



## Real solutions for real companies

World auto leader BMW Group used the BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager v9 to provide high availability for SAP-based applications and improve performance for intranet and Internet sites. Read how the company also used BIG-IP to reduce costs at [www.f5.com/solutions/success/bmw\\_ss.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/success/bmw_ss.html).

If VPNs are your thing, learn how Southern Illinois Healthcare relied on the FirePass easy-to-use SSL VPN to meet its HIPAA compliance standards while providing secure remote access to critical applications. Visit [www.f5.com/solutions/success/sih\\_ss.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/success/sih_ss.html).

## Gartner, Dell'Oro put F5 in the lead

F5 Networks continues to hold the **number one position** in market share for Application Delivery Networking, according to a report published in April by Gartner Inc. According to the report, "The trend toward powerful platforms that deliver four or more functions (like load balancing, SSL offload, compression, and caching) continued as customers attempt to simplify their infrastructure." And the Q1 2006 Dell'Oro Group report recently announced that F5 has achieved the **number one position** in market share worldwide in the Layer 4/7 Total Fixed and Modular Market.



## Encore!

Information Security Magazine awarded a **Hot Pick** to the FirePass 4100 Controller v5.5 from F5 Networks, noting the product's "versatility, ease of use, and scalability." According to the editor for the magazine, "FirePass 4100 is one of the most flexible, capable, and secure devices available. It works with virtually any browser, operating system, terminal protocol, and device."

## More applause

Interop and *Network Computing* named TrafficShield v9.2 from F5 Networks as a finalist for the Annual Best of Interop Awards at the big network show in Las Vegas in May. This leading web application firewall was selected in the security category for its comprehensive network and application layer protection from known and unknown attacks. Chosen by a select panel of independent judges, TrafficShield and the other finalists "stand out from the competition because they push the state of distributed computing and networking to the next level," according to Interop officials.

## White papers as you like them – free!



sharing by decreasing the number of back-and-forth transactions required over the WAN to perform a file transfer, browse a directory, or launch a remote application.

**WANJet Transparent Data Reduction** at [www.f5.com/solutions/technology/wanjet\\_tdr\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/wanjet_tdr_wp.html). This paper explains how to reduce the amount of data transferred over a WAN link by up to 95%.

**Optimize WAN and LAN Application Performance with TCP Express** at [www.f5.com/solutions/technology/tcpexpress\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/tcpexpress_wp.html). Read about the technology behind BIG-IP's state-of-the-art TCP/IP stack.

**F5 Networks has a number of recent white papers for your network edification:**

**F5 WANJet CIFS Acceleration** at [www.f5.com/solutions/technology/cifs\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/cifs_wp.html). This is great reading for those who use Microsoft's CIFS. WANJet, with CIFS acceleration, dramatically improves the performance of Microsoft Windows file

**Unified Approach to Secure Wireless, Remote, and Internal LAN Access** at [www.f5.com/solutions/technology/securingaccess\\_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/securingaccess_wp.html). F5 offers solutions for those organizations that are plagued by separate access policies for each type of access method.

++++ask F5+++++

For this first issue of *F5 World*, the editors of the magazine have provided the initial questions. We invite you to send your own questions for future editions to [f5world@f5.com](mailto:f5world@f5.com).

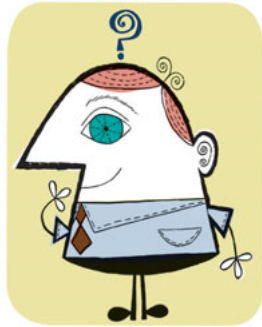
**What does F5 do, make hardware or software?**

Although the bulk of our development is in software, our hardware platforms are designed to optimize the performance of the software. With the exception of our own Packet Velocity ASIC for Layer 4 processing and optional hardware components for SSL Acceleration and HTTP Compression, these platforms leverage the speed and low cost of standard, off-the-shelf components to deliver the fastest Layer 4 and 7 performance in the industry.

With the launch of BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager v9 at the beginning of fiscal 2005, we introduced three new platforms: BIG-IP 1500, BIG-IP 3400, and BIG-IP 6400. Later, we added two new high-end platforms, BIG-IP 6800 and 8400. When we launched v9, we also introduced software modules that make it easy to add new functionality, including SSL Acceleration, HTTP Compression, Layer 7 Rate Shaping, Advanced Client Authentication, IPv6 Gateway, and Advanced Routing, with more on the way.

**What's unique and different about F5?**

Since F5 was founded nearly 10 years ago, technology innovation has been a key driver of our



growth. The BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager v9 with the new TMOS architecture accelerated the growing demand for our products that began following the introduction of BIG-IP version 4.5 a year and a half earlier. While version 4.5 included many new features and performance enhancements, v9 introduced new technology that not only made our products faster and functionally richer than other products, but our TMOS architecture differentiated them from other application delivery networking technologies.

**What exactly is TMOS?**

Developed over a three-year period, TMOS is a unique full-proxy architecture that enables our products to terminate traffic passing to or from applications, separate client-side flows from server-side flows for customized optimizations, and inspect the content of packets to route traffic based on preset rules or in response to the changing needs of the applications. TMOS enables organizations to leverage its shared network and application services to move work that had to be done exclusively in the application onto the network. This design results

in more precise traffic control, lower costs, and faster time to market.

**Isn't F5 just a load-balancing company?**

Load balancing is just a subset of the technology F5 provides. F5 is actually part of a bigger market called Application Delivery Networking. Essentially, our solutions make applications secure, fast, and available, and help organizations get the most out of their application investments. By adding intelligence and manageability to the network, F5 optimizes applications while consuming fewer resources. More than 10,000 organizations and service providers worldwide rely on F5 solutions to keep their applications up and running smoothly.

**What is F5's market share in Application Delivery Networking?**

Based on the latest report by the Dell'Oro Group, our share of the Layer 4-7 switch market grew quarter-by-quarter 3.8% in Q1, to 35%. That's the largest market share gain worldwide over all other competitors. In Japan, F5 led the market for the second year in a row, according to Fuji Chimera Research Institute.

The capabilities of the new products and their success in the Application Delivery Networking market also moved F5 farther up and to the right in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Web-Enabled Application Delivery, widening the gap in both vision and execution between F5 and our nearest competitors.

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*A new world, new challenges in application delivery networking.*



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BY RICH FREEMAN



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*Stratecast Partners' Michael Suby: "Security ecosystem" may be the best defense against a world of hurt.*

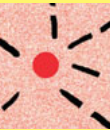
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