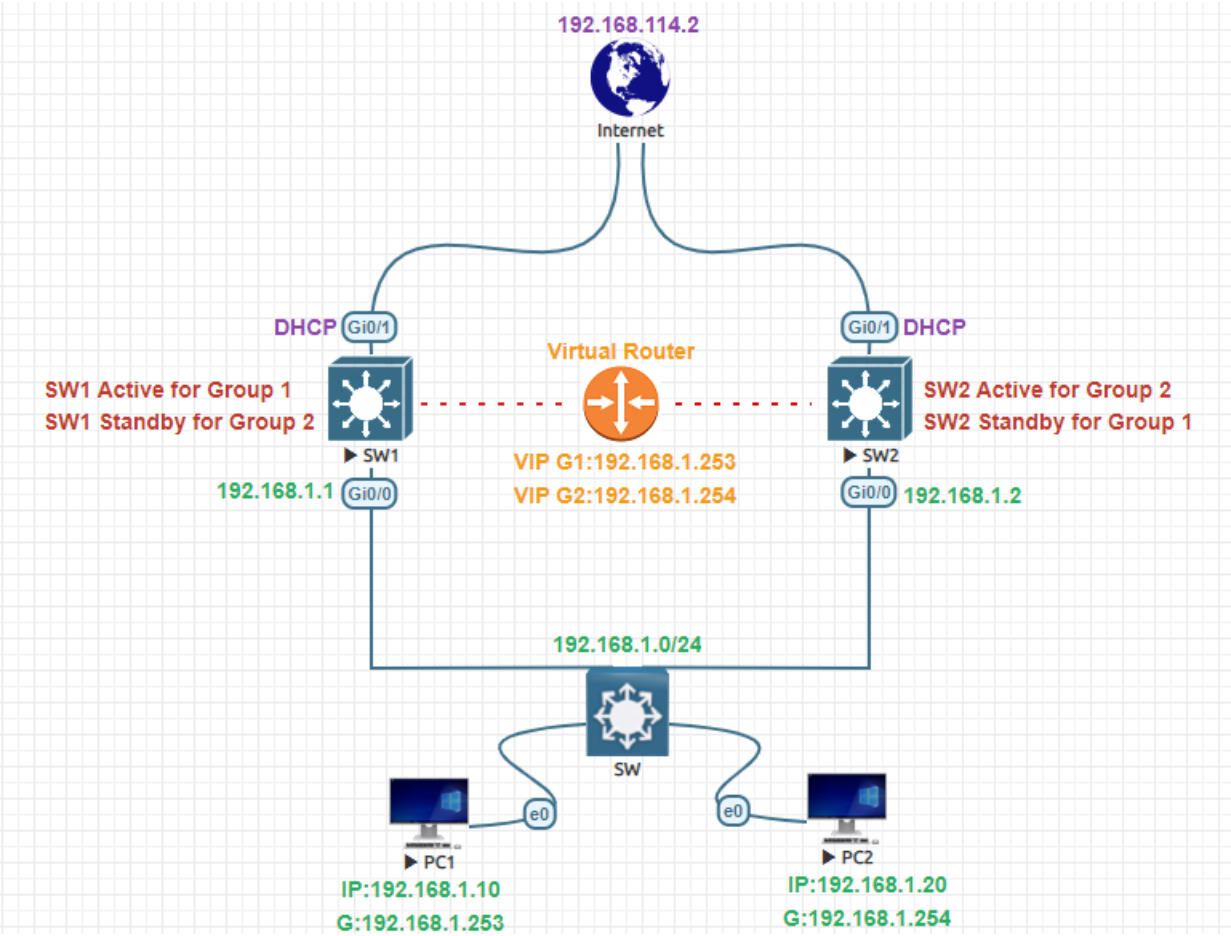
HSRP Load Sharing:

Major drawback of HSRP is that it does not utilize all Routers or Switches effectively. At a time, it uses only one Router or Switch and keeps all remaining routers or Switch in the standby position. Suppose, if you have ten gateway Routers, at a time it will use only one Router and will keep the remaining nine Routers in the waiting or standby position.

We can't change the basic concept of the HSRP. But we can design our network in such a way that it allows us to configure multiple instances of HSRP. Through multiple instances of HSRP, we can utilize all Routers at a time. This is known as HSRP Load Balancing.

We can Load Share traffic in HSRP by using feature set called as Multiple HSRP wherein for a particular Group first path will be active and second as backup and for other group second path with be active and first the backup.



For group 1, SW1 is the default active router based on highest priority (110) while SW2 is standby having priority of 100. For group 2, SW2 is the default active router based on highest priority (110) while SW1 is standby having priority of 100. When either of SW1 or SW2 is down, the other Switch becomes active and assumes the Active Default Gateway for both the group i.e. standby 1 and standby 2. Essential to share that Preemption keyword helps the Switches with highest priority for group to take over when it's back to up status and running.