



New product releases

F5 just announced a new software release and platform for its enterprise management product. With this release of Enterprise Manager, customers can dramatically reduce the manpower associated with rolling out configuration changes to hundreds of BIG-IP devices. Read more at: www.f5.com/communication/press/2006/release073106b.html



And if you're tired of slow applications, F5 has the answer with the new release of its WebAccelerator product. "F5's WebAccelerator has significantly increased the performance and response times of our IBM WebSphere applications, providing our customers an enhanced online retail experience," says Harry Roberts, senior vice president and CIO at Boscov's Department Stores LLC. "Its flexible, intelligent, and reliable application acceleration capabilities have lowered TCO and enabled us to meet our strict budget requirements." Visit www.f5.com to learn the many benefits of deploying WebAccelerator.

F5 Teams with Oracle

F5 recently announced it is now part of the Oracle Extended Identity Management Ecosystem and Reference Architecture. Joint F5 and Oracle customers can now leverage F5 BIG-IP Local Traffic Manager and FirePass SSL VPN products in conjunction with Oracle Identity Management to deliver market-leading security, lights-out availability, increased flexibility, and superior performance for today's heterogeneous IT environments. Read more at: www.f5.com/communication/press/2006/release061406.html



Applause for SSL VPNs

In response to increasing choices in SSL VPN-based technology, *eWEEK* Labs included the FirePass 4100 in its evaluation of appliances titled "SSL VPNs Provide Granular Access."

"Our tests show that these [SSL VPN] appliances are, indeed, easier to set up than their IPsec cousins," writes *eWEEK*. "However, among the most compelling reasons to consider using an SSL VPN is the ease of securing access at the application layer, rather than at the network layer, as IPsec VPNs do."

White papers as you like them—free!

F5 Networks has a number of new white papers available:

Unified Access and Application Delivery Methodology (www.f5.com/solutions/technology/unifiedaccess_wp.html). This is a comprehensive overview of some current shortcomings in information security, and why a Unified Access Methodology may be the answer.

FirePass Endpoint Security (www.f5.com/solutions/technology/fp_

[endpointsecurity_wp.html](http://www.f5.com/solutions/technology/endpointsecurity_wp.html)). The importance of endpoint security functionality in protecting your valuable business resources.

Disaster Recovery (www.f5.com/solutions/technology/disaster_recovery_wp.html). The importance of having a time-tested and comprehensive solution to ensure site failover and business continuity in the event of a disaster.

Real solutions for real companies

Lake Forest Hospital (LFH) has deployed F5's FirePass SSL VPN product to provide hospital physicians, nurses, engineers, and administrative employees secure remote access to its state-of-the-art medical and administrative network applications—enabling medical professionals to deliver more flexible, higher-quality healthcare around the clock. Read more at: www.f5.com/solutions/success/lfh_ss.html

And if you want to experience the full power of F5 products, there's the iRules rules-based language. See how a developer at a major provider of transportation services built an iRule to avoid "costly and time-consuming application development efforts, and [to ensure] that access is fast, reliable, and secure for everyone." The solution can be found at: www.f5.com/solutions/success/irule_ss.html

++++ask F5+++++

I thought F5 was just a load balancing company.

Load balancing is just part of the technology F5 offers. The bigger picture consists of Application Delivery Networking, where F5 is a recognized leader. Essentially, Application Delivery Networking consists of hardware- and software-based solutions that ensure applications are always secure, fast, and available. Today, more than 10,000 organizations and service providers worldwide rely on F5 to keep their applications running on the network.

Why would someone want more than load balancing?

Our customers need the best possible performance from their applications, for everything from backups to e-mail to e-commerce applications. But managing the application on the network has become much more complex given the expansion of the network to meet a wider variety of users, whether they're internal, external, or using multiple methods for gaining access. Simple load balancing has expanded into providing security and optimization in a variety of network environments that the application has not been architected to handle.

How do F5 products work?

In simplest terms, F5 technology, a combination of unique software housed on powerful hardware platforms, sits between applications and users. It manages each piece of traffic that flows in or out, to secure it, optimize its performance, and ensure

its availability. F5 products are designed to share powerful attributes across platforms and products, and to provide an integrated, universal way to intelligently manage your applications.

For example, F5 ensures that applications are consistently **available**. This helps prevent costly downtime and hampered productivity. You control who gets access to what applications, and when, from any location.

F5 also provides **security**, protecting your applications from unauthorized access and malicious application attacks. This safeguards you from loss of information, downtime, fraud, fines, and damage to your company's reputation.

A third element consists of making applications **perform**. F5 supercharges applications on the network, making them work faster, consume fewer resources, and perform more cost-effectively—whether you're at your company's headquarters or connecting from a laptop half a world away.

You mention you are a leader in this market. What are some of your innovations?

There are several, but the key ones include our TMOS architecture, our iControl API and SDK, our iRules capability within our products, and our DevCentral community.

The unique TMOS architecture serves as the foundation for F5 products, delivering an application-level awareness to



the network. The TMOS architecture enables F5 products to share network and application resources, communicate with each other, and automatically adjust to network conditions to support a wide array of technologies, such as HTTP, SOAP, XML, and VoIP.

F5 also provides the industry's only open API and SDK called iControl, a standards-based language that enables customers and partners to integrate their applications with the network, ensuring the highest availability, scalability, performance, security, and control.

In addition, we provide the only truly programmatic rules engine, called iRules, which gives our users unprecedented control over their application traffic at any moment within the application transaction or flow.

Last, but certainly not least, is DevCentral, an online developer community that helps developers with tools, techniques, and code samples for our products. DevCentral includes a global community of more than 10,000 registered users. It offers an online forum, wikis, sample code, and other resources designed to expand the possibilities of F5 products based on the TMOS architecture.

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Keeping up with a rapidly changing world.



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Partnership delivering on the promise of availability, performance, and security.

BY BILL LABERIS



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F5's Erik Giesa: Virtualization lights the path toward smarter data centers.

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New iRules editing tool available for F5's growing DevCentral community.

18 For developers only

Keeping a sharp, customized lookout on your SSL VPN user sessions ... Visit DevCentral ... About F5's iRules and iControl API ... DCTV and iTunes ... FirePass SSL VPN pre-logout inspection video.

