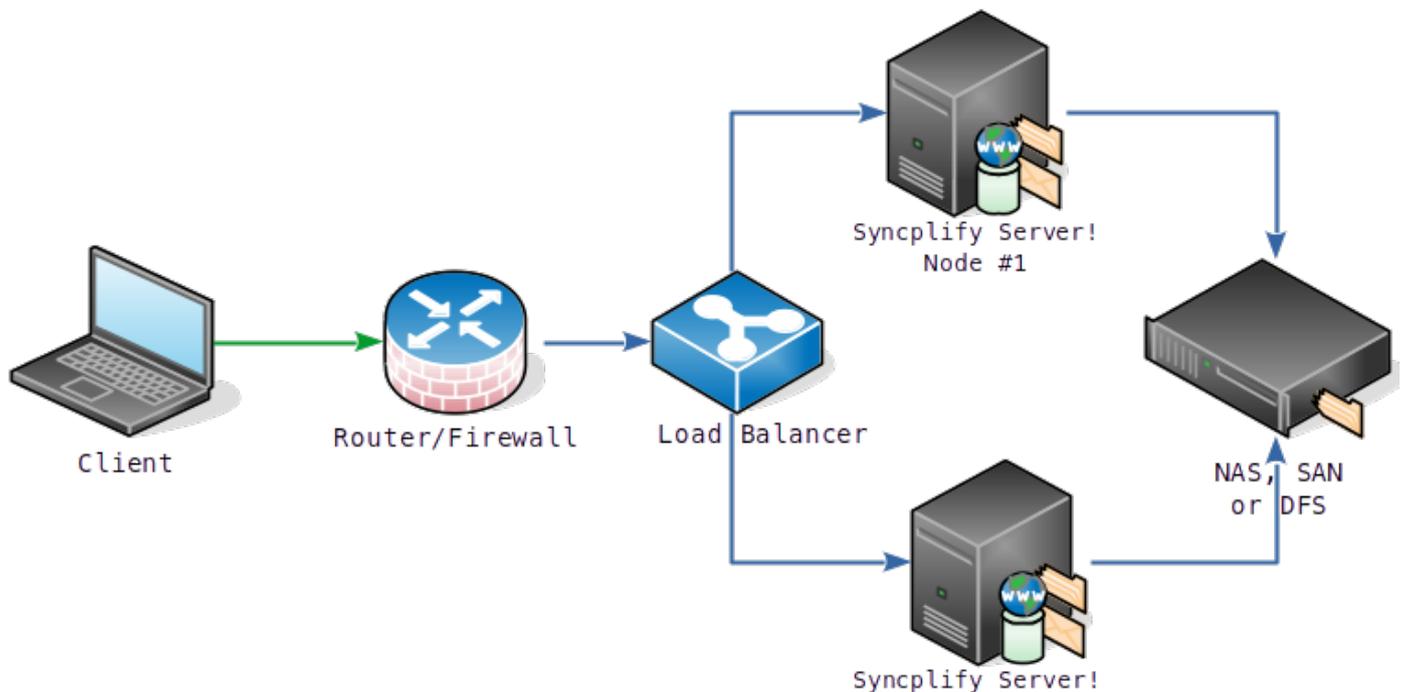
The most important improvement brought about by Syncplify Server! version is the simplicity with which you can create a **true active-active high-availability** (HA) set with it.

In fact, as of version 5.x (and subsequent versions) you don't have to deploy a database replica-set anymore, which is hard to do and requires at least 5 virtual machines (2 for the SFTP nodes, and 3 for the database); **Syncplify Server! version can achieve a totally fault-tolerant, active-active, highly-available deployment with just 2 nodes!**

Of course, Syncplify is in the secure file transfer business, not in the networking business nor in the storage business, so you'll have to provide the networking and storage components yourself, but this is also true with any other SFTP server on the market.

So, without any further ado, let's dig in.

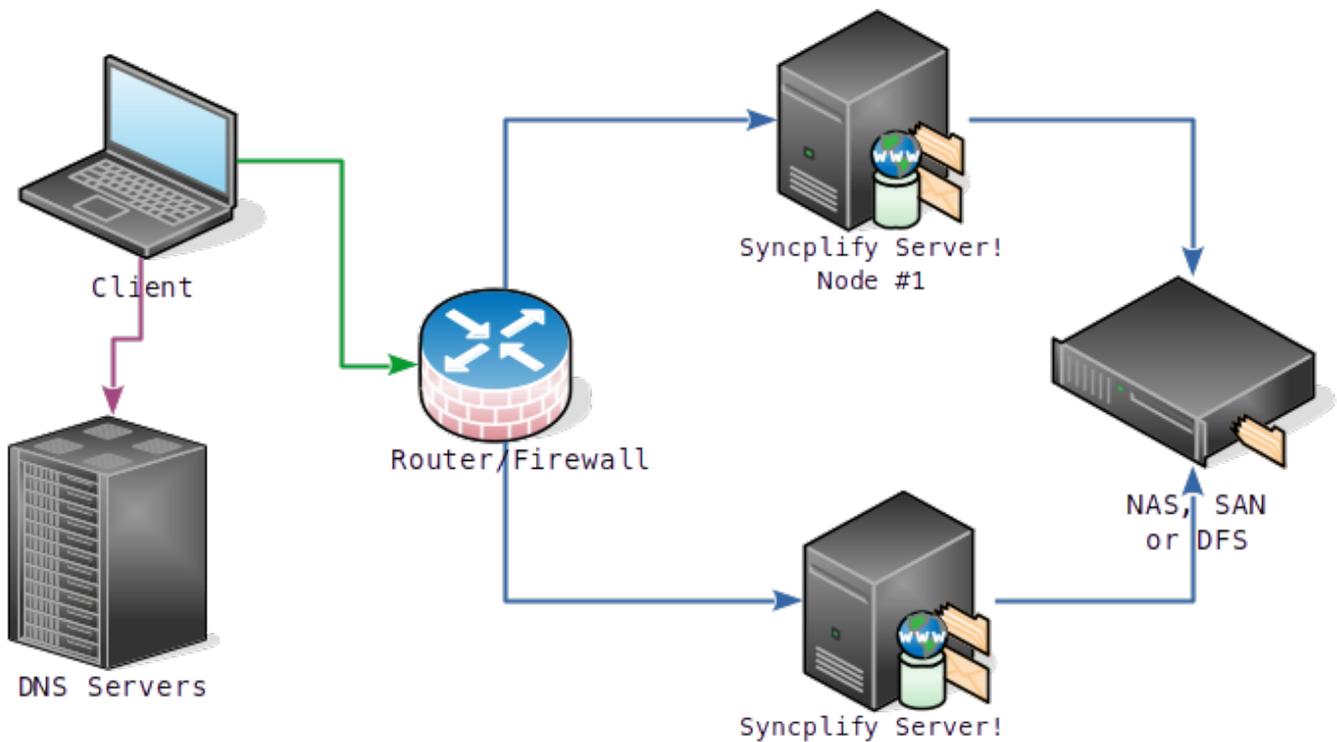
If you do have a Load Balancer, we definitely recommend you use it. In such case your deployment will look somewhat like this:



If you don't have a Load Balancer, you can still achieve a remarkable level of High Availability by creating multiple "A records" on your DNS associated with the Host Name of the FTP/SFTP server,

and configuring your DNS to provide *round-robin* responses. Clearly, unlike the Load.

Balancer, your DNS will not be able to probe your SFTP nodes to see if they're alive, but it will direct all client connections equally to both nodes, de facto spreading out incoming traffic just like a load-balanced HA would.



It is important to understand that **in both of the cases** shown here above, it is still your responsibility to provide shared storage to all SFTP nodes. In our charts, we show this can be a Windows DFS or a NAS or a SAN of your choice. It can also be any network file system that your SFTP nodes can access natively (for example, an iSCSI Target is perfectly fine).

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