Overview & concepts

What is an HAProxy pool?

An HAProxy pool is a ServersCTL deployment preset for the edge tier: public DNS, one or more enrolled Linux VMs running HAProxy, and optional automatic promotion when the active host fails.

ServersCTL is the control plane. It does not terminate customer traffic itself. It:

- Enrols VMs via the ServersCTL agent
- Publishes a managed A record through Cloudflare or cPanel/WHM
- Tracks heartbeats (~1s check-ins) and systemd HAProxy health
- Queues remote jobs (install, reload, backup, drain) that run on the next heartbeat

Status: HAProxy pools are well tested and in public beta.

Core terminology

Term	Meaning
Pool	One site/deployment in the dashboard
Member	One enrolled VM (node) with hostname, allowed egress IP, and enrolment secret
Active member	The host whose IPv4 the managed DNS A record points at
Standby	Enrolled member not currently receiving DNS traffic
Failover hostname	Public FQDN clients use (e.g. `lb.example.com`)
Member template	Role at enrol time — for HAProxy pools use HAProxy balancer

Architecture (high level)

Clients → DNS (Cloudflare / cPanel) → A record → Active HAProxy VM
↑
ServersCTL Worker updates DNS
↑
Standby HAProxy VMs ← agent heartbeats + jobs

Health for failover: A member is unhealthy when:

1. No heartbeat within the failover delay window (10–120 seconds), or
2. HAProxy is monitored, and systemd reports HAProxy inactive

> Important: Clients must use the failover hostname, not a member’s raw IP. ServersCTL moves the A record; your apps keep the same DNS name.

What HAProxy pools include vs other presets

HAProxy pools uniquely enable:

- Remote HAProxy jobs (install, reload, backup)
- HAProxy systemd probe on member cards
- Disaster Recovery tab (cross-member restore, 2+ members)
- Traffic-flow diagram on Overview
- HAProxy Status tab

Generic Linux pools hide HAProxy-specific jobs unless the agent detects HAProxy on the host.

Revision #4
Created 2026-06-16 00:41:06 UTC by ServersCTL
Updated 2026-10-22 09:41:38 UTC by ServersCTL